



Minutes

Council Meeting

7.01pm, Tuesday 12 July 2022

Richmond Town Hall

1. Statement of recognition of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Land

“Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra.

We acknowledge their creator spirit Bunjil, their ancestors and their Elders.

We acknowledge the strength and resilience of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, who have never ceded sovereignty and retain their strong connections to family, clan and country despite the impacts of European invasion.

We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra.

We pay our respects to Elders from all nations here today—and to their Elders past, present and future.”

2. Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence

Attendance

Councillors

- Cr Sophie Wade Mayor
- Cr Edward Crossland Deputy Mayor
- Cr Gabrielle de Vietri Councillor
- Cr Stephen Jolly Councillor
- Cr Herschel Landes Councillor
- Cr Anab Mohamud Councillor
- Cr Claudia Nguyen Councillor
- Cr Bridgid O’Brien Councillor
- Cr Amanda Stone Councillor

Council officers

- Sue Wilkinson Chief Executive Officer
- Brooke Colbert Group Manager Advocacy and Engagement
- Malcolm Foard Director Community Wellbeing
- Ivan Gilbert Group Manager Chief Executive’s Office
- Gracie Karabinis Group Manager People and Culture
- Chris Leivers Director City Works and Assets
- Diarmuid McAlary Director Corporate, Business and Finance
- Bruce Phillips Director Planning and Place Making
- Rhys Thomas Senior Governance Advisor
- Mel Nikou Governance Officer

Leave of absence

- Cr Claudia Nguyen Councillor

Apology

- Cr Anab Mohamud Councillor

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Crossland

Seconded: Councillor Landes

1. That in accordance with section 35(4) of the Local Government Act 2020, Council grant leave of absence to Cr Sophie Wade for all meetings held from Wednesday 13 July to Wednesday 3 August 2022 inclusive.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Announcements

Vale – The Hon Jane Garrett

On behalf of the Yarra City Council, I wish to formally convey our sincerest condolences to the family, friends, colleagues and her many contacts and acquaintances, on the recent passing of the Hon. Jane Garrett.

I am well aware of the Jane's reputation and the legacy she left here at Yarra, but did not have the pleasure of serving alongside her myself.

I would like to invite those two Councillors who served with her to present a condolence motion to the meeting.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Stone

Seconded: Councillor Jolly

1. That:
 - (a) Council record a motion of condolence on the passing of a former Councillor colleague and City of Yarra Mayor, The Hon Jane Garrett;
 - (b) Council acknowledge and record its appreciation for Jane's extensive and dedicated public service to the Yarra community; and
 - (c) the Mayor write to Jane's family to provide a copy of this resolution and extend Council's deepest sympathies.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor de Vietri – Greens Candidacy

I am pleased to formally announce that I have been preselected as the Greens candidate for Richmond, and as per the guidelines from the Municipal Association of Victoria, I am announcing my candidacy in the state election at a public council meeting at the earliest opportunity. I am also working closely with the CEO, Mayor and Municipal Monitor to ensure that the roles and their distinctions between them are well managed and will also continue to work within the bounds of the Local Government Act and guidelines provided by the Municipal Association of Victoria.

4. Declarations of conflict of interest (Councillors and staff)

No declarations were made.

5. Confidential business reports

Nil

Following consideration of Confidential business, the meeting resumed in open session.

6. Confirmation of minutes

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Crossland

Seconded: Councillor Landes

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 23 June 2022 be confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Public question time

Item	Page
Public Questions	6

8. Council business reports

Item	Page	Res. Page
8.1 Moving Forward>> Yarra Transport Strategy 2022-2032	9	10
8.2 Public Open Space - Contribution Expenditure Policy - WITHDRAWN	11	-
8.3 Environment Advisory Committee Membership	12	13
8.4 Proposed Discontinuance of Road at 9-11 Brighton Street, Richmond.	14	15
8.5 Amendments to the Civic Flag Policy	16	16
8.6 Appointment of Authorised Officers under the Planning and Environment Act 1987	17	17

9. Notices of motion

Item	Page	Res. Page
9.1 Notice of Motion No. 7 of 2022 - ICLEI World Congress Edinburgh Declaration	18	18

10. Petitions and joint letters

Item	Page
10.1 Petition – Turn restrictions into George Street Fitzroy	19

11. Questions without notice

Nil

12. Delegates' reports

Item	Page
12.1 Councillor Stone - Friends of Baucau Inc.....	20
12.2 Councillor Stone - Metropolitan Local Government Waste Forum	28
12.3 Councillor Crossland – Rainbow Advisory Committee	29

13. General business

Nil

14. Urgent business

Nil

7. Public question time

This record is provided as a summary of the questions asked by members of the public during Public Question Time at a meeting of the Yarra City Council. A recording of the Council Meeting (including Public Question Time) is available on Council's website for twelve months following the meeting. Where a question is taken on notice and unable to be answered at the meeting, the full response is also published on Council's website when it becomes available.

Questioner	Question	Refer to
Dorothy James	The need for repairs to deteriorating pavements and roadways. Surely, it's not unreasonable for residents to expect these areas of Council infrastructure to be safe to traverse and fit for purpose, that requires regular maintenance. Little or no repairs have been undertaken in the area of Burnley bounded by Maddern Grove, Barkley Ave Loyola and Burnley Streets, especially over the past 10 years. Yarra continues to accrue enormous debt - a debt that represents an impost on every ratepayer.	The Director City Works and Assets provided a response.
Phillip Papas	Why were all communications regarding the proposed opening of the Old Heidelberg Road gate only in English and all done online? The Old Heidelberg Road gate has now been removed for several months. Has the assessment of the road required under the Road Management Plan been completed during this time?	The Mayor provided a response. The Group Manager Chief Executive's Office also provided a response.
Maurice Sheehan	Is Council concerned about the maintenance of the elevated tram stops on Bridge Road, as the battens have been knocked down again?	The Director Planning and Place Making provided a response.
George Manidis	Why was the letter regarding Council's 4 August 2020 resolution sent to a law firm and not the registered postal address of the Greek community of Melbourne as per Council's stated policy? Council's resolution of 4 August 2020 indicates the owner of the land leased by Alphington Grammar School would be notified that the licence of 1953 for Old Heidelberg Road would formally end. Why was the Greek Community of Melbourne not informed of this?	The questions were taken on notice
Suzy Stamos	To enable construction of the lower Darebin trail, Alphington Grammar school agreed to sell to the state government the land necessary to allow the	The questions were taken on notice

	<p>final link to this trail to be achieved. This demonstrates the goodwill to the community. Were the council members aware of this goodwill by the school and was it factored in as part of the decision making process?</p> <p>How did the Council analyse resources required to meet its obligations, which are to ensure that the road is fully compliant with the laws and regulations and that it would use rate payer funds efficiently and effectively?</p>	
Carol Hanna	<p>Council continues to claim that the school has never responded to its communication. I can confirm that it has done so by writing to all Council members initially and another five times to Mr Gilbert directly. Has Council received the correspondence or been briefed about the issues raised in all those correspondence's?</p>	<p>The question was taken on notice</p>
James Baker	<p>What will you do as Mayor to address the frustration and anger that your council has spent thousands of dollars of rates and tax payers money and need to spend tens of thousands more relating to this particular area when residents can't and won't be able to access any of the desired areas because Alphington Grammar is now going to build a high fence around the boundaries of its defined property?</p> <p>If I offer to purchase the defunct end of Old Heidelberg Road to the gate of Alphington Grammar School for a significant amount of money, would you hold a public consultation process and let the people of Yarra decide whether they want my money to fix the deficit that this council has, or 60 meters of defunct road past the gate at Alphington Grammar School?</p>	<p>The questions were taken on notice</p>
Martha Vazenios	<p>At the May council meeting a parent asked why Farm Road was not sufficient in terms of access to the creek and trail given that VicRoads had deemed Old Heidelberg Road unsuitable. The Mayor stated the VicRoads decision is a separate matter. Mayor do you once again refute that they are the same matter and if yes please explain why these were attachments in the submission?</p>	<p>The questions were taken on notice</p>
Luisa Di Giovine	<p>Why is Yarra Council bowing to an activist group who admit they don't want to lose the school's open spaces and most people just want to access the school grounds?</p> <p>Is council aware of how many people have used</p>	<p>The questions were taken on notice</p>

	the redundant part of Old Heidelberg Road since councils decision to open it and what activities are undertaken by those who have accessed it?	
Maurice Sheehan	Previously in this Council, the wards met maybe two times a year, so anyone who wanted to go to a meeting within the ward was able to do that and then able to talk about what was going on within the ward and express the views they had and wonder whether that is a way of identifying what are the issues that people are dealing with within the wards.	The Mayor provided a response.
Julia Tink	How you respond to serious allegations from members of the community that you Mayor and fellow councillors all represent and that you have an internally poor culture that fails to have the community, tax payers and me a local resident of Alphington at heart? How are you going to upkeep and put in safety measures into the redundant Old Heidelberg Road to allow the entrance to be accessible for everyone, what are your plans around safety especially as the creek is flood prone and dangerous at this time of the year, and can you clearly outline the cost of ensuring the access point will be safe for the community?	The questions were taken on notice
Martha Vazenios	What does it mean when you tell people you will take questions on notice?	The Mayor provided a response.
Damian Kipouridis	Is Council concerned in opening the Old Heidelberg Road gate they have provided an unsafe environment for people to access the Darebin creek trail because they are doing it by means of entering the creek and also entering the school grounds?	The questions were taken on notice

8.1 Moving Forward>> Yarra Transport Strategy 2022-2032

Reference	D22/161636
Author	Simon Exon - Unit Manager Strategic Transport
Authoriser	Director Planning and Place Making

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7.53pm

The meeting resumed at 8.00pm

RECOMMENDATION **Start time: 8.01pm**

1. That Council:
 - (a) note the officer report regarding the draft Yarra Transport Strategy 2022-2032;
 - (b) note the feedback and submissions received from the exhibition period which are provided in **Attachment Two** and which have previously been provided to Councillors for noting and consideration;
 - (c) note the revised version of the draft Yarra Transport Strategy 2022-2032 prepared by officers following consideration of:
 - (i) the feedback and submissions provided to Council through the exhibition period;
 - (ii) the Yarra 2036 Community Vision; and
 - (iii) Objective 5 'Transport and Movement' as expressed in the Council Plan 2021-2025;
 - (d) note the five Outcomes, five Strategic Directions and 15 Policies as stated in the attached recommended strategy to advance the transport vision and objectives of Council over the 10 year period to 2032; and
 - (e) having considered the feedback and submissions from the community and other stakeholders and interested parties and the officer report and commentary, determine to adopt the Yarra Transport Strategy 2022- 2032 as shown in **Attachment One**.
2. That the adopted strategy be titled Moving Forward>> Yarra Transport Strategy 2022-2032.
3. That the adopted contents of the document be published for presentation purposes and for it to be made available on the Council website.

Public Submissions

The following people addressed Council on the matter:

Jeremy Lawrence, Streets Alive Yarra; and

Michael Oxeer.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Landes

Seconded: Councillor de Vietri

1. That Council:
 - (a) note the officer report regarding the draft Yarra Transport Strategy 2022-2032;
 - (b) note the feedback and submissions received from the exhibition period which are provided in **Attachment Two** and which have previously been provided to Councillors for noting and consideration;
 - (c) note the revised version of the draft Yarra Transport Strategy 2022-2032 prepared by officers following consideration of:
 - (i) the feedback and submissions provided to Council through the exhibition period;
 - (ii) the Yarra 2036 Community Vision; and
 - (iii) Objective 5 'Transport and Movement' as expressed in the Council Plan 2021-2025;
 - (d) note the five Outcomes, five Strategic Directions and 15 Policies as stated in the attached recommended strategy to advance the transport vision and objectives of Council over the 10 year period to 2032; and
 - (e) having considered the feedback and submissions from the community and other stakeholders and interested parties and the officer report and commentary, determine to adopt the Yarra Transport Strategy 2022- 2032 as shown in **Attachment One** with the following additions:
 - (i) in Table 3 "Transport Strategy Measures and Targets" on page 56, under 'Method of Travel to Work' target (ix), include e-scooters in both the 'measure' and the 'target' of measure number 10;
 - (ii) a new Indicator in Table 3 with the target of growing the active transport mode share by 2030 better than or equal to the State Government commitment as stated in the 'Transport Sector Emissions Reduction Pledge (May 2021)'; and
 - (iii) a new paragraph under 'How this Strategy relates to other policies and strategies' on page 7 to outline that Council will focus on corridor and precinct solutions in its capital delivery to achieve both the objectives of the Transport Strategy as well as work towards improvements to the particular street to deliver holistic, complete street outcomes consistent with the *Local Liveable Streets Policy dated March 2022*.
2. That the adopted strategy be titled Moving Forward>> Yarra Transport Strategy 2022-2032.
3. That the adopted contents of the document be published for presentation purposes and for it to be made available on the Council website.
4. That officers investigate treatments and materiality used in streetscape works to ensure they best achieve the objectives of both the Transport Strategy and broader objectives of Council; with a focus on enhancing pedestrian, cycling and micro mobility experience, and the inclusion of suitable landscape treatments to enhance local streets consistent with the *Local Liveable Streets Policy March 2022*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor O'Brien left the meeting at 8.18pm

Councillor Jolly left the meeting at 8.18pm, not returning.

8.2 Public Open Space - Contribution Expenditure Policy - WITHDRAWN

Reference D22/164308
Author Althena Davidson - Manager City Strategy
Authoriser Director Planning and Place Making

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) note the officer report and the Attachment regarding the *Public Open Space - Contribution Expenditure Policy*; and
 - (b) adopt the *Public Open Space - Contribution Expenditure Policy* as shown in the Attachment.

ITEM WAS WITHDRAWN

8.3 Environment Advisory Committee Membership

Reference D22/152694
Author Michael Oke - Unit Manager Sustainability
Authoriser Director Planning and Place Making

RECOMMENDATION

Start time: 8.19pm

1. That Council appoint the following persons to the sixteen vacant positions on the Environment Advisory Committee:
 - (a) _____;
 - (b) _____;
 - (c) _____;
 - (d) _____;
 - (e) _____;
 - (f) _____;
 - (g) _____;
 - (h) _____;
 - (i) _____;
 - (j) _____;
 - (k) _____;
 - (l) _____;
 - (m) _____;
 - (n) _____;
 - (o) _____; and
 - (p) _____.
2. That officers write to all members of the community who expressed interest, advising of this decision and thank them for applying to be members of the Environment Advisory Committee.

Councillor O'Brien returned at 8.22pm

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Crossland

Seconded: Councillor Stone

1. That Council appoint the following persons to the sixteen vacant positions on the Environment Advisory Committee:
 - (a) Dr Chris Williams;
 - (b) Chris Currie;
 - (c) Candice Worsteling;
 - (d) Miranda Sharp;
 - (e) Michalis Hadjikakou;
 - (f) Jack Clancy;
 - (g) Fiona Bowie;
 - (h) Caitlyn Socwell;
 - (i) Rachel McConville;
 - (j) Gabrielle Murphy;
 - (k) Jo Lane;
 - (l) Tam Do;
 - (m) Pierre Dao;
 - (n) Shane Delphine;
 - (o) Lin Oke; and
 - (p) Sally Mangan.
2. That officers write to all members of the community who expressed interest, advising of this decision and thank them for applying to be members of the Environment Advisory Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.4 Proposed Discontinuance of Road at 9-11 Brighton Street, Richmond.

Reference	D22/155630
Author	Bill Graham - Coordinator Valuations
Authoriser	Director Corporate, Business and Finance

RECOMMENDATION

Start time: 8.23pm

1. That Council, acting under clause 3 of schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989 (Act)*:
 - (a) resolves, having followed all the required statutory procedures pursuant to sections 207A and 223 of the Act pursuant to its power under clause 3 of schedule 10 of the Act, and being of the opinion that the road abutting 9-11 Brighton Street, Richmond, the land remaining in Conveyance Book P no. 731 (shown marked as lot 1 on the title plan attached as Attachment 1 to this report (**Road**)) is not reasonably required for public use for the reasons set out in this report, to discontinue the Road;
 - (b) directs that a notice pursuant to the provisions of clause 3(a) of Schedule 10 of the Act is to be published in the *Victoria Government Gazette*;
 - (c) directs that, once discontinued, and subject to LPC Brighton Pty Ltd (or its related party) (**Applicant**) first becoming the registered proprietor of the properties which abut the Road a 9-11 Brighton Street, Richmond (**Adjoining Properties**), the Road be transferred to the Applicant for no less than the market value as determined by the Act (plus GST);
 - (d) directs the CEO sign any transfer or transfers of the Road or any other documents required to be signed in connection with the discontinuance of the Road and its subsequent transfer to the Applicant;
 - (e) directs that any easements, rights or interests required to be created or saved over the Road by any authority be done so and not be affected by the discontinuance and sale of the Road; and
 - (f) directs that the Applicant be required to consolidate the title to the discontinued Road with the land contained in the certificates of title to the surrounding land, by no later than 6 months after the date of the discontinued Road.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Landes

Seconded: Councillor Stone

1. That Council, acting under clause 3 of schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989 (Act)*:
 - (a) resolves, having followed all the required statutory procedures pursuant to sections 207A and 223 of the Act pursuant to its power under clause 3 of schedule 10 of the Act, and being of the opinion that the road abutting 9-11 Brighton Street, Richmond, the land remaining in Conveyance Book P no. 731 (shown marked as lot 1 on the title plan attached as Attachment 1 to this report (**Road**)) is not reasonably required for public use for the reasons set out in this report, to discontinue the Road;
 - (b) directs that a notice pursuant to the provisions of clause 3(a) of Schedule 10 of the Act is to be published in the *Victoria Government Gazette*;
 - (c) directs that, once discontinued, and subject to LPC Brighton Pty Ltd (or its related party) (**Applicant**) first becoming the registered proprietor of the properties which abut the Road a 9-11 Brighton Street, Richmond (**Adjoining Properties**), the Road be transferred to the Applicant for no less than the market value as determined by the Act (plus GST);
 - (d) directs the CEO sign any transfer or transfers of the Road or any other documents required to be signed in connection with the discontinuance of the Road and its subsequent transfer to the Applicant;
 - (e) directs that any easements, rights or interests required to be created or saved over the Road by any authority be done so and not be affected by the discontinuance and sale of the Road; and
 - (f) directs that the Applicant be required to consolidate the title to the discontinued Road with the land contained in the certificates of title to the surrounding land, by no later than 6 months after the date of the discontinued Road.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.5 Amendments to the Civic Flag Policy

Reference D22/141058
Author Rhys Thomas - Senior Governance Advisor
Authoriser Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

RECOMMENDATION

Start time: 8.26pm

1. That Council update the Civic Flag Policy and Community Flag Schedule by incorporating the markups set out in the draft Civic Flag Policy at **Attachment One**.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Crossland **Seconded:** Councillor de Vietri

1. That Council update the Civic Flag Policy and Community Flag Schedule by incorporating the markups set out in the draft Civic Flag Policy at **Attachment One**.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.6 Appointment of Authorised Officers under the Planning and Environment Act 1987

Reference D22/161785
Author Rhys Thomas - Senior Governance Advisor
Authoriser Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

RECOMMENDATION

Start time: 8.34pm

1. In the exercise of the powers conferred by s 147(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, Council resolves that:
 - (a) Eugenio TORCASIO,
be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument at **Attachment One**; and each instrument comes into force immediately it is signed by Council's Chief Executive Officer, and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Crossland **Seconded:** Councillor Stone

1. In the exercise of the powers conferred by s 147(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, Council resolves that:
 - (a) Eugenio TORCASIO,
be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument at **Attachment One**; and each instrument comes into force immediately it is signed by Council's Chief Executive Officer, and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Notices of motion

<Change line to Nil if no petitions, otherwise delete>

9.1 Notice of Motion No. 7 of 2022 - ICLEI World Congress Edinburgh Declaration

Reference D22/163396
Author Rhys Thomas - Senior Governance Advisor
Authoriser Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

RECOMMENDATION **Start time: 8.35pm**

1. That Council:
 - (a) note the Delegate's Report from the 2022 ICLEI World Congress; and
 - (b) commit to signing the Edinburgh Declaration to support the forthcoming Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Stone **Seconded:** Councillor O'Brien

1. That Council:
 - (a) note the Delegate's Report from the 2022 ICLEI World Congress; and
 - (b) commit to signing the Edinburgh Declaration to support the forthcoming Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. Petitions and joint letters

10.1 Petition – Turn restrictions into George Street Fitzroy

Reference: D22/169873

An online change.org petition currently containing 67 signatures regarding the turn restrictions into George Street Fitzroy being ignored, mentioned some of the following:

“The afternoon commuter traffic is ignoring the turn restrictions from Victoria Parade into George Street which is adversely affecting the liveability and safety of our community.

Council are aware of the problem and addressed the issue in LAPM11/LAPMS11 back in September 2009, but the turn restrictions have become ineffectual because they are not being policed.”

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Stone

Seconded: Councillor O'Brien

That the petition be received and referred to the appropriate officer for consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. Questions without notice

Nil

12. Delegates' reports

12.1 Councillor Stone - Friends of Baucau Inc.

Start time: 8.43pm

Committee	Friends of Baucau Inc.
Appointed Councillors	Cr Amanda Stone
Date of Council Meeting	Tuesday 12 July 2022
Date of Report	Monday 4 July 2022
Report Author	Cr Amanda Stone

DELEGATES REPORT

Friends of Baucau Inc. is a not-for-profit community organisation that was formed to foster a partnership between the people and municipalities of Yarra, Darebin and Baucau District in Timor Leste.

In 2014, the Victoria State Government brokered municipal agreements between some Victorian municipalities and districts in Timor Leste to support the transition to a system of local government. A Municipal Agreement was signed between Yarra and Darebin Councils and the District of Baucau; that agreement remains in place and has formed the basis of a number of officer exchanges between Yarra and Baucau.

Friends of Baucau meets monthly in the Edinburgh Gardens Community Room to plan work with our partners in Baucau to provide financial and other support for a range of different development projects. Currently the main focus has been to support women's empowerment projects, teacher training, and sustainable livelihoods.

The Women's Economic Empowerment Committee also meets regularly to plan support for the 3 key partners focused upon supporting women in Baucau: the Centre for Women's Development (CFHD); Fundasaun Uma Pas, a women's shelter; and the Women's Association for Development in Baucau (AFEHABAD).

Fundraising was difficult during COVID lockdowns but has recommenced with coffee sales and a musical fundraising event planned at the regular monthly METAC gathering on Friday 5th August.

The Municipal Agreement has been in hiatus with travel restrictions due to the global pandemic. However Friends of Baucau is keen to see a return to the skills and knowledge exchange between Yarra/Darebin Councils and the District of Baucau, with presentations from AVI at recent meetings as one approach to facilitate these.

The Annual General Meeting was held in May and the Annual Report is attached to this report.

FRIENDS OF BAUCAU INC. ANNUAL REPORT 2021

INTRODUCTION

Friends of Baucau Inc (FoB) is an incorporated community organisation based in the Municipalities of Darebin and Yarra in Victoria, Australia. Our aim is to promote friendship links between the people in these cities and the communities of the Baucau Municipality in Timor-Leste, and in particular, to work closely with 11 villages in the Baucau Villa sub-district. We aim:

- a. To assist the people of Baucau Sub-District, through transfer of knowledge, skills, and resources as appropriate, particularly regarding health, education and training and community development.
- b. To support projects aimed at strengthening communities and education self-sufficiency, and consistent with cultural, environmental and social sustainability in the Baucau Sub-District.
- c. To build better knowledge and understanding between the communities of Baucau, Darebin and Yarra
- d. To work to achieve the above aims in conjunction with the City of Darebin and the City of Yarra.

Friends of Baucau is endorsed and supported by the Councils of Darebin and Yarra, the national government of Timor-Leste and the municipality of Baucau.

In typical years, we work with our partners in Baucau to provide financial and other support for a range of different development projects. Recently our main focus has been to support women's empowerment projects, teacher training, and sustainable livelihoods. To support what we do, we engage in fundraising and community awareness activities and events in Yarra and Darebin through the year. As part of our partnership, we are also often involved with the arrangement of exchange visits, either hosting a key representative from Baucau, or supporting a delegation of some of our members to visit Baucau. Friends Of Baucau Inc. Annual Report 2021.

Once again, 2021 was not a typical year. The COVID-19 outbreak and ensuing lockdowns both here and in Timor-Leste necessitated significant changes to how FoB operates. In Melbourne, we continued to meet remotely and were not able to pursue our usual fundraising events and activities due to the COVID restrictions, instead coordinating successful online fundraising appeals. In Baucau, the nature of sustainable development assistance that our partners have approached us for has grown to include COVID-19 and flood emergency response and recovery, while continuing to maintain our existing commitments, as far as this has been possible.

Friends of Baucau is focused on the administration post of Baucau villa but we do regularly coordinate with other friendship groups supporting other Baucau administration posts. We held a zoom meeting with Baucau Hamutuk (Baucau Together) with Friends of Baguia, Quelicai, Venilale and Vermasse to catch up and discuss mutual issues such as potential support for seasonal workers from Timor-Leste placed in our locations, how to send funds efficiently to partners and how to engage with the wider community.

Friends of Baucau also joined the Australia Timor-Leste Friendship Network zoom on 7 November: Timor-Leste Today: Reconnecting Friendships Post-Covid.

In Yarra and Darebin, we liaise with schools re support for the scholarship program and neighbourhood houses who have developed links with community organisations in Baucau. We also catered Timorese snacks for the Yarra Council Music in Exile concert. Friends of Baucau is pleased to support community development in both Timor-Leste and our local council areas.

Yarra and Darebin are two of 15 Victoria Council's which have signed a Municipal Cooperation Agreement with a sub/district in Timor-Leste. This government-to-government agreement is focused on sharing professional experience, advice and mentoring and underpins the intent of the friendship agreement between Yarra and Darebin and Baucau municipalities.

Representatives from each Council participated in regular meetings of the Local Government Timor-Leste Network, organised by the Victoria State Government. At these meetings, the councillors share information and stay informed of the work of other local Councils and the Victorian Government Timor-Leste program.

Although many opportunities for visits and reciprocal learning have been hindered by the pandemic, the network is committed to the relationship between the local government sector and Ministry of State Administration in Timor-Leste.

1. OUR FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Events

In past years, we have raised money through events and the sale of FoB-branded Timorese coffee. We would usually coordinate three to four fundraising events in a calendar year and in the past have run trivia nights, bowls club events, film screenings and home concerts, none of which were possible in 2021. However, we were able to run a profitable fundraiser, selling Timorese snacks at the Yarra Council Music in Exile concert at the Fairfield Amphitheatre on 6 February. Coordinated by Leanne Coghlan and Ursula Harrison, this event raised \$1100 for Friends of Baucau and also shared flyers on what Friends of Baucau does. Feedback was positive! Friends Of Baucau Inc. Annual Report 2021 3

Coffee

Led by Ursula Harrison, Leanne Coghlan and Chris Dureau we have continued selling coffee packets, now with an eye-catching updated graphic. This year we expanded our sales approach to include some small local retail outlets and neighbourhood houses, offering a discounted price so that they could cover costs or raise funds for their centres. For retail outlets we are able to provide barcoded packs.

The new brochure explains our coffee fundraising efforts and includes details of how to order the coffee.

In the past we have taken a small coffee machine to local community events and sold freshly brewed coffee. In the past year we decided not to continue with this and donated the coffee machine to Alphington Community Centre to use in their community lunches and other community events.

FoB are happy to receive requests for participation in local community events where we are able to sell our coffee, either in packs, or as freshly brewed.

Council Support

Friends of Baucau has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Councils of Darebin and Yarra. We are also grateful for the participation of counsellors and council staff on the Friends of Baucau committee. The grant funding and in-kind support from Yarra and Darebin has been much appreciated in the absence of our usual fundraising. In 2021, a total of \$7,800 was received from City of Darebin for community development and

capacity building (\$5,000 annual grant) and for sustaining partnerships and friendships with Friends of Baucau (\$2,800 small community grant). This is much appreciated.

Friends of Baucau engages with other local community organisations, participates in council events such as Music in Exile, and has received support from Alphington Community Centre and Preston Rotary among others. We share our activities through our Facebook page. Friends Of Baucau Inc. Annual Report 2021.

Crowdfunding

In April 2021 we launched an online fundraising appeal for flood response and recovery in Baucau using the fundraising platform GiveNow. We raised about AUD\$1300 for basic food and hygiene articles through this appeal. Given the small outlay and relative ease of setting up an online fundraising campaign, we will continue with similar appeals in future years to supplement the resumption of our usual fundraising activities and events in 2022.

2. OUR PROGRAM

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

FoB has maintained close contact with our key partners focused upon supporting women in Baucau, which are the Centre for Women's Development (CFHD); Fundasaun Uma Pas, a women's shelter; and the Women's Association for Development in Baucau (AFEHABAD).

CHFD

Friends of Baucau facilitated the shipping and setup of 34 donated computers for use by CFHD, for training purposes. Many of the desktops are being used by CFHD to help women affected by gender-based violence to learn new skills for income generation, and for computer-based English language courses. Friends of Baucau provided a small amount to support safe installation of the computers in 2021.

Covid hit Timor-Leste hard. Projects had to stop and therefore the funding from donors such as Caritas had to stop. However, the emergency work by our partners continued. Friends of Baucau provided funding for CFHD to undertake Emergency support for community groups and pay some CFHD staff salaries for a limited time. Local NGOs have no reserves and a sudden lack of funds can be the end precisely when the local community needs them most.

AFEHABAD

AFEHABAD is a small non-government organisation in Baucau working to support women in small businesses and savings and loan groups. Friends of Baucau funded AFEHABAD to provide leadership training to women in rural Baucau. AFEHABAD also approached Friends of Baucau to help two community groups to recover their income post-COVID lockdowns and also to increase public awareness of how to prevent the corona virus in sub-district and villages. Friends of Baucau provided funds to groups that will set up tailoring and food businesses and then return the funds from their regular deposits in their savings and loans groups so that the funds can be used for new groups. Friends Of Baucau Inc. Annual Report 2021.

FUNDASAUN UMA PAZ

We have also supported the work of Uma Paz, a women's refuge, for their ongoing work with women experiencing gender-based violence. During COVID, Uma Paz has also distributed emergency food and basic necessities to vulnerable families affected by the COVID-19 lockdown, using a temporary loan from Friends of Baucau initially arranged to cover salaries that were late in being paid by the Ministry of Social Solidarity. In consultation with FUP these funds were used to support basic needs for

families once the salaries were received from the Ministry.

Late last year the situation for vulnerable groups affected by gender-based violence deteriorated. FUP requested assistance to provide basic necessities for emergency support for Survivors of Domestic Violence in Quelicai, which reached the groups just in time for Christmas.

EDUCATION: SCHOLARSHIPS

The Salustiano Freitas Scholarship Fund supports quality education in Timor-Leste by providing scholarships to young Timorese to undertake the Bachelor of Teaching.

FoB have a longstanding relationship with the Marist Brothers' Teacher Training College in Baucau (ICFP).

The scholarship recipients are selected on merit by the Teacher Training College Entrance Committee, and are awarded by the College to students who pass the entrance exams but would have difficulty paying the fees. The Bachelor of Education qualifies graduates to teach from year one primary school up to year ten junior secondary school.

Each scholarship, for US\$1000 per student per year, pays the tuition and living costs for student teachers, and we continue this arrangement for the duration of their training. In 2020, the scholarship project was supported by the Alphington chapter of the Country Women's Association, and St Clare's Primary School in Officer, each supporting one student for the year. Two students successfully completed their training at the end of 2020, and Julieta continued to graduation in her final year in 2021.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Since 2018 FoB developed a working partnership with the Timorese National Permaculture Organisation, Permatil. Permatil are responsible for Timor-Leste's community school garden programme, which incorporates permaculture practice into the primary school curriculum, providing short and long-term educational, nutritional, and environmental benefits to children and their families. This initiative is endorsed but not funded by the Timorese national government. Permatil are responsible for the PermaYouth camp, a week-long camp bringing together young people from across Timor-Leste to facilitate critical thinking about sustainable environmental, social, and economic issues. As has been done in past years, FoB provided funds for a group of 22 young men and women from Baucau to attend the PermaYouth camp in 2021, covering the attendance fees, transport costs and food and other supplies. The attendees were identified based upon their interests in agriculture and sustainability. We are grateful for the assistance of Rui Sequeira, Xefe de Suco of Samalari, for arranging the logistics for the Baucau participants.

EMERGENCY RESPONSES: FLOODS AND COVID-19

Floods

Cyclone *Seroja* hit Timor-Leste in April 2021 and its torrential rains and floods affected all 13 municipalities, caused more than 40 deaths, and over 25,000 affected households with over 4,000 houses destroyed across the country, many thousand temporary displaced people, with 43 evacuation facilities in Dili. It injured many and caused major destruction of homes, businesses, infrastructure and roads. Coupled with the growing COVID-19 cases, the nation was reeling in a twin crisis.

A contribution was made to Fundasaun Lafaek Diak (FLD), an NGO in Triloka, a rural area 10 kms from Baucau villa, which provides healthcare, training, education, and employment

opportunities to 19 surrounding villages. FLD at the time were delivering COVID-19 prevention education and providing sanitation supplies to encourage hand washing. We were able to provide funding to support food distribution, as well as most-needed household and personal items (cooking pots, dishware, buckets, blankets, mats, mattresses, soap etc.).

FLD focused also on working with the farmers in restoring their fields and in planting new crops for the ongoing food supply.

3. GOVERNANCE

Our Committee

Our executive and committee continued to meet monthly through 2021 via Zoom from March onwards. Our 2021 AGM was held on 19 May, at the Edinburgh Gardens Community Room, Fitzroy North. Luis Sena Esteves, the Timor-Leste Program Manager at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning was our guest speaker. Our current executive was elected at the 2021 AGM and consists of:

- Convener: James Pilbrow
- Deputy Convener: Ursula Harrison
- Secretary: Kathleen Walsh
- Treasurer: Shane Campbell

We greatly appreciate the contributions of Cr Amanda Stone from Yarra, and Cr Gaetano Greco (recently replaced by Cr Susanne Newton) from Darebin. The committee is an active one and we want to recognise the valuable contributions of our hardworking committee members and council staff who have supported planning for 2021, the AGM, coffee sales, liaison with Baucau and financial transfers.

Policies and Procedures

Friends of Baucau has a number of policies that guide our practice and activities, these relate to inclusion, child protection (including registry of committee members with Working With Children approvals), finance and funding of partner requests. Policies are reviewed on a rotational basis on a three-year cycle. In 2021 the Child Protection Policy was reviewed and updated.

For more information, please refer to our website www.friendsofbaucau.org, our [Facebook Page](#) or contact us directly via friendsofbaucau@gmail.com

James Pilbrow
Convener, Friends of Baucau

4. FINANCE REPORT

It has been a very challenging past two years from a financial perspective for Friends of Baucau.

As referred to above, our normal program of fundraising activities and events have been severely impacted by the impact of pandemic restrictions – regular revenue streams have all but disappeared as activities such as coffee sales at Council/other functions and other special events such as Trivia Nights and Film Nights, were unable to proceed in 2020 and 2021.

However, cost savings have been realised from the absence of costs associated with normal fundraising activities, and also no expenses incurred for travel between Australia and Timor-Leste (NIL travel costs in 2021 compared with \$4,900 in 2020 and \$14,700 in 2019).

A comparison of revenue and costs between the 2021 and 2020 financial results reveals:

Revenue

- A decrease of \$2,200 in Council support grants. A total of \$7,800 was received from City of Darebin for community development and capacity building (\$5,000 annual grant) and for sustaining partnerships and friendships with Friends of Baucau (\$2,800 small community grant)
- No proceeds from fundraising special events in 2021 nor 2020 (compared to \$16,650 in 2019)
- An increase of \$3,400 in coffee packet sales, mainly the result of higher sales to organisations such as neighbourhood houses and retail outlets (\$1,200), and coffee supplied for the City of Yarra-sponsored ALGWA Annual Conference (\$1,800)
- Donations received were only slightly below the 2020 total, mainly from the GIVENOW for Timor-Leste initiative (\$2,600), Alphington Community Centre monthly lunches (\$779) and Preston Rotary following a speaking engagement (\$500)
- Bank interest received was \$750 lower, following the maturity of term deposits in October 2020.

Expenses

- Insurance policy renewals were \$1,400 higher, as both renewals for 2021 and 2020 were paid in 2021 (delay in reimbursement for payment made on behalf of Friends of Baucau)
- Coffee packet purchases and associated costs were \$4,800 higher, following expansion of the coffee sales approach and coffee supplied for the ALGWA Annual Conference referred to above
- Timor-Leste programs funding of \$22,000 was similar to the 2020 level. The major funding items for 2021 were:
 - COVID-19 response funding requests (\$5,200)
 - Fundasaun funding requests for vehicle purchase/emergency response (\$6,400)
 - AFEHABAD funding requests for COVID-19 relief/women's empowerment (\$3,800)
 - Cyclone Seroja relief/emergency responses (\$3,100)
 - Baucau Festival/Permacamp support (\$1,900)
 - Salustiano Freitas Scholarship Fund contributions (\$1,300)
- Bank charges and merchant fees were \$175 higher in 2021, with an increase in the number of international funds transfers required.

Financial Year Result

- the above items resulted in an excess of expenditure over revenue of \$12,900 in 2021, compared to an expenditure excess of \$6,000 in 2020 (there was an excess of revenue over expenditure of \$6,000 in 2019)
- the end-of-year cash balance in 2021 was \$43,453, compared with a balance of \$56,397 in 2020
- In July 2021, Friends of Baucau transferred its banking facility from Westpac to Bendigo Bank, following a review of our banking requirements.

The detailed financial report for the 2021 financial year is provided below.

Shane Campbell

Treasurer, Friends of Baucau

Council Meeting Minutes – 12 July 2022

Receipts \$		1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Full Year 2021	Full Year 2020	Full Year 2019
Council Support	City of Darebin				7,809.00	7,800.00	5,000.00	1,600.00
	City of Yarra						5,000.00	
	Yarra - Carols by Candlelight							1,400.00
Fundraising/Special Events	Dinner/Trivia Nite							10,711.22
	Lawn bowls/House Concert						75.00	4,534.47
	Coffee stalls proceeds							1,785.90
	Coffee packet sales - individuals	120.00	100.00	120.00	830.00	1,170.00	762.70	1,609.00
	Coffee packet sales - organisations	320.00	400.00		492.00	1,212.00		
	Coffee supplied for ALGWA Annual Conference (CoY event)		1,800.00			1,800.00		
Donations Received	Aust Marxist Solidarity - Timor scholarships						1,000.00	4,200.00
	GIVENOW for Timor-Leste initiative		2,373.84		267.33	2,641.17	1,311.25	180.00
	TryBooking (in addition to membership subscriptions)			50.00		50.00		190.00
	CFHD, Timor-Leste							1,869.80
	Sale of calendars etc (via K Walsh)	150.00			100.00	250.00		
	Northeast Neighbourhood House Network		200.00			200.00		
	Alphington Community Centre monthly lunches		778.90			778.90		
	Preston Rotary speaking engagement (G Lassie!)		500.00			500.00		
	Permatil school gardens programme							4,140.00
	Individual donations - Baucau women's shelter, Fundasaun Uma Paz							3,519.22
Other Receipts	Visits Timor/Australia							18,026.25
	Membership subscriptions (TryBooking/direct credit)		234.00	20.00	100.00	354.00	860.00	180.00
	Sundry receipts			0.23		0.23	241.51	575.60
	Bank interest	2.20	1.12	0.83	1.06	5.21	755.50	979.67
	Total Receipts	592.20	6,387.86	191.06	3,590.39	16,761.51	17,065.76	53,261.33
Less Expenditure \$		1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Full Year 2021	Full Year 2020	Full Year 2019
Administration	Postage (incl. PO Box annual renewal)				221.00	221.00	15.70	136.67
	Website hosting subscription	164.95				164.95	170.95	
	Insurance policy renewal 2020	679.47				679.47		802.99
	Insurance policy renewal 2021	679.47				679.47		
	Bank & merchant charges	80.38	60.00	60.00	90.00	290.38	115.52	10.00
	TryBooking charges							22.51
	Miscellaneous		20.00			20.00		
Fundraising/Special Events	Coffee stalls							79.00
	Coffee packets - Coffex re ALGWA event (CoY) Coffee Mio		939.00	3,000.00		3,939.00	625.00	2,053.20
	Coffee packets - Everfast Labels (new labels for coffee packets)			1,111.88		1,111.88		
	Coffee packets - All Business Needs (barcodes for coffee packets)				270.00	270.00		
	Sausage Sizzle							303.70
	Equipment							239.22
	Catering (for AGM May 2021)				300.00	300.00	216.00	69.89
	Cultural Night							1,600.00
	Trivia Night/Lawn bowls event							3,263.59
	Street traders annual fee						79.35	464.00
Programs	Baucau Festival/Permatcamp contributions	1,886.64				1,886.64		
	Scholarships (Aust Marxist Solidarity)		1,330.00			1,330.00	1,396.30	3,303.77
	Visits Timor/Australia						4,923.58	14,693.00
	Airfares for FoB officers							3,000.00
	Tour participant expenses							623.00
	COVID-19 response funding requests			5,179.48		5,179.48	9,403.42	
	FLD Appeal for Cyclone Seroja relief		1,000.00	500.00		1,500.00		
	AFHABAD funding request for Cyclone Seroja relief		550.36			550.36		
	AFHABAD funding request for COVID-19 relief/women's empowerment				3,805.74	3,805.74		
	ASSOCASAUM FETO donation for Cyclone Seroja Response		1,053.74			1,053.74		
	Donation for Peace March (organised by Rui S)				342.47	342.47		
	CFHD, Timor-Leste (also refer donations above)						2,635.96	
	Fundasaun Uma Paz funding requests (vehicle purchase/emergency support)	2,640.77			3,739.93	6,380.70	2,881.32	4,372.57
	Permatil school gardens programme						662.87	8,527.00
	Women's Empowerment project							3,695.96
Sundry expenditure								50.00
	Total Expenditure	6,131.68	4,953.10	9,851.36	8,765.14	29,705.28	23,048.48	47,287.56
	Surplus of / (Expend exceeding) Receipts	(5,539.48)	1,434.76	(5,660.30)	821.25	(12,943.77)	(5,982.72)	5,973.77
Cash at Bank \$								
Westpac Operating Account	Funds transferred to Bendigo Bank effective July 2021	5,257.16	6,170.80				10,838.84	17,565.94
Westpac Cash Reserve Account	Funds transferred to Bendigo Bank effective July 2021	45,800.61	45,601.73				45,558.41	3,339.25
Bendigo Bank Operating Account	New operating account established in June 2021	520.00		42,632.23	43,453.48	43,453.48		
Westpac Term Deposits	Term deposits matured in October 2020							41,474.78
Total		50,857.77	52,292.53	42,632.23	43,453.48	43,453.48	56,397.25	62,379.97

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Stone

Seconded: Councillor Crossland

1. That:

- (a) Council note this Delegates' Report; and
- (b) Council note the Annual Report tabled with this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12.2 Councillor Stone - Metropolitan Local Government Waste Forum

Start time: 8.44pm

Committee	Metropolitan Local Government Waste Forum
Appointed Councillors	Cr Amanda Stone, Cr Gabrielle de Vietri
Date of Council Meeting	Tuesday 12 July 2022
Date of Report	Sunday 3 July 2022
Report Author	Cr Amanda Stone

DELEGATES REPORT

The Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG) was a Victorian Government statutory body responsible for co-ordinating and facilitating the delivery of waste management and resource recovery across metropolitan Melbourne. The MWRRG worked closely with councils through the Metro Waste Forum which met bi-monthly until June this year.

A Delegate’s Report was presented to the February meeting of Council outlining forthcoming changes to the sector with the introduction of the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*.

Those changes came into effect on 1 July and consequently the Metro Waste Forum held its final meeting on 2 June. Attached are notes from that final meeting.

With the establishment of Recycling Victoria, a new advisory group will be formed, with details yet to be announced.

As a consequence, Councillors de Vietri and Stone cease their roles as delegates to this Forum.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Stone

Seconded: Councillor de Vietri

1. That Council note this Delegates Report and the cessation of delegation of Councillors de Vietri and Stone as delegates to the Metro Waste Forum.
2. That Council acknowledge the achievements of the Metro Waste Forum and look forward to the establishment of the Container Deposit Scheme for Victoria.
3. That Council acknowledge Yarra Council waste/resource recovery officers for their significant contribution to the Metro Waste Forum and to the significant progress in waste and resource recovery in Victoria in recent years.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13. General Business

Nil

Conclusion

The meeting concluded at 8.48pm.

Confirmed Tuesday 2 August 2022

Mayor

