

<b>MINUTES 2/04/2025</b>	<b>GENERAL MEETING, BALINGUP PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC</b>	
Meeting opened	6.02pm	
Present	J.Hornum, W.Trow, R.Thomas, N.King, J.Milton, K.Menard, H.Christensen, K.Magi, S.Keady, J.Taylor.	
Apologies	G.McMullen, S.Doyle, R.Knopper, R.Benson	
<b>Bee management/ varroa mite</b>	J.Milton has attended a bee management course and requested that the information about the course (Annex C) be shared with BPA members. The organisers will come to your home, identify the Queen Bee, and give free one- on-one advice. If hive owners don't do testing, we could get the varroa mite and not know it. All agreed to encourage bee hive owners to get involved.	All
<b>Children's Playground Proposal</b>	BalingUpcycle is interested in the building of an additional playground suitable for older children. The proposal is to build this in the vicinity of the existing playground on the Village Green. Talison recently provided \$1million to Boyup Brook for playground equipment. BalingUpcycle plans to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- submit a request for approval to build a playground to the Shire – playground would be owned by Shire.</li> <li>- apply for a grant to Talison</li> </ul> It was agreed that BPA provide a letter of support and encourage any other groups (CWA etc) to do the same.	K. Magi  W.Trow
<b>Primary School Report</b>	N.King presented to the BPA a copy of the Balingup Primary School Board's report/update on activities.	N.King
<b>Cemetery</b>	K.Menard advised the cemetery niche wall is coming along well. The workers are trying to make the wall look like the old wall and she expressed satisfaction with the result.	Information
<b>Rabbit Control.</b>	Ron Robertson is discussing options to reintroduce the Black Gloved Brush Wallaby to the Racecourse Reserve with the Shire Environmental Officer and Friends of Forrest. It will be extremely difficult to achieve and will probably require other commitments to ensure ongoing protection - plus strong support from Progress Association if the project goes ahead. It would probably be a first for WA and possibly Australia. He has forwarded his research to Leschenault Biosecurity Group regarding the potential benefit of indigenous ticks as a bio-control for invasive species (rabbits). Their feedback was that "You offer a very thoughtful and compelling case for investigation. We applaud your initiative in reaching out to AWC for scientific research regarding this". BPA also wishes to commend Ron for his many years of service to the community and in particular, protecting the environment.	Information
<b>Talison meetings</b>	Talison has run a number of community forums to discuss the proposed expansion of the Greenbushes Mine. W.Trow has made a summary (see Annex D).	Information

<b>Talison Dust</b>	S.Doyle has forwarded an ABC article advising that Greenbushes Mine has exceeded its dust limits 8 times in 2024 and 4 times so far in 2025. Talison/Grow Greenbushes is holding a public meeting at Greenbushes CRC on Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April at 5.30pm. All welcome. Email has been sent to all BPA members.	All
<b>Community Survey/ Resilience Group meeting</b>	W.Trow advised that she has received 79 responses to the community survey (resilience project). This has helped identify who has independent power supply and satellite communications at home (total 10), who needs help (9), number of first aiders (10) and number of people with bus or truck licenses (6). This is all useful information for the future. The survey results and proposed CISCO presentation were discussed at a Resilience Group meeting held on 30 <sup>th</sup> March. The next step is to request a meeting with Minister for South West, Don Punch.	W.Trow
<b>Surplus items.</b>	There are a number of coat hangers and assorted crockery which have been placed on the stage near the community centre. Available for free.	All
<b>Community Group Health Check</b>	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 will be completed and returned. The lease expired in June 2021 and BPA has regularly expedited its renewal.	J.Hornum
<b>Anzac Day</b>	Anzac Day will be organised by Deb Hanrahan and family, working in conjunction with Mike Armstrong. CWA are making the wreaths.	All
<b>Wattyl Paint discount</b>	Town Teams have provided a document enabling Balingup community groups to purchase Wattyl Paint with 25% discount. BPA Umbrella Groups wishing to access this, to contact W.Trow.	BPA Community Groups
<b>Balingup Tourism Committee</b>	BADTA has provided the following information regarding their proposed operations as a BPA sub-committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee meetings</li> <li>• Visitor Centre operations- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- transit park bookings</li> <li>- bus ticket bookings</li> <li>- Bibbulmun Track walker services (providing book for signing, information)</li> <li>- visitor services (providing information on local attractions and events)</li> <li>- member services (brochure racking, website and social media promotion)</li> <li>- community services (promoting local events)</li> <li>- retail sales</li> </ul> </li> </ul> As agreed last meeting, this information be forwarded to AON. When approved by AON, BADTA sub committee to be provided with a copy of Umbrella Group guidelines.	W.Trow  W.Trow
<b>Budget Items</b>	W.Trow presented a list of suggested items for consideration by Shire Council in the 2025/26 budget. See Annex E. Any more ideas to be forwarded to W.Trow before 10 April 25.	

<b>Community Grants</b>	J.Hornum advised that two applications have been received for the Community Grants scheme. Treasurer to progress next stage of assessment and allocation with Committee.	J.Hornum/ J. Milton																																											
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: H.Christensen																																												
Other meetings/groups	None	Secretary																																											
Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting	Amendments (Y) Moved J. Hornum Seconded W.Trow	Carried Y																																											
Treasurer's report Accounts for payment	<p><b>BPA Treasurer's Report as 31/03/25</b></p> <p>Available Balance - BPA Operating Account      \$6,183.46</p> <p>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>\$13,651.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BPA Trust Fund Account</td> <td>\$14,909.57</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 30/03/25 (included in operating account balance above)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Balance (Start of Month)</th> <th>Balance (End of Month)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Avenue of Honour</td> <td>827.04</td> <td>827.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Men in Sheds</td> <td>400.00</td> <td>400.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Health and Wellness Group</td> <td>1,250.00</td> <td>1,250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>(\$2,477.04)</td> <td>(\$2,477.04)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>ACTUAL \$2,468.04</b></td> <td><b>ACTUAL \$2,468.04</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>*BRG \$9.00 to repay</td> <td>*BRG \$9.00 to repay</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Record of grant funds held for BPA as 31/03/25 (included in operating account balance above)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Balance (Start of Month)</th> <th>Balance (End of Month)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Shire DB (2025 Aus Day event)</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donation to Future's Fund TDA (to be transferred May 2025)</td> <td>5000.00</td> <td>5000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>\$5000.00</td> <td>\$5000.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	BPA Operating Account balance (including funds held on behalf of BPA sub committees see table below)	\$13,651.50	BPA Trust Fund Account	\$14,909.57	Balingup Futures Term Deposit Account	\$21,723.46	Insurance Reserve Term Deposit Account	\$38,444.27	(previous) Event Coordinator Account	\$0.06	Name	Balance (Start of Month)	Balance (End of Month)	Avenue of Honour	827.04	827.04	Men in Sheds	400.00	400.00	Health and Wellness Group	1,250.00	1,250.00	TOTAL	(\$2,477.04)	(\$2,477.04)		<b>ACTUAL \$2,468.04</b>	<b>ACTUAL \$2,468.04</b>		*BRG \$9.00 to repay	*BRG \$9.00 to repay	Name	Balance (Start of Month)	Balance (End of Month)	Shire DB (2025 Aus Day event)	0	0	Donation to Future's Fund TDA (to be transferred May 2025)	5000.00	5000.00	TOTAL	\$5000.00	\$5000.00	Treasurer
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	It was requested a representative from the Health & Wellness Group be contacted regarding funds held on their behalf. W.Trow to follow up	W.Trow
Treasurer's report accepted	Amendments N Moved J. Hornum Seconded R.Thomas	Carried Y
Business arising from previous minutes	See Annex A	
Reminders	<p>BACH Events at the Balingup Town Hall :</p> <p><a href="#">Australian Baroque Trio</a> Sat 5th April, 11am-12 pm</p> <p><a href="#">SHINE PROJECT - Songwriter Tour 2025</a> Wed 9th April, 7-9 pm</p> <p><a href="#">Morning Melodies - The Beautiful Days Duo</a> Fri 11th April, 10:15 am-12 pm</p> <p><a href="#">Blackwood River Film Festival - Balingup</a> Sat 19th Apr, 3pm to Sun, 20 Apr 8:00 pm</p> <p>Balingup Small Farm Field Day Sat 12<sup>th</sup> April 9.00am to 3.30pm  **CWA is provided meals at the SFFD in the Recreation Centre function room.</p>	
Meeting closed	6.56pm	
Next meeting date/time	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May, 6pm	

### Presentation

After the meeting closed, Justine Edmond, Community Engagement Specialist - nbn local - South West WA gave a presentation explaining;

- Nbn upgrades in Balingup
- How to check Residential and Business addresses for upgrades
- What does it all mean for Residents and Businesses
- What to expect from the nbn during an emergency

Justine is the 'voice back to nbn' and plans to visit the town with the nbn "big blue bus". Staff on the bus include representatives from the Regional Tech Hub (a Federally funded service that offers free and independent advice on technology). Staff can help individuals determine:

- what plan they are on now, and
- recommend cheaper/ more effective plans.

BPA agreed to help advertise the visit and make appointments.

In the meantime, Justine recommended that people check:

- [nbnco.com.au](http://nbnco.com.au)
- [finder.com.au](http://finder.com.au)
- [productreview.com.au](http://productreview.com.au)
- [regionaltechhub.org.au](http://regionaltechhub.org.au)

Justine also advised:

- Skymuster is coming to the end of its life. In 2025, Nbn is looking at using low orbiting satellites to improve satellite service. It will be affordable but will not offer a mobile service.
- The government is extending the STAND program to end of 2028. This is a federally funded project that provides free satellite communications for use during emergencies.

## BPA Action List

as of 02/04/25	<b>ACTION LIST, BALINGUP PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC</b>	
MEETING DATE PERSON RESPONSIBLE	ITEM	STATUS
<b>Fruit fly bait</b> Mar 25 N.King/ J.Hornum	Fruit fly bait is still available at Balingup Waste Transfer Station and all residents with fruit trees are encouraged to treat their trees. The bait has, for years, been donated by Ron Robertson. N.King will arrange a suitable gift. J.Hornum has put a notice on Facebook. It was agreed that \$50 be provided to N.King to purchase a small gift as a token of our appreciation.	COMPLETE
<b>Notice boards/</b> W. Trow	Two notice boards, removed from the Information Bay, were offered to all BPA groups but no response received so they have been placed on the Carnivale stage for free pick up.	COMPLETE
<b>Waste disposal</b> Feb 25 M.Giles/ 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. M.Giles/J.Hornum to follow up – meet up has been arranged by J.Hornum.	ONGOING
<b>Keyboard</b> Dec 24/ N.King/ J.Hornum	A Casia Privio PX410R keyboard is currently stored in a BMC sea container. It has been offered to BACH but found unsuitable. J.Hornum to re-advertise and accept the best offer. If no takers, give away for free after Anzac Day.	ONGOING
<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. Work is still in progress, but the 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/ J.Hornum	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.	ONGOING
<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.	ONGOING
<b>Showers</b> Sept 24/	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	ONGOING

W.Trow	declared drought. No response received so this has been included as a budget request (see Annex D).	
<b>Stand pipe costs</b> W.Trow Aug 24	<p>There is a 45% difference between water charges in Donnybrook and Balingup. BPA has written to the Shire, requesting them to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lobby Water Corporation and State Parliament to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ concessional rates to rural community members, irrespective of the cost of new infrastructure, and</li> <li>○ subsidies for rainwater tanks.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Confirm that the Balingup standpipe charges are not impacted by the commercial use of water by Talison.</li> </ul> <p>Shire has written to Water Corporation requesting clarification (10 March 25). It was agreed that, irrespective of the Water Corp response, this be included as a budget request (see Annex D).</p>	ONGOING
<b>Shire Lease Agreement</b> 2021/ Jul 23 W.Trow/ J.Hornum	<p>The Shire has provided lease documentation that lists approved use as 'Community Centre, workshop and toilet block'. A meeting to review the draft lease with the Shire is still to be held. 28 Jan 25, W.Trow emailed Shire, asking if any progress made. In March, Shire advised that we will receive a draft lease agreement for comment 'in the coming months'.</p>	ONGOING

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action</b>
4 Mar	Shire (letter)	Community Group health Check	Completed & returned
5 Mar	Talison	Mine expansion meeting	To all BPA
7 Mar	AgSafe	Drum muster	JH
4 Mar	Shire	Community group health check	WT
10 Mar	L.Hodge	Baroque performance	To all BPA
10 Mar	CEO Shire	Letter to Water Corp/standpipe	Discuss this meeting
13 Mar	Talison	Site bulletin	Info
14 Mar	Town Teams	Information sessions	Info
14 Mar	Talison	Invoice BACH	JH
14 &17 Mar	R.Robertson	Rabbit control	General business
18 Mar	Volunteers SW	Volunteer of the Year (SW)	To all BPA
26 Mar	B.Hindocha	Acquittal community garden	WT
28 Mar	BACH	Request for community grant	JH
28 Mar	VSW	Volunteers soiree	Info
31 Mar	P.Williamson	Reimburse for website hosting	JH
1 Apr	Town Teams	Wattyl paint discount	General business
2 Apr	S.Doyle (via W.Trow)	Talison article/meeting re dust	General business
2 Apr	BADTA/ J.Hornum	Summary of BADTA activities (insurance)	General business
2 Apr	Talison	Payment advice \$3224.50	JH

#### **Letters/emails Out**

<b>Date</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Actioned by</b>
7 Mar	All BPA	Minutes Mar 25 BPA meeting	
7 Mar	S.Delaporte & Shire President	Minutes plus link to video	
7 Mar	All BPA	Talison meeting	
19 Mar	All BPA	Volunteer of the Year (SW)	
26 Mar	Shire	Community group health check	Wt/JH
2 Apr	All BPA	Talison/dust	WT

<https://www.varroa.org.au/>

The primary focus will be training beekeepers and providing them with the skills they need to manage Varroa mite and maintain healthy beehives. Tailored resources are being developed to provide accessible, reliable, current, and consistent information and training programs relevant to best practices in an Australian context. These resources are being delivered nationally online via a coordinated webinar series, and face-to-face training will also be conducted.

The National Varroa Mite Management Program is overseen by the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP) and the National Management Group (NMG).

The Varroa Mite Transition to Management (T2M) plan Varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*) is the most serious pest of European honey bees. It was detected for the first time in Australia at the Port of Newcastle (NSW) in June 2022. An emergency response was initiated {and} was led by the NSW Department of Primary Industries, and even though it was the largest agricultural biosecurity response in Australia to date, it was ultimately unsuccessful in eradicating Varroa mite. In September 2023, the National Management Group agreed it was no longer feasible to eradicate Varroa mite and a plan to assist industry and the community to transition to management (T2M) should be developed.

This plan will provide an orderly transition to management, minimising the ongoing effects of Varroa mite naturalisation on the European honey bee industry and pollination-reliant industries with a focus on business continuity. It aims to slow the spread of Varroa mite to allow beekeepers, pollination-dependent industries and the community sufficient time to prepare for expected future arrival.



## Summary of Talison meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025

Talison has held a series of community meetings to update the community on the proposed expansion of the Greenbushes mine. Here's a quickly summary of what (W.Trow thinks) was said:

- The mine has run out of space and needs another 435 hectares to store its waste rock - this is the material leftover after lithium has been extracted.
- The existing waste rock pile will be re-vegetated and two new piles, with projected height of 70 metres, will be formed. One of these will be on the Eastern side of the highway. It hasn't been decided how the Eastern pile will be accessed yet, but their preference would be for an underpass.
- If government approvals are received, Talison plan to start work in Quarter 2 of 2027.
- These two piles will be enough to store waste produced for the next 10 years.
- The projected life of the mine is 20 years.
- As production increases, the number of trucks on the road will increase from around 130 per day to (anything up to) 200 per day.
- Talison will continue to collect all water that is used in the production process on site. No bores.
- For every hectare that Talison clears, they provide funds to protect 10 hectares. Offsets must occur within a 50km radius of the mine and this work is currently carried out by DBCA.
- The community members present asked Talison to:
  - Create a link on their website to provide:
    - real time dust and noise monitoring
    - details of DBCA offset projects carried out so far
  - Provide Carnaby nesting boxes for landowners to install on private properties.

Talison is keen to involve local land management groups in dealing with potential environmental impacts and enquiries are welcomed. Feedback from the general community and/or enquiries should be directed to [projects@talisonlithium.com](mailto:projects@talisonlithium.com) or phone 1300 904 650.

## Items for consideration in Shire 2025/26 budget

- That the \$6.00 fee for using public showers at the Balingup Transit Park be either:
  - reduced to align with the \$3.00 fee charged at Donnybrook Recreation Centre, or
  - waived completely during the months of February, March, April for Shire residents.
- That the Small Farm Field Day and other not-for-profit local community groups be exempt from paying a fee to use the electrical points at the Balingup Oval (\$5.00 per hour per power point) because the Small Farm Field Day paid for the installation of the transformer and power points around the grounds. See Senior Community Development Officer for details.
- That charges for the Balingup standpipe be no more than the fee charged for other standpipes in the Shire.
- That funding for the installation of deep sewerage in Balingup be actively progressed.