

FinPro Member Update – Edition 20, 2021

Good morning,

Living through Lockdown 5.0 is disappointing, but I'm excited to see the start of the Olympics! I certainly never would have made it as a gymnast or a synchronized swimmer, but I marvel at the skills and dedication these athletics have to complete at an Olympics, let alone win a gold medal. It's also makes for great TV to have on in the background whilst reviewing those financial statements!

This week we launched our 2021 Leadership program 'Rising to the Challenge'. It's exciting to bring back the program, following its cancellation due to COVID last year. We have taken the break as an opportunity to review and renew the program offering and have now put together a program that we believe provides emerging leaders the ability to develop those extra skills they need to move from being an 'accountant' to be a 'leader' in Local Government in Victoria. It includes both technical, leadership and management skills development. Graduates of the program have a fantastic history of going onto leadership roles, FinPro Executive Members and CEO's and many take a different direction in their career but with a greater confidence. I highly encourage you to apply, or tap someone on the shoulder that just needs that little bit of encouragement!

Bradley Thomas
President – FinPro
CEO Hepburn Shire



Upcoming events

5 – 8 September 2021 – Leadership Program at Country Place Kalorama [read more here](#)

20 – 22 October 2021 – FinPro Annual Conference at RACV Cape Schanck

3 December 2021 – FinPro End of Year Lunch and AGM – Leonda by the Yarra

Membership

Welcome to **Graeme Fletcher** who has joined the team at Yarra City Council as EO Strategic Asset Management.

We also welcome **John Hausler** who has joined the team at Ballarat City Council this week as Director Corporate Services. He moves to Ballarat CC from Macedon Ranges Shire.

Congratulations to **Adrian Fernando** who was appointed to the position of Finance Business Partner at Bayside back in April. Apologies for the lateness in this shout out Adrian 😊

Congratulations to **Bruce Dobson** who has been appointed as CEO at Knox City Council. Bruce has been in the LG sector for nearing 20 years, having held roles at Yarra Ranges, Darebin and most recently, Boroondara. He was a member of the FinPro Executive from 2007 until 2012, and Chairperson of the Technical Committee for 3 years during that time.

Congratulations to **Luciano Lauronce** who has been appointed as Finance Manager at Yarra Plenty Regional Library. Luciano was previously employed at Banyule City Council in the Management Accounting Team.

2021 Financial Management and Leadership Development Program

Are you ready to take the next step in your career?

Is there someone you work with who is ready to take the next step?



Applications are NOW OPEN for our Financial Management and Leadership Development Program 2021 – ‘Rising to the Challenge’.

This Program will provide a unique opportunity for emerging leaders in Financial Management to develop the extra skills they need to move from being an ‘accountant’ to be a ‘leader’ in Local Government in Victoria.

Participants in this program will work with industry leaders to gain knowledge and practical experience. They will gain an understanding of what is involved in being a successful manager and leader and will be given the opportunity to develop a strong peer group during the program who will then support each other as they develop their individual careers.

The Program comprises:

- A 3 ½ day residential workshop
- 12 month mentoring program, and
- Monthly webinars

The Program is provided free of charge for up to 12 successful applicants

Now is your chance to apply – or to encourage someone you know to apply.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

[APPLY HERE](#)

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. Copies of relevant information is available on the [LGV website](#)

Important Dates in relation to the LG Act:

June 2021

- [Councillor Induction Training to be completed within 6 months from affirmation or oath of office](#)

September 2021

- [2020-21 Annual Report – by 30 September 2021](#)

October 2021

- [Financial Plan – 31 October 2021](#)
- [Council Plan – 31 October 2021](#)
- [Community Vision – 31 October 2021](#)

December 2021

- Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy – 31 December
- Workforce Plan – 31 December
- Recruitment Policy – 31 December
- Staff Code of Conduct – 31 December
- Complaints Policy – 31 December
- Procurement Policy – 31 December

2022

[Asset Plan – 30 June 2022](#)

Update from VAGO

The following information was distributed to Councils by VAGO on 22 July and is shared here for Member Information.

VAGO performance audit and other integrity bodies - [July 2021 update attached](#) for your reference.

Customisation and configuration costs of cloud computing (SaaS) related items:

- [IFRIC released an agenda decision](#) on how to account for the customisation and configuration costs of cloud computing (SaaS) related items. **If this is expected to have an impact on your entity's financial report for 2020-21, please reach out to your auditor asap** to discuss and agree on the accounting treatment.
- I found [QAO blog](#) as a good reference material on this topic.

Fraud awareness notice:

- Earlier this month VAGO issued a 'Fraud awareness notice'. This was in response to a resurgence of incidents across the VPS (including local councils) where scammers have used fraudulent documents to change an existing supplier's bank account details and divert payments to illegitimate bank accounts. [Refer attached](#) for a copy of this notice.

COVID 19 impact on financial report and performance statement:

- As COVID-19 conditions continue to evolve, the quality of financial report /performance statement and related disclosures is key to inform users of these reports on the impact.
- Adequate disclosure on the drivers of results, key assumptions & risks and management strategies will be important for users of financial report (and performance statement).

Timing and certification of financial report and performance statement for 2020-21:

- Please note any certification/ lodgement of these reports after 30 September 2021 will require ministerial exemption.
- Ensure certification of financial report and performance statement is in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* (as per the transitional provisions of the Local Government Act 2020). VAGO audit report for 2020-21 will make reference to this as well.

Wage inflation and discount rates:

- DTF released the [wage inflation and discount rates as at 30 June 2021](#) for the measurement of employee entitlement liabilities.

Other matters:**Vision Super VBI index and disclosure:**

- The Vested Benefit Index ([VBI is here](#)), noting VBI for the June 2021 quarter is not yet made available.
- Sample employer superannuation disclosures for 30 June 2021 (short and long form) [are available here \(for reference\)](#). LGV model accounts include the short form disclosure format.

Effects of climate-related matters in financial statements:

- A developing area at this stage. Some jurisdictions have released guidance on how to reflect effects of climate-related matters in financial statements (e.g. [NSW Treasury here](#)).
- Even though IFRS standards do not refer explicitly to climate-related matters, there is increasing awareness that such issues may have an impact on financial reporting. Late last year [the IASB released educational materials](#) summarising how companies must consider climate-related matters when applying IFRS standards. Preparers of financial statements may find this useful.

Kind regards, Sanchu

This email is sent to audit committee members, senior management in local government sector, LGV and FinPro. This email with additional audit related matters will also be forwarded to our audit service providers (ASPs). Feel free to pass this information to anyone who will benefit from it.

Sanchu Chummar

**Acting Sector Director, Local Government
Victorian Auditor-General's Office**

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LGV Asset Planning Webinar

Earlier this month (8 July 2021) LGV ran a [webinar on Asset Planning](#).

Thanks to LGV for giving us permission to share the link to these presentations given on the day. We felt that they may be helpful for some of our members. The presenters were:

- Colin Morrison, LGV: LGV Connects: Asset Planning
- Troy Edwards, MAV: LGV Connect Asset Management Workshop
- Sam Romaszko, Melton City Council: Asset Plans: Deliberative Engagement

Note: The next LGV Connects session will be held on 19 August 2021: Workforce Planning
A registration link will be in a future edition of Implementation Matters. If you are interested in receiving these updates from LGV please refer to their [website](#) for information on how to join their mailing list.

FinPro Software Survey

Thank-you to all VIC councils who have shared with us each a list of the different financial software programs they use. We have now completed our listing for July 2021 and will be sharing it with councils.

We aim to update this register annually and hope that it will provide councils with valuable information about which councils use which systems, enabling them to reach out to others when they need assistance or would like to find out what can be done.

Join the conversation

As most members will know, we support a FinPro Member-wide Forum, enabling members to ask questions, share information and provide answers. The forum is on Yammer and if you are a member and not currently involved, please contact Gab to join – gabrielle@finpro.org.au

Some of the current conversations / questions on our Yammer Forum are around:

- Review of your Investment Policy
- Query with Assetic

If you are interested in any of these conversations, or would like to start a conversation of your own we encourage you to get online and take part in the FinPro Yammer Forum.

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

- **Management Accountant**
- Surf Coast Shire Council
- Refer to the [Council Website](#) for more information
- For further information please contact Tim Dickson on 5261 0600
- Applications close 5pm, 1 August 2021

- **Management Accountant**
- Greater Bendigo City Council
- Refer to the [Council Website](#) for more information
- For further enquiries about this position should be directed to Kate Fox (03) 5434 6322 or Leah Mullins (03) 5434 6227
- Applications close COB Tuesday July 27 2021

- **Senior Finance Systems Specialist**
- Banyule City Council
- Refer to the [Council Website](#) for more information
- For further information please contact Michael Fan, Financial Performance & Planning Coordinator (03) 9490 4325 for a confidential conversation.
- Applications Close 11.45pm on: Sunday 25 July 2021.

- **Director Organisational Services**
- Hepburn Shire Council
- Refer to the [Council Website](#) for more information
- If you have further questions please contact Kerrie Addison, Executive Recruitment Manager on 0417 068 836 for a confidential discussion.
- Applications close Sunday 25 July 2021

- **Manager Financial Services**
- Northern Grampians Shire Council
- Refer to the [Council Website](#) for further information
- For more information, please contact Vaughan Williams, Director Corporate Services at Vaughan.williams@ngshire.vic.gov.au or call (03) 5358 8700
- Applications close 12.00pm Monday 9 August 2021.

Thank-you to our 2021 Corporate Partners

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| • APV Valuers and Asset Management | • LG Solutions |
| • Commonwealth Bank | • Maia Financial |
| • CT Management | • New Era Management |
| • .id informed decisions | • VOTAR Partners |
| • Ibis Information Systems | • Vision Super |
| • MAGIQ Software | • Westpac |

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)

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

FinPro Contact Details

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