

## Balingup Progress Association - Summary AGM 2017

The Balingup Progress Association held a very well attended Annual General meeting on Wednesday 6th September in the Balingup Community Centre

**Presidents Report: the outgoing president** Brian de Garis thanked all those members of BPA for their support throughout his three years as president. Achievements through the year included:

- . Upgrade of Community Centre,
- Lighting for outside the building, thanks to Medieval Carnival
- Purchase of Lions BBQ trailer,
- Assisting the Establishment of Friday Night Markets,
- Forming Friends Of Birdwood Park,
- Donation of \$100 to the school for student prize,
- Supporting Alan Rothery Walk upgrade,
- Paths and Trails Signage,
- Australia Day Breakfast and Anzac Day and Volunteers Lunch
- Support for Breakfast program at the Balingup Primary School.
- Thank you to the Medieval Carnival and Small Farm Field Day for funding of the community Centre Television.
- Donations to Heritage walk trails through town.

### **Reports from Umbrella Groups.**

**Night Markets:** over the summer months were successful with 10 stalls setting up each Friday evening around the Peace Pergola. This created a lot of activity and with the support of BPA will begin again on the 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017. contact Tim at Birdwood Wines.

**Friends of Birdwood Avenue:** As the Lions Club has dissolved a group has been formed to manage the Avenue. Funding from SFFD and residual funds from Lions will allow for some new plantings and information board. Contact Wayne 97562004

**Carbon Neutral:** Several years ago planting was carried out at the racecourse reserve these have been very successful but no new plantings are planned. The program is gaining momentum in many other small towns.

**Balingup Historical Project Group:** Were successful in obtaining funds through SFFD and townscape to start the heritage walk trail through the town. Another ghost Walk around town was held with about 40 participants. A film night on the life of the Irish Fenian John Boyle O'Reilly held in the exhibition also proved very successful. A New theme featuring the 1930s -40 life in Balingup will open in late September. Contact Helen 97641291

**Fruit Fly Baiting:** This is supplied free to Balingup and Mullalyup residents to combat the fruit fly problem in household orchards and has proved very successful over the years Distribution will take place in November; The bait is flicked onto trees during the blossom and fruit forming period. Re fills of the bait are available from the rubbish tip or transfer station. Citrus trees also need to be targeted. This system does not affect bees. Contact Ron Robertson 97641272

**Community Forrest Gardens:** Behind the fire shed. New crops & fruit trees have been planted, many are self-seeding, Trellises have been put in for raspberries and blackberries and an English mulberry is finally established. Bees are thriving, organic herbicides used along with woodchips for weed control. Thank you for Funding from SFFD. A play group meets in the garden each week. Community is invited to use the

produce or drop off any excess plantings they may have. The garden is about community and not profit.  
Contact Jesse

**Men in Sheds:** Reported another very successful year with between 10 and 35 members attending monthly meetings to hear interesting guest speakers. A well-attended ladies night was held during the year. Members appreciate the use of the community centre and have installed a historic bell from the Barrack Street Arch to control meetings. The recently installed television is to become a BPA asset.

**Patches and Craft:** Have been operating for 30 years. They meet every Thursday at the Recreation Centre and welcome new members. Two outings are held each year. A huge quilt exhibition is held during the SFFD at the hall. Currently they are making a quilt to raffle for the epilepsy foundation and reusable shopping bags for IGA in Bridgetown. Contact Vicky on 97643375

**Telling Tales:** 344 children and their parents travelled to Balingup for the weekend in July. Thank you to Medieval Carnival for organizing book characters to participate in the parade through town. Thanks also to BPA, Gublers for the donation of apples, SFFD, SWDC, DBK and BLP Shire, Bendigo Bank, V/C, accommodation providers, cafes and the Tales Committee. Contact Helen, 97641291

**Medieval Carnival:** Volunteers have already begun planning the 2018 event. An extra 20 stall holders attended and around 10,000 visitors enjoyed the day. The feast on Friday was well attended. Plenty of use was made of the new marquee and jousting arena and more plans to improve the area are underway. Huge thanks to the prison crew who were of great benefit in setting up. Unfortunately there was some damage to scarecrows around the town on Saturday night, the offenders have been caught. Thanks you to Fred, Joe and Mark for work on the arena. Contact Fred 0400 884 202

**Mullalyup Improvement Group:** Held a well-attended Anzac Service and Christmas Party and meet about 4 times a year. Contact Peter Gubler 97641400.

**Art and Craft Affair:** Forty artists and artisans were located throughout the town in shops and businesses to display their skills. Around 2000 visitors attended and funding obtained will be used for better signage for the future. Contact Peta 97641083

**Small Farm Field Day: In April 2017** 10,000 visitors attended, with over 340 stalls on display. A waste wise theme proved very interesting with monitors checking waste and recycling rubbish. Plans in 2018: new parking venues, new traffic management system. SFFD supports BADSA, BADTA and many community groups who are able to apply for funding through the SFFD Trust.

A big thank you to all these small and large volunteer community groups who make Balingup an exciting place to live.

New Office Bearers for 2017 – 2018 were elected as:

**President.** John Raneri

**Vice President;** Mike Staffa

**Secretary:** Noelene King,

**Treasurer:** Sharon Smith

**Executive Committee:** Helen Christensen, Wayne Irvine, Jodie Hornum,

**Signatories & Seal Holders:** will remain as last year: Thank you to Brian de Garis, outgoing president, for his dedication and hard work to the BPA over the past three years.

Balingup Progress Association meet on the first Wednesday of each month at the Community Centre 7pm  
All welcome More info Noelene 97641080