

<b>MINUTES 7/05/2025</b>	<b>GENERAL MEETING, BALINGUP PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC</b>	
Meeting opened	6.00pm	
Present	J.Hornum, W.Trow, R.Thomas, N.King, K.Menard, G.McMullen, W.Ayers, K.O'Connor, W.Irvine, S.Keady, J.Taylor	
Apologies	H.Christensen, J.Milton	
<b>Local Planning Strategy</b>	K.Connor has written to the Shire regarding the status of the Local Planning Strategy; in particular, a review of the proposal for Rezoning of land next to Balingup Golden Valley Tree Park. She asks that awareness be raised with the community that this decision has still not been revoked and the future of the Balingup Golden Valley Tree Park is still in jeopardy. Shire CEO Nick O'Connor has advised that approval of the LPS has been delayed due to staff vacancies. A Planner has been recruited and the LPS will be picked up from where it was left off. Shire has assured us that past submissions will be taken into account.	Information
<b>Belong at Home -Home Care</b>	Belong at Home is trying to source a qualified Support Worker in the Balingup area for their aged care clients. They have been advertising for a Cert 3 qualified support worker, without success. Anyone interested should contact Sheree Jones 0448644333.	All
<b>Letters of appreciation</b>	G.McMullen suggested that BPA writes to recently retired Works & Services staff, David and Ron, to thank them for their years of service. Letter to be sent via Shire Works & Services. K.Menard also asked that we thank the Shire Ranger for his assistance helping her neighbour with an unwelcome ram. Email to be sent to Ranger services.	W.Trow
<b>Men in Sheds</b>	G.McMullen advised that Men in Sheds has changed its name to Balingup Mens Forum. He to advise BPA in writing and we will pass on to AON insurance.	G.McMullen W.Trow
<b>SFFD</b>	N.King commented on the hard work undertaken by the SFFD committee. BPA members agreed and congratulates the committee on running another great event.	All
<b>War Memorial</b>	W.Irvine advised that 'Places of Pride', a website managed by the Australian War Museum, is available to promote war memorials and avenues of honour. He also discussed flag pole and plaques. It was agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wayne to email details (photos and text) to <a href="mailto:balinguppa@wn.com.au">balinguppa@wn.com.au</a>. W.Trow to upload to Places of Pride.</li> <li>• Wayne to liaise with Balingup &amp; Donnybrook RSL members and Shire (re location), obtain quotes (to purchase and install) and investigate possible sources of funding for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ flagpole, and</li> <li>○ new plaques (to commemorate persons lost in more recent wars)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	W.Trow W.Irvine
<b>BPA</b>	W.Trow explain the model now in use for community grants, the	Information

<b>Trust/Futures fund</b>	<p>reasons why changes were made in 2022 and how a Community Foundation model could fit in. Key points include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SFFD Trust fund has been renamed the Community Trust Fund because the Carnivale and Upcycle now make donations.</li> <li>• Community Trust fund is open every year to any Balingup District community group. 2025 applications have been processed.</li> <li>• The Futures Fund was set up in 2022 to build capital for larger projects. We aim to build a minimum of \$50,000 before we make any withdrawals. Projects must provide matching funding 50/50 so minimum project value is \$100,000.</li> <li>• If Balingup decided to operate as a sub-fund of Fremantle Community Foundation, donations will be tax deductible. This sub-fund will have no impact on the Trust or Futures Fund.</li> </ul>	
<b>Balingup Tourism Committee</b>	<p>W.Trow advised that AON has confirmed the addition of Balingup Tourism group as a sub-committee of BPA. A letter, explaining the relationship between BPA and the Tourism sub-committee has been emailed to the group. J.Hornum encourages people to join Tourism Group as they navigate their way through these changes.</p>	Information
<b>BACH grant unsuccessful</b>	<p>A letter has been received from DLGSC advising that the application submitted by BACH to assist in the revitalisation of the Town Hall has been unsuccessful. A lot of work went into compiling the application and BPA thanked Gary Hodge for his efforts. BACH still intends for programs to continue all year round - Morning Melodies, Cacophony Choir, Home School creative arts - and some larger performance components that generate a surplus.</p>	Information
<b>Shire/BPA meeting</b>	<p>The Shire is unable to attend BPA meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month because that is the evening they meet to discuss Agenda Items. J.Hornum and W.Trow met with the Shire CEO and President on 5 May 25. This was the first of bi-monthly meetings that will enable BPA to work more closely with Council. A summary of discussion is at Annex C.</p>	W.Trow J. Hornum
<b>Community Grants</b>	<p>J.Hornum advised the following grants have been approved by the Community Trust Fund committee. Only two grants received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balingup Primary School dance program \$3524</li> <li>• BACH - underwriting performances because grant was unsuccessful \$2800</li> </ul>	Information
<b>LEMC meeting</b>	<p>W.Trow provided an update from the May Local Emergency Management Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new function centre at VC Mitchell Park will be used as the future Donnybrook evacuation/welfare centre.</li> <li>• Talison has signed an agreement to respond/assist to incidents (accidents/ fire/ flood etc) within a 10km radius of the mine. They will provide assistance until the emergency services arrive.</li> <li>• Hospitals now have teams in place to respond to major incidents in other areas. For example, if there is an incident in Donnybrook, a team would come from Manjimup and vice versa.</li> <li>• Shire has been approached by Disaster Relief Australia who can</li> </ul>	W. Trow

	<p>provide assistance after a major incident.  <a href="https://disasterreliefaus.org/what-we-do/">https://disasterreliefaus.org/what-we-do/</a>  They are more flexible than Blaze Aid and are building the capacity to help with reconstruction of fences damaged by fire. Can assist with clean up, impact assessment etc. Locals can volunteer with DRA – coming under their supervision, training and insurance. W.Trow will follow up.</p>											
Report on action items Annex A	Ongoing (tabled) Complete (tabled)	Chair										
Correspondence list	Incoming/Outgoing (tabled) Annex B	Secretary										
Correspondence list accepted and received	Moved: W.Trow Seconded: N.King											
Other meetings/groups	Balingup Rail Group - J.Hornum read out the report provided by the BRG. See Annex D	Secretary										
Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting	Amendments (N) Moved J. Hornum Seconded R.Thomas	Carried Y										
Treasurer's report Accounts for payment	<p><b>BPA Treasurer's Report as 30/04/25</b>  Available Balance - BPA Operating Account      \$5,550.26  Current Balances:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>BPA Operating Account balance (including funds held on behalf of BPA sub committees see table below)</td> <td>\$13,018.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BPA Trust Fund Account</td> <td>\$14,529.57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balingup Futures Term Deposit Account</td> <td>\$21,723.46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Insurance Reserve Term Deposit Account</td> <td>\$38,444.27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(previous) Event Coordinator Account</td> <td>\$0.06</td> </tr> </table> <p>Record of funds held on behalf of BPA sub committees as 30/04/25 (included in operating account balance above)</p>	BPA Operating Account balance (including funds held on behalf of BPA sub committees see table below)	\$13,018.30	BPA Trust Fund Account	\$14,529.57	Balingup Futures Term Deposit Account	\$21,723.46	Insurance Reserve Term Deposit Account	\$38,444.27	(previous) Event Coordinator Account	\$0.06	Treasurer
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	<b>Name</b>	<b>Balance (Start of Month)</b>	<b>Balance (End of Month)</b>	
	Avenue of Honour	827.04	827.04	
	Men in Sheds	400.00	400.00	
	Health and Wellness Group	1,250.00	1,250.00	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(\$2,477.04)</b>	<b>(\$2,477.04)</b>	
		<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	
		<b>\$2,468.04</b>	<b>\$2,468.04</b>	
		*BRG \$9.00 to repay	*BRG \$9.00 to repay	
Record of grant funds held for BPA as 30/04/25 (included in operating account balance above)				
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Balance (Start of Month)</b>	<b>Balance (End of Month)</b>	
	Shire DB (2025 Aus Day event)	0	0	
	Donation to Future's Fund TDA (to be transferred May 2025)	5000.00	5000.00	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5000.00</b>	<b>\$5000.00</b>	
Treasurer's report accepted	Amendments N Moved J. Hornum Seconded R.Thomas			Carried Y
Business arising from previous minutes	See Annex A			
<b>Reminders</b>	<b>NBN "big blue bus" visit to Balingup, May 30<sup>th</sup> – for booking contact Wendy via <a href="mailto:balinguppa@outlook.com.au">balinguppa@outlook.com.au</a></b>			
Meeting closed	7.09pm			
Next meeting date/time	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June, 6pm			

## BPA Action List

as of 01/05/25	<b>ACTION LIST, BALINGUP PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC</b>	
MEETING DATE PERSON RESPONSIBLE	ITEM	STATUS
<b>Community Grants</b> Apr 25 J.Hornum	J.Hornum advised that two applications have been received for the Community Grants scheme. See General Business for update.	COMPLETED
<b>Children's Playground Proposal</b> Apr 25 W.Trow	BalingUpcycle is interested in the building of an additional playground suitable for older children. BPA has provided a letter of support.	COMPLETED
<b>Community Group Health Check</b> Apr 25 J.Hornum	A (5 page) 'health check' document has been received from the Shire requiring all community groups with a lease agreement to provide financial and membership details. This has been completed and returned.	COMPLETED
<b>Shire Budget Items</b> Apr 25 W.Trow	A list of items for inclusion in the Shire 2025/26 budget was submitted to Shire on 14 April 25. See Annex C for response.	COMPLETED
<b>Nbn</b> Apr 25 W.Trow	<p>Justine Edmond, Community Engagement Specialist - nbn local - South West WA plans to visit the town with the nbn "big blue bus".</p> <p>Justine Edmond, Community Engagement Specialist - nbn local - South West WA has scheduled a visit the town with the nbn "big blue bus":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday 30th May</li> <li>• 15 minute appointments (24 appointments total)</li> <li>• Commencing 9am. Last appointment 3:45</li> </ul> <p>Justine will send more information so we can advertise and book appointments. This project will provide unbiased, free advice on the best/most cost effective telecommunications plans available in our area. Anyone wanting to book should contact Wendy Trow <a href="mailto:balinguppa@outlook.com.au">balinguppa@outlook.com.au</a></p>	COMPLETED
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b> Apr 25 W.Trow J.Hornum	The H&W group has \$1250 held in the BPA account. BPA has contacted the group and requested that they decide what to do with the money and write to BPA so it can be discussed at a meeting. Funds to be used for an upcoming event promoting wellbeing and for an honorarium payment. Invoices to be provided with bank account details.	COMPLETED
<b>Waste disposal</b> Feb 25 J.Hornum	M.Giles advised that no local tips accept chemical waste – all farm chemical drums must go to Kwinana at a cost of \$300 per drum. It is likely that people are dumping in the bush. J.Hornum is meeting with M.Giles and they will progress.	COMPLETED

<b>Keyboard</b> Dec 24/	The Casia Privio PX410R keyboard has been sold for \$95.	COMPLETED
<b>GST</b> Dec 24/ J.Hornum  All BPA umbrella groups	J.Hornum advised that she has sought advice from a professional accountant regarding GST. Most likely outcome will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BPA &amp; Carnivale will use same ABN and register for GST.</li> <li>• Umbrella groups will be advised to have their own ABNs and will not need to register for GST. BPA will assist this process.</li> <li>• GST will be reported by a professional accountant – not voluntary Treasurers.</li> </ul> <b>All BPA umbrella groups to contact Jodie so she can arrange a meeting to discuss the best option for their group.</b>	ONGOING
<b>BADTA</b> Dec 24/ W.Trow	At the March meeting it was moved that an application from BADTA to become an umbrella group of BPA be approved and known as Balingup Tourism Committee. See General Business for update.	COMPLETED
<b>Community Foundation</b> Nov 24/ W.Trow	Initial discussions have been held with Fremantle Community Foundation to discuss the benefits of creating a Community Foundation in Balingup. When FCF advise they have DGR1 (charitable) status, group will meet with SFFD, BMC, BACH and Upcycle to get their input. If all agree there is merit in the idea, a meeting will be held with the wider community to seek input. The Community Foundation will operate separate to the current Community Trust/ Futures Fund. See General business for discussion.	ONGOING
<b>Showers</b> Sept 24/  W.Trow	In September 2024, BPA wrote to the Shire requesting that the fee for using showers at the Transit Park be waived or reduced during periods of declared drought. This was included as a budget request in April 25. See Annex C for update.	ONGOING
<b>Stand pipe costs</b> W.Trow Aug 24	There is a 45% difference between water charges in Donnybrook and Balingup. Shire has written to Water Corporation requesting clarification (10 March 25). This has been submitted a budget request to Council. Submitted April 25. See Annex C for update.	ONGOING
<b>Shire Lease Agreement</b> 2021/ Jul 23 W.Trow/ J.Hornum	Shire has confirmed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The expired Sub-Licence is being treated as 'Holding Over', whereby all terms and conditions of the Sub-Licence remain the same.</li> <li>• The Shire has a current 'Licence to Use and Occupy Corridor Land' with ARC Infrastructure (L079A) which expires 31/8/2027 and the new Sub-Licence will need ARC approval.</li> <li>• Depending on the outcome of the State Gov. rail upgrade feasibility study, there may be implications for the Shire's ability to gain an extended or new Licence.</li> </ul> No further action can be taken by BPA so this item is considered 'completed'.	COMPLETED

**Emails/Letters In** Note: This list does not include newsletters/general updates from other organisations.

Date	From	Subject	Action
3 Apr	M.Armstrong	Anzac order of service	JH
3 Apr	C.Middle	Health & Wellbeing funds	WT
3 Apr	P.Williamson	Website hosting	JH
3 Apr	BACH	Morning melodies	To all BPA
4 Apr	K.Menard	Standpipe charges	WT
7 Apr	VSW	Reminder re nominations	
9 Apr	Donnybrook Radio	Sundowner invite	JH – to BPA Exec
	Assorted	Health & Wellbeing funds	WT
15 Apr	AON	Confirm Balingup Tourism umbrella	WT – to BADTA
16 Apr	K.Menard	Sundowner	KM
18 Apr	K.Magi	Upcycle thanks	
18 Apr	S.Wall	SFFD Trust Fund meeting	JH
22 Apr	Dept Communities	Community garden grant finalised	WT – to B.Hindochoa
22 Apr	Western Power	Power outage	Fwd to H.Christensen & D.Cameron
22 Apr	NBN J.Esmond	NBN Big blue bus	WT
24 Apr	Synergy	Invoice	JH
26 Apr	DLGSC	Grant for BACH unsuccessful	WT- GH
26 Apr	NBN J.Esmond	NBN Big blue bus	WT
28 Apr	Talison	Environmental assessment	JH – to all BPA
5 May	K.Connor	Local Planning Strategy	WT
5 May	J.Hornum	Report BPA Community grants	JH
6 May	Belong at Home	Support worker needed	Fwd to all BPA
7 May	Shire CEO	Lease Agreement	WT/JH

#### Letters/emails Out

Date	To	Subject	Actioned by
3 Apr	C.Middle/ B.Chia	Health & Wellbeing \$1250	WT
3 Apr	D.Hanrahan	Request program Anzac Day	WT
3 Apr	All BPA	BACH Morning melodies	WT
14 Apr	C.Maddison	Health & Wellbeing	WT
14 Apr	Shire CEO	Budget 25/26 request	WT
15 Apr	AON	BADTA insurance request	WT
15 Apr	NBN J.Esmond	NBN Big blue bus	WT
16 Apr	T.Benson, S.Wall, S.Pember	BPA Trust Fund discussion	JH
19 Apr	Balingup Tourism	Confirm AON/ sub committee	WT
1 May	Shire CDO	Invoice \$2000 for Balingup Academy	JH
2 May	All BPA	Meeting notice/Action List	WT
5 May	Rural Aid	Invoice for Resilience project	WT

Summary of Shire discussions  
5 May 25

BPA representatives: J.Hornum & W.Trow.  
Shire: CEO & President.

Lease agreement	The Shire acknowledges that the Shire/BPA lease agreement has expired. The CEO will provide a letter to formally extend the existing lease until the new lease is finalized.
Online booking system	The Shire is introducing an online booking system for all Shire facilities. This will impact Balingup Town Hall, Transit Park and, potentially, the Balingup Visitor Centre. (See below)
Tourism/ Visitor Centre	<p>The Shire is continuing their review of financial support for tourism/ visitor centres (both Donnybrook &amp; Balingup). BPA representatives expressed concern that, if Shire funding was removed from the Balingup visitor centre it would have more of an impact on Balingup than Donnybrook:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balingup Visitor Centre is an important part of community life in Balingup – our town does not have a CRC or Shire office.</li> <li>• Balingup is a tourism town – with many accommodation providers and events.</li> <li>• The visitor centre is an important resource for Bibbulmun Track walkers and ‘grey nomads’. The centre takes bookings for the transit park and 50% of the booking fee is given to the Shire.</li> </ul> <p>The Shire asked BADTA/Balingup Tourism Committee to put in a submission so this could be considered during budget deliberations.</p>
Public showers	The Shire will review the fee to use showers at the transit park to ensure equity with other Shire facilities.
Standpipe	The Shire has written to Water Corp. More investigation is required. It may be necessary for BPA to write to Water Corp after investigation carried out.
Deep sewage	Council is very supportive of installing deep sewage in Balingup and are advocating to Western Power, Water Corp etc at local, South West and State level.
Local Planning Strategy	Approval of the LPS has been delayed due to staff vacancies. A Planner has been recruited and the LPS will be picked up from where it was left off. Shire assured us that past submissions will be taken into account.
Cycling event Oct 26	A major cycling event will take place 10-11 Oct 26. Based in Nannup but, with 3,000 cyclist and estimated 15,000 visitors, accommodation will be spread out over the region. They invited Balingup to provide a representative on the working group.



**Update from the Balingup Rail Group (BRG)  
Meeting 7 June 2025**

The BRG submitted its Feasibility Study (*Zero Emissions Tourist and Commuter Rail Services Bunbury to Bridgetown*) in October 2024 to the Ministers for Transport, Tourism and Regional Development at that time (the study co-funded by Talison Lithium, the City of Bunbury, the Shires of Donnybrook-Balingup, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Capel and Dardanup and the Balingup Progress Association).

Since the State election, the BRG has submitted the feasibility study to the new Ministers for Tourism (The Hon Reece Whitby) and Regional Development (The Hon Stephen Dawson).

The BRG is now waiting for confirmation of BRG requested briefings to the Minister for Transport The Hon Rita Saffioti and the Ministers for Tourism and Regional Development.

It is the BRG's understanding that the parallel but separate Feasibility Study into the transfer of lithium ore from road to rail on the Greenbushes to Bunbury railway line has also been completed and submitted to the State Government (co-funded by the WA State Government and Talison Lithium).

The BRG will continue to provide updates for the BPA in light of:

- national Towards Net Zero policy and industry certainty on the future energy mix to be renewable sources backed up by battery, gas and pumped hydro; and
- the moves being made by the State Government to investigate the State's rail network being returned to public ownership.

Gary Hodge  
Executive Officer BRG