

## FinPro Member Update – Edition 13, 2021

Hi Members,

This week we (Hepburn Shire) put our budget out for public comment – so I'm very happy and looking forward to a more relaxed weekend 😊

Sunday is ANZAC Day and we will come together, in person and in spirit, to commemorate the men and women who have served our nation in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations. I hope you get the ability to remember and honour the service and sacrifice of those who have served our nation – and reflect on just how lucky we are.

We were very saddened this week to hear of the passing of Simon Rose. Simon is the husband of Tammi Rose, CEO of Yarra Ranges. Simon was the Manager Community Support and Libraries at Monash City Council and both he and Tammi have spoken at a number of FinPro conferences and PD Days over the years. Simon had a lengthy career in LG and will be known to many. Our thoughts are with Tammi and her children.

This week Danny Wain and I attended a meeting with representatives of the Victorian Ombudsman's Office where we discussed the upcoming report into rates and financial hardship. We haven't seen the final report as yet, but it was a great opportunity to chat through a number of the challenges and opportunities that exist in relation to hardship in LG. One strong recommendation we put forward for the to consider was that it would be helpful to recommend that LGV work with the likes of FinPro and RMA on the development of a model hardship policy, training and templates. We believe that the development of a model document would strongly assist our members, rather than starting from scratch or having to find out what other councils have in place. We expected to see the final report in about a month.

We are keen to work towards providing 'live' PD soon, but in the meantime, we will be running a variety of online PD sessions for members. Keep an eye-out for details about these from Gab.

Cheers, Bradley

**Bradley Thomas**  
**President FinPro**  
**(Interim CEO Hepburn Shire)**

## Dates for your calendar

- **Friday 30 April 2021 at 9.30am – Financial Plan Support Webinar**
- **Wednesday 12 May 2021 at 12.30pm – GST Update**
- **20 – 22 October 2021 – FinPro Annual Conference at RACV Cape Schanck**

## Membership News

Welcome to our new members:

- Vanessa Baldori who has joined the team at Moonee Valley City Council as Chief Financial Officer
- Andrew Moldrich who has joined the team at Moreland City Council in a temporary role as Financial Accountant.

Last week we farewelled John Brockway, Finance Manager at Surf Coast Shire and FinPro Executive Member, who has left the sector to take up a role as CFO in the Health Sector. John has been a very active member of the Executive team over a number of years and was the driver behind our Mentoring Program.

### Thank-you to our 2021 Corporate Partners

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APV Valuers and Asset Management</li> <li>• Commonwealth Bank</li> <li>• CT Management</li> <li>• .id informed decisions</li> <li>• MAGIQ Software</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LG Solutions</li> <li>• VOTAR Partners</li> <li>• Vision Super</li> <li>• Westpa</li> </ul> |
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We also welcome onboard as Corporate Partners, the team from APV Valuers and Asset Management. David Edgerton and Alfio Ponticello have been providing wonderful support to the Local Government Sector nation-side for many years and we welcome them as our Corporate Partners.

## Technical Update

### 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.

The FinPro Local Government Act 2020 Working Groups have completed their respective projects:

- Model Accounts (for year-end 30.6.21)
- Model Budget (for year-end 30.6.22)
- Long Term Financial Plan (The Financial Plan), and
- Revenue and Rating Strategy

Copies of each of the documents are available now on the [LGV website](#)

In order to keep up to date with the implementation of the Local Government Act 2020 go to <https://engage.vic.gov.au/local-government-act-2020> for all LG Act information.

### LGV Connects 10:30am 22 April 2021 Recording

This session focused on procurement and the changes the 2020 Act has on councils in relation to the delivery of a procurement policy.

A copy of the recording of this session is available on this landing page <https://engage.vic.gov.au/local-government-act-2020>

## Upcoming Important Dates

- Victoria State Government Budget – 20 May (confirmed)
- Federal Government Budget – 11 May (tentative)

### Annual council rate caps

The ESC provided the following information via their [website](#) this week in relation to annual council rate caps:

*Before 31 December each year, the Minister for Local Government sets the local council rate cap for the next financial year. The rate cap is the maximum amount a council can increase general rates and municipal charges. The minister can set a cap that applies to all councils, a group of councils or a single council.*

*If the rate cap does not meet a council's needs, the council can submit a higher cap application for up to four years of higher caps at a time.*

We administer council rate caps by:

*providing the minister with advice on setting the rate cap for council rates assessing, then accepting or rejecting higher cap applications.*

#### **The 2021-22 rate cap is 1.5 per cent**

*For the 2021-22 financial year, council rate rises are capped at 1.5 per cent in line with the period's Consumer Price Index (CPI) forecast.*

#### **Approved higher rate caps**

*There are no councils with an existing higher rate cap that applies in 2021-22.*

*Councils had until 31 March 2021 to apply for a higher cap in 2021-22. We received no applications.*

#### **Previous rate caps**

*Since the introduction of rate capping in 2015, the rate caps have been:*

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Rate cap</b>
2021-22	1.50%
2020-21	2.00%
2019-20	2.50%
2018-19	2.25%
2017-18	2.00%
2016-17	2.50%

**Source of this information:** <https://www.esc.vic.gov.au/local-government/annual-council-rate-caps>

## Upcoming FinPro Professional Development

**Financial Plan Support Webinar – Friday 30 April 2021 at 9.30am**

**REGISTER NOW**

FinPro are offering a Financial Plan support webinar to help members complete the Financial Plan, now a mandatory reporting requirement under the new LG Act 2021.

Feedback from the recent webinar launching the Financial Plan templates suggested that members may benefit from further support and advice in this area.

This Financial Plan support webinar is designed to cover:

- An introduction to the key aspects of the Financial Plan template and the better practice guide; and
  - A step by step how to guide to assist members completing the Financial Plan templates.
  - It will also provide an opportunity to raise any queries you have about the Financial Plan.

The Financial Plan support webinar is to be presented by Malcolm Lewis. Malcolm led the FinPro Working Party responsible for the preparation of the Financial Plan templates and documentation as part of the Local Government Act 2021 implementation program.

Malcolm has over 25 years' experience in local government mainly in the role of Chief Financial Officer. Malcolm is a fellow of CPA Australia, a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Director's with qualifications that include an MBA as well as Commerce and Science degrees.



**GST Update – Wednesday 12 May 2021 at lunchtime.**

**REGISTRATIONS OPEN NEXT WEEK**

We will be partnering with Crowe Australasia to run an informative session updating members on the GST rules, particularly in relation to the GST of fees and charges and the treatment of GST on outgoing Grants.

The session will be primarily run by Katerina Siamatas, Associate Partner, Tax Advisory (Indirect Tax) alongside Martin Thompson.

Final details on the program and how to register will be shared next week.



## External Professional Development Opportunities

### Our Corporate Partners, APV Valuers & Asset Management are running a FREE webinar in May

They ran an initial free webinar was delivered by a wide range of industry experts in Nov 2020 and it was extremely well received. The feedback from the webinar expressed an extremely high desire to deliver a similar webinar in May 2021 given the high quality of the technical content.

This May 2021 webinar will again be free and is once again full of strong technical content.

Presenters include -

- Jackie Frost from Moreton Bay Regional Council (Educating Councillors in Asset Management)
- Augustin Stojic and Tony Pizzuto from LG Solutions (Year-end cloud solution)
- David Edgerton from APV Valuers and Asset Management and Asset Valuer Pro (Depreciation & sneak peak at version 3)
- Adam Bradfield from TNR Accountants, Audit sand Business Advisors (Accounting and Audit issues)
- Jill Brazil from Jill Brazil Consultants (Workplace diversity and inclusion)
- Pat McCarthy from Genesis (all things tax)

[Click here to download the brochure or register](#)

### IPWEA – Towards Compliance: Asset Management CPD in support of Victoria’s LG Act

Victoria’s Local Government Act 2020 requires Councils to develop and adopt an Asset Plan by 30 June 2022. An Integrated Strategic Planning & Reporting framework highlights the relationship of the Asset Plan to other governance documents but details are scarce. This webinar series explains the specific requirements of the Act to help your Council achieve compliance.

Webinar 2: How do I create a compliant Asset Plan?

Wednesday 28 April 2021 - 10:00am – 11:00am (note that there is a fee for this webinar)

[Further details available here.](#)

### RMA Conference 2021

Congratulations to our colleagues at RMA who successfully had their RMA Annual Conference this week! Their first conference since pre-COVID and a fantastic milestone with over 200 registering to attend.

The conference was held at RACV Cape Schanck. Hopefully where we will all be in October this year as well.

FinPro sent an Exec Member to the conference to network with our close colleagues and observe how a post COVID conference was run. From all accounts it has been a huge success. The attendees were able to enjoy a round of golf or attend a cheese factory on the first day - really boosting networking opportunities after having missed out in 2020. The conference itself was informative and extremely relevant, especially given what we are all experiencing with the Local Government Implementation and Hardship processes post COVID.

From FinPro, we just want to give a huge well done to the RMA for running a successful event for the sector as we look forward to our conference later in the year.

## Photo of the week

Thanks to Tony Rocca, FinPro VP and Manager Finance at Maroondah for sending through this stunning photo looking out from RACV Cape Schanck during the RMA Conference this morning.



**The sun rises over the golf course at RACV Cape Schanck**

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

- **Manager Finance**  
Surf Coast Shire  
<https://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/About-us/Working-with-us/Employment/Manager-Finance>  
For further enquiries please contact John Bertoldi on 5261 0600.  
Applications close 5pm on 25 April 2021
- **Director Corporate Services**  
Ballarat City Council  
<https://www.seek.com.au/job/51970762?type=standout>  
For a confidential discussion, please contact Andrew Prestage, Executive Manager People and Culture on 0418 119 447.  
Applications close midnight 25 April 2021
- **EOI Independent Audit and Risk Committee**  
Alpine Shire Council  
<https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/council/careers/current-vacancies/eoi-independent-audit-and-risk-committee-member>  
For further enquiries please contact Ruth Kneebone, Director Commercial on 0402 104 188 (available Tues – Fri)  
EOI's close Friday 21 May 2021.

## FinPro Executive Team 2021

**President**

Bradley Thomas (Hepburn SC)

**Vice-President – Chair Professional Development**

Binda Gokhale (Wyndham CC)

**PD Committee Members**

Alan Wilson (Melbourne CC)

Belinda Johnson (Southern Grampians SC)

Charles Nganga (Casey CC)

John Brockway (Surf Coast SC)

Melissa Baker (South Gippsland SC)

**Vice-President – Chair Technical**

Tony Rocca (Maroondah CC)

**Technical Committee Members**

Danny Wain (Monash CC)

Fiona Rae (Golden Plains SC)

Mark Montague (Whittlesea CC)

Nathan Morsillo (Greater Bendigo CC)

Simone Wickes (Frankston CC)

Wei Chen (Yarra CC)

**Secretary / Treasurer**

Gabrielle Gordon

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