

## FinPro Member Update – Edition 28, 2021

Well, I'm not sure if the weather knows what season it is supposed to be right now!!! Hope you all stay safe in this wild weather.

I'm very excited that we will hold our Leadership Program Workshop 'in person' next week. What a relief! We are very proud of the program and believe it delivers a fantastic balance of technical skills, personal development and networking for the future leaders of the sector. I wish the participants good luck for next week and pass on a big thanks to Belinda Johnson (Executive Member and Southern Grampians Finance Manager) who has taken over the reins as the Chief Facilitator. Belinda will be assisted by several members of our Executive Committee, past and present.

We are thrilled too that our AGM will also take place in person in a few short weeks, and I encourage you to get in quickly to book your seat. This event will be a great opportunity for you to catch up with many people that we haven't seen for a little while and to meet new members.

Plenty happening behind the scenes at FinPro too with work on hardship policy guidelines, model statements and early stages of a review of Councils financial sustainability. If there is ever a topic that you think we need to be looking at or assistance, we can provide to our members please reach out to Gab or an Executive Member

Did you know it's only 43 days till Christmas! Not that I want to scare you!

Cheers, Bradley



**Bradley Thomas**  
**President – FinPro**  
**CEO Hepburn Shire Council**

## Membership

Hello and welcome to new FinPro Members:

- **Chamila Cooray**, Accounting Officer (Treasury) at Cardinia Shire Council
- **Ruth Fletcher**, System Accountant at Stonnington City Council
- **Ana Hilson**, Policy and Administration Officer at the City of Greater Bendigo, and
- **Mark Spaziani**, Senior Finance Business Partner at Stonnington City Council

Congratulations to **Kathy Fulton** on her new role at Hepburn Shire as Manager Financial Services. Kathy will be leaving her role as Coordinator Financial Reporting at the City of Greater Geelong.

## Upcoming events

**14 – 17 November 2021** – Leadership Program at Country Place Kalorama (moved from 5 – 8 September 2021)

**3 December 2021** – Together Again – FinPro AGM, Update and Lunch – Leonda by the Yarra [READ MORE HERE](#)

**23 – 25 February 2022** – FinPro Annual Conference at RACV Cape Schanck (moved from 20 – 22 October 2021)

## New Member Portal

The FinPro Financial Year commenced on 1 October 2021. FinPro Membership renewal notices have now been sent out. For councils who have a Council Membership, the renewal notice was sent to the main contact person. For Individual Members, renewal notices were sent individually.

5 steps to setting yourself up in our new MyFinPro system.

1. Go to: <https://my.finpro.org.au/>
2. Click the Log in button up the right-hand corner
3. Enter your email then press “Forgot password”
4. Enter your email again, tick the ‘I’m not a robot’ button. This should let you set a new password.
5. You then go back to the start and login using those details.

## Together again – FinPro AGM, Update and Lunch

**Friday 3 December 2021 from 12 noon – 3.30pm**

**(Mentor / Mentee Training to be held before this event – from 11 – 12 noon)**

**Leonda by the Yarra**

You are invited to join us on Friday 3 December 2021 at Leonda by the Yarra as we embrace the opportunity to reconnect with our peers, network and learn.

During the afternoon we will provide a FinPro Update, hold our AGM, be entertained by comedian Michael Shafer, and enjoy a lovely lunch.

After a very long time of only being able to meet virtually, we are excited to be able to offer this opportunity for you to catch up with your peers and network in person.

We welcome all FinPro members as well as Corporate Partners to attend.

[Register now](#)

- [FinPro AGM 2021 Formal Notice](#)
- [FinPro AGM 2021 – Nomination Form for Executive Committee](#)
- [Minutes of the last AGM – 26.2.21 \(for year ended 30.9.20\)](#)
- [Current FinPro Rules](#)
- [Proposed FinPro Rules \(to be adopted at AGM 30.12.21\)](#)

## 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:

#### November 2021

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

#### December 2021

- Workforce Reporting Template – 1 December
- [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

## VLGGC Update

The following information was distributed at the end of October to all councils, and is shared here for member information:

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#### ***Circular 6 – 29 October 2021***

#### ***2021 Annual Allocation Report & Submissions***

#### ***Annual Allocations Report***

*I am pleased to advise that the Victorian Local Government Grants Commission's Annual Allocation Report for the year to 31 August 2021 has now been tabled in the Victorian Parliament.*

*The Annual Allocation Report contains information on the Commission's activities for the year and details of how each council's general purpose and local roads grants for 2021-22 have been calculated.*

*The report is available on the Commission's webpage - [HERE](#)*

#### ***Submissions to the Commission***

*I would also like to take this opportunity to remind councils that written submissions in relation to the allocation of the financial assistance grants for 2022-23 should be lodged no later than 28 February 2022.*

*The Commission would appreciate receiving input through submissions from councils, including in relation to the overall set of cost adjustors to be used, the cost adjustors and cost drivers to be applied to each expenditure function, and the weightings applied to each cost adjustor.*

*It should be noted that the case for changing the application of particular factors in the methodology is strengthened if councils are able to provide empirical data, demonstrating the impact of these factors on cost levels or the demand for services.*

*To assist you in preparing submissions you may wish to refer to your council's Individual Report that was sent in late August detailing the 2021-22 allocation. Further information about the cost adjustors and other aspects of the allocation methodology can be found in the Commission's Annual Allocation Report on our website.*

*As is the case every year, the Commission will post all submissions it receives in relation to the 2022-23 allocations on our website. This will allow all councils access to the full range of issues brought before the Commission for consideration. I therefore ask that you provide an electronic copy (in word format) of any submission you make by email to [nada.bagaric@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:nada.bagaric@ecodev.vic.gov.au)*

*The Commission appreciates that councils may have concerns about the potential impact of COVID-19 on some of the data sets that the Commission would ordinarily use in its allocations. The Commission will closely review all data to be used for the next allocations and, if necessary, make changes to the use of that data to avoid adverse impacts on councils' grant outcomes.*

*If you have any queries in relation to the matters raised, please contact Colin Morrison by email [colin.morrison@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:colin.morrison@ecodev.vic.gov.au)*

**John Watson**

**Chair - Victorian Local Government Grants Commission**

## **Developing a Council Hardship Policy**

In response to the Ombudsman's report on Financial Hardship and Rates, a group of FinPro and RMA representatives have been meeting with LGV to progress some tools to support the sector.

This group has some drafts which are being worked on up to Christmas. If you are keen to assist with review of these, please contact Tony Rocca ([email](#)) or Nathan Morsillo ([email](#)) – else look out for an announcement of this resource in upcoming member updates.

## Post-implementation review of AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-profit Entities

The following article was included in Issue 11 of *The Bottom Line* – a publication distributed by HLB Mann Judd Advisory and Accounting which we thought might be of interest to members:

*Since 1 January 2019, not-for-profit (NFP) entities have had to grapple with two revenue accounting standards, namely AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers, and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-profit Entities. NFP entities are having to analyse contracts in significant detail, often concluding that it is not clear which standard applies. Ultimately, NFP entities are having to expend much time and effort, and exercise a lot of judgement, in landing on a position.*

*NFP stakeholders have raised several implementation issues regarding AASB 15 and AASB 1058 since the issue of these standards. In response to this feedback, the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) has conducted targeted outreach to understand the pervasiveness of the issues raised in practice.*

*The key issues identified from initial stakeholder feedback include:*

- *Application of the ‘sufficiently specific’ concept in practice*
- *Peppercorn cost exemption*
- *Upfront payments*
- *Capital grants*
- *Grants received in arrears*
- *Enforceability of contracts*
- *Documentation that should be considered in assessing which standard applies*
- *Principal versus agent*
- *Termination for convenience clauses*

*While the AASB has decided to add a short-term, narrow-scope project to its work program to consider some of the above implementation issues, it is expected that the above matters will be considered during the postimplementation review of AASB 1058 that is scheduled to commence early next year.*

*We will keep our NFP readers informed on any developments that come out of the short-term project as well as the post-implementation review.*

## Recent webinars

### Debt- Another Resource for Councils to Consider

VLGA, LGV and FinPro recently ran a join panel session to consider debt as another resource for Councils. This webinar was held Thursday 21 October 2021. [Link to the recording](#)

### Victorian Ombudsman’s Webinar – Don’t Become the Headline

The Victorian Ombudsman’s recent webinar on the dos and don'ts of procurement; a guide to keeping your organisation out of the headlines! [link to the recording](#)

## External training opportunities and webinars

### Cyber security for business webinar - CBA

Suitable for small to medium size businesses, in this webinar we'll hear from cyber experts at CommBank and the Australian Cyber Security Centre as they explore a series of real-life cyber security case studies that have disrupted businesses. We'll discuss two of the most disruptive cyber-attacks, ransomware and payment fraud, and learn the simple steps your business can take to reduce the likelihood and impact of an attack.

Wednesday 1 December 2021 from 11am – 12pm [Register now](#)

### Leadership development scholarships for women in Local Government

Women & Leadership Australia is currently offering professional development scholarships for women across all areas of the Local Government sector, and we encourage you to share this opportunity.

[Women & Leadership Australia \(WLA\)](#) supports emerging, middle, and senior women leaders across all sectors and industries. Their career-defining leadership programs bring together a focus on applied learning with the latest in leadership theory and practice. They believe that advancing gender equity, especially in leadership, is central to creating a more fair and inclusive society.

Partial scholarships of \$,1000-\$5,000 per person are available for women in Local Government Finance Professionals. To encourage more women to step into leadership roles across the FinPro sector, WLA is offering scholarships for three leadership development courses. **Apply by 30 November** or find out more by [clicking here](#).

### 'Speakers' Corner

We welcome you all to a new section we have titled 'Speakers Corner'. The purpose of this section is to provide an opportunity for members to contribute a story, thought piece or some learnings they have which they feel would be of value for our membership. Whilst the pieces included in this section may not necessarily be the opinion of the FinPro Executive, they are certainly worthwhile sharing and a great basis for discussion and, at times, debate.

If you have any thoughts you would like to share, please send them through for future FinPro Member Updates.



**Notice of Annual General Meeting**  
**Local Government Finance Professionals Inc.**  
 Incorporation No: A0045253V

**In person on Friday 3 December, commencing at 12.30pm**  
**Leonda by the Yarra, 2 Wallen Rd, Hawthorn**

1. **Opening and welcome**
2. **Acknowledgement of Country**
3. **Apologies**
4. **Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting – 26.2.21**
5. **Reports**
  - a. **President’s Report for year ended 30.9.21**
  - b. **Treasurer’s Report for year ended 30.9.21**
6. **Appointment of Auditor for 2021/22**
7. **Election of the Executive Committee for the year ended 30.9.22**  
 2021/22 Nominations for the Executive Committee must be in writing using FinPro’s endorsed form of nomination and must be submitted to the FinPro Secretary by Friday 3 December 2021 at 12 noon.
8. **Special Resolution – New FinPro Rules**  
 That FinPro members approve, in accordance with Rule 3 of the current FinPro Rules and Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, the adoption of new Rules ([as attached](#)) and that the Secretary take the appropriate steps to lodge these rules with CAV.
9. **General Business**
10. **Close of Meeting**

**Other Business**

**Gabrielle Gordon**  
**Secretary**

## FinPro – Adoption of New Rules (December 2021)

**Background**

Every incorporated association must have rules. FinPro has had its own rules in place since 2003 when the name of the organisation changed from Victorian Association of Municipal Accountants (VAMA) to Local Government Finance Professionals (FinPro).

Since November 2012 new legislation<sup>1</sup> has been in place for incorporated associations with a requirement to adopt new rules, or in our case, continue with the existing “own rules”.

One important change of the new legislation is that when an Association moves to the new rules that they include its statement of purposes in the proposed new rules.

The reasons for updating the FinPro Rules are to create a modern set of rules:

- *The addition of a statement of purposes (a requirement if changing the rules)*
- *Providing for electronic communication and virtual meetings*
- *The addition of including a minimum number of members (proposing 50)*
- *A new process of how we vote in the Committee at the AGM – Proposing to elect half the committee each year for two-yearly terms (the aim to provide a more orderly succession planning for the Executive Committee) and*
- *Introducing a formal process for the Election of official office bearers (by the Executive Committee after the AGM)*

Further details and an explanation of the details rule changes – [read more here](#)

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

### Finance Business Partner

- Moreland City Council
- [More information](#)
- Applications close 17 November 2021

### Coordinator Rates and Revenue

- Wellington Shire Council
- [More information](#)
- Applications close midnight Sunday 14 November 2021

### Finance Officer (Limited Tenure)

- East Gippsland Shire
- [More Information](#)
- Applications close 11.59pm Wednesday 17 November 2021

### Assets and Systems Finance Officer

- East Gippsland Shire
- [More Information](#)
- Applications close 11.59 Monday 15 November 2021



## FinPro Executive Team 2021

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

## 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 Contact Details

FinPro (Local Government Finance Professionals Inc.)

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