

FinPro Member Update – Edition 6, 2022

President's Message

A short work week this week with the public holiday for Labour Day on Monday. I'm not sure about you, but I find that the public holiday weeks end up being crazy as we just end up cramming the 5 days into 4! Interesting to reflect on the origins of Labour Day: the eight-hour day movement and the ideal behind it was that workers get eight hours leisure, eight hours sleep, and eight hours work time. Just a good reminder to ensure you are looking after yourself and getting the balance of some sleep and leisure, even though we continue to be flat out at work.

Our update includes a snapshot of many things happening across the sector, and events (webinars) we have planned. We love to hear from our members so if you have been working on a great project, a new way of working or something you think will be of interest to our members, please feel free to share it with [Gab](#).

As a sector, it is important that we continue our assessment of financial sustainability and consider opportunities to advocate and work with Government to identify funding solutions. As a finance community, we become the source of valuable data and insights that will help inform future decisions. The 10-year Financial Plans we all have recently completed and our ongoing reporting against the LGPRF become important points of reference.

FinPro is currently working with the MAV on a project focusing on Council finances and sustainability. The aim of the project is to create an evidence-based narrative that will assist with advocacy. The scope of the work will leverage data that we have already reported together with other sources including from the LGV and VAGO. Our members may be called upon to assist where gaps are identified. We will update you further as this project develops and look forward to your assistance in ensuring we deliver a strong, robust outcome from this work.

And Footy is back!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Go Swans

President's Message



Cheers, Bradley

Bradley Thomas
President – FinPro and CEO, Hepburn Shire

FinPro Contact Details

FinPro (Local Government Finance Professionals Inc.)

Executive Officer – Gabrielle Gordon

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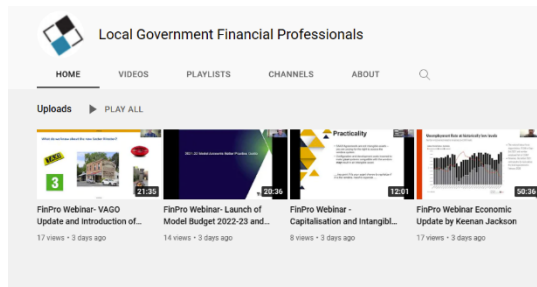
Mobile: 0400 114 015 Web: www.finpro.org.au

Membership

We welcome the following new members to our FinPro family:

- **Din Fang** has joined the team at Whitehorse as Financial Planning & Analysis Accountant
- **Dean Gibbons** has joined the team at Darebin as Management Accounting Coordinator

FinPro YouTube Channel



Did you know that FinPro has a dedicated YouTube Channel? Well, we do. The recordings from all our webinars are available via this channel. Subscribe now for a one-stop shop for all the recordings you want to see from our past webinars.

[Local Government Financial Professionals - YouTube](#)

Subscribe now to the Local Government Finance Professionals YouTube channel and you will be easily able to access all our webinars online in the one place!

Professional Development

Upcoming Webinars (registration for our webinars is free for all FinPro members)

Thursday 7 April 2022, 11.00 – 12.00 noon – Gender Equity

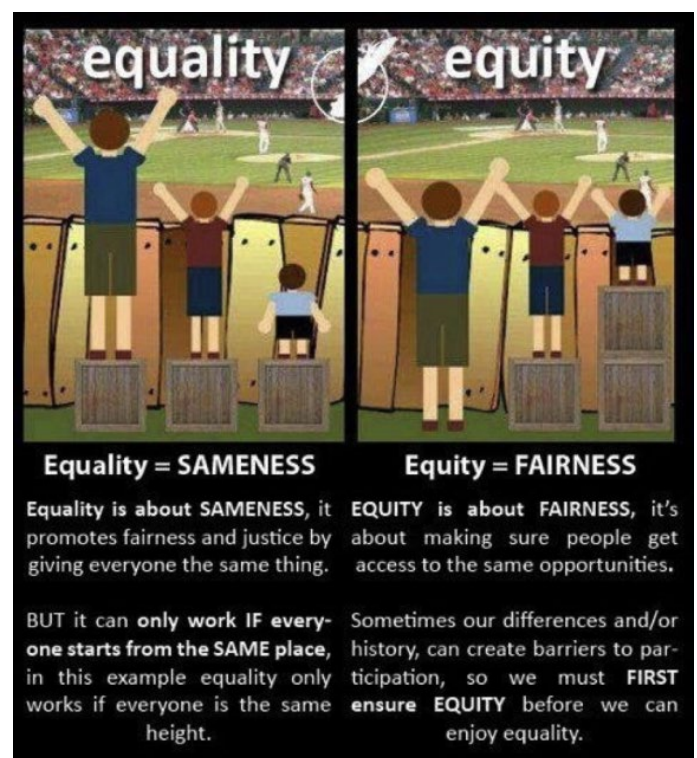
[**MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE**](#)

We have a great line-up of speakers for this session:

- Dr Niki Vincent, Gender Equality Commissioner for the Public Service
- Ali Wastie, CEO Bass Coast Shire, and
- Evan King, CEO Ballarat City Council

A question that is often posed in relation to this topic is: what is the difference between Equality and Equity? This infographic, we hope, gives a good insight into the difference.

We are aware that most Councils are just gearing up in this area and determining the impacts it has on every part of council life and activities.



Upcoming Live events

Friday 3 June 2022 from 9.30am – 3.00pm - FinPro Seminar –at Melbourne Entertainment & Convention Centre

Wednesday 26 – Friday 28 October 2022 - FinPro Conference –at RACV Cape Schanck

FinPro AGM – Friday 2 December at Leonda by the Yarra. **Keynote Speaker – Dylan Alcott AO**

External Events – Asset Plan, presented by IPWEA

Victoria's new Local Government Act requires Councils to develop and adopt an Asset Plan by 30 June 2022. Details have been scarce but IPWEA, MAV and several Councils have collaborated with Local Government Victoria to develop Asset Plan Guidance 2022 which is now available from [LGV's Sector guidance: planning and reporting page](#).

To outline the Asset Plan Guide and a path to compliance we're presenting a two-part, deep-dive webinar series at 2:00-3:00pm on 23rd & 30th March. Please encourage your Asset Management lead and all staff involved with the preparation of your Council's Asset Plan to attend...details [here](#).

Technical Updates

Local Government Act Implementation Update

The new Local Government Act 2020 is the most ambitious reform to the local government sector in over 30 years. The Act will improve local government democracy, accountability, and service delivery for all Victorians.

[Link to LGV Local Government Act 2020 Website](#)

Asset Plan

Information available on the LGV website - [Sector Guidance: planning and reporting](#)

Model Budget and Model Financial Statements

Both the Model Budget 2022-23 and the Model Financial Statements 2021-22 have now been finalised by the working parties and are available online.

All details, plus a range of other resources, are available on the LGV website: [Sector Guidance: planning and reporting](#)

LGV Update

We were informed this week that Julie Reid has been the decision to resign as the Executive Director at LGV and will finish up on 1 April, with announcements to be made re acting roles shortly. We wish Julie well in future adventures and thank her for her support to FinPro.

MAV Advocacy

The following was included in MAV Communications this week – great advocacy work by the MAV.

The MAV welcomed the Victorian Legislative Assembly Economy and Infrastructure Committee's call for an increase to Financial Assistance Grants, as one of the recommendations in the committee's final report from the inquiry into Commonwealth support for Victoria. [LA 59-03 Commonwealth support for Victoria.pdf \(parliament.vic.gov.au\)](#)

The inquiry focused on GST arrangements and the potential for Victoria and several other states to be disadvantaged when the 'no worse off' guarantee for GST allocation expires. However, informed by the MAV's submission [Submission 6 - Municipal Assoc of Victoria - 28 October 2021.pdf \(parliament.vic.gov.au\)](#) and evidence presented by Executive Director Policy and Advocacy Troy Edwards, [Municipal Association of Victoria - TRANSCRIPT - 15 December 2021.pdf \(parliament.vic.gov.au\)](#) the inquiry also examined the importance of Commonwealth support for local government.

As outlined above, the MAV will continue to work with Victorian and Federal governments as well as the Australian Local Government Association to ensure Victorian councils are financially supported to deliver the services and infrastructures our communities rely on.

Mayoral and Councillors Allowances

The Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal's Determination of the Allowance payable to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors (Victoria) Determination No. 01/2022 is now available on the Tribunal's website:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/allowances-mayors-deputy-mayors-and-councillors>

The Independent Tribunal are now responsible for determining Councillor allowances. Some of changes include:

- Back payment to 18 December 2021
- Now providing details for the next four years to assist with Council budgets
- Some Councils have changed classification
- Increases for Councillors and Mayor
- Introduction that the Deputy Mayor will now receive an allowance higher than a Councillor for all Councils.

We imagine that these increases will be higher than Councils have budgeted for, especially for 2021/22 and hopefully you can update for your budget 2022/23.

VAGO March Report

VAGO's March Report was issued to councils on 11 March, and is also shared here for member information.

[VAGO March 2022 Report](#)

The Report includes:

- VAGO news
- VAGO annual plan
- VAGO Financial Audit – update
- VAGO Performance Audit – proposed audits
- VAGO Performance Audit – audits in progress
- VAGO recently tables Parliamentary reports
- Other Victorian Integrity and Local Government related bodies
- Other Australian audit offices

Hardship Policy

The Hardship Guidance Working Group which included representation from FinPro, the Revenue Managers Association (RMA) and Local Government Victoria, have developed template guidance that could be considered for sector roll out.

However, given the recent work being undertaken by the Rating Taskforce at LGV, this preliminary work that was undertaken by the Working Group will be used as a foundation on what LGV will look to publish as part of any legislative rating changes. As future advocacy/consultation opportunities arise, these will be communicated so that members can be involved or provide feedback.

FBT COVID-19 concessions and exemptions

This article from HLB Mann Judd may be of interest - [FBT: A look into COVID-19 concessions & exemptions - HLB Mann Judd](#)



Current positions advertised on the [FinPro Website](#)

Councils are seeing a massive shift in their workplace right now. Is your council looking for new finance staff?

FinPro offers a free service to all member councils – we will advertise any roles you have open in your council that you believe our membership might be interested in. We advertise both on our website and in our fortnightly member updates.

Just send a copy of the advert to [Gab](#), making sure the details include the closing date for applications and the best person for someone to contact about the role.

Team Leader – Property Operations

- Mornington Peninsula Shire
- [Link to more details](#)
- Applications close 6pm, Friday 25 March 2022

Senior Accountant – 2 positions

- Banyule City Council
- [Link to more details](#)
- Applications for both roles close 11.45pm, Sunday 27 March 2022

Senior Property and Revenue Officer

- City of Port Phillip
- [Link to more details](#)
- Applications close 11.59pm, Tuesday 29 March 2022

Financial Services Coordinator

- Bayside City Council
- [Link to more details](#)
- Applications close 25 March 2022

Management Accountant

- City of Greater Bendigo
- [Link to more details](#)
- Applications close COB Tuesday 22 March 2022

Property Data Administrator

- Glen Eira City Council
- [Link to more details](#)
- Applications close 11.59pm, 3 April 2022

FinPro Executive Team 2022

President	Bradley Thomas (Hepburn SC)
Vice-President – Chair Professional Development	Belinda Johnson (Southern Grampians SC)
PD Committee Members	Alan Wilson (Melbourne CC) Charles Nganga (Casey CC) Melissa Baker (South Gippsland SC) Aaron Gerrard (Whittlesea CC)
Vice-President – Chair Technical	Tony Rocca (Maroondah CC)
Technical Committee Members	Danny Wain (Monash CC) Fiona Rae (Golden Plains SC) Nathan Morsillo (Greater Bendigo CC) Simone Wickes (Frankston CC) Wei Chen (Yarra CC)
Chair Advocacy and Vision	Binda Gokhale (Wyndham CC)
Secretary / Treasurer	Gabrielle Gordon

Thank-you to our 2022 Corporate Partners

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|------------------------------------|----------------------|
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| * Commonwealth Bank | * Maia Financial |
| * CT Management | * New Era Management |
| * .id informed decisions | * VOTAR Partners |
| * Ibis Information Systems | * Westpac |
| * MAGIQ Software | |

Thank-you to our 2021 Leadership Program Sector Partner:

Vision Super