

## FinPro Member Update – Edition 9, 2021

Hello all,

How good was it to have AFL back last night!!! Even if you're not a massive footy fan, the symbolism that things are starting to be more 'normal' was fantastic.

Thanks for the enthusiasm and massive numbers for our online PD program this month, which has included the below topics.

- February 26 Online PD Session – 302 attendees
- Model Budget / Model Accounts – 260 attendees
- Budget Preparation – 125 attendees
- Financial Plans – 149 attendees
- Fraud Awareness – 108 attendees

Remember if you have an idea for a topic please let [Gab](#) know.

Our thanks to the individuals (many of whom are FinPro members) who have presented at these sessions:

- Keenan Jackson -Urban Economist @ .id
- Tony Rocca – Maroondah CC
- Hannah White – Mitchell SC
- Malcolm Lewis – Northern Grampians SC
- John Brockway – Surf Coast SC
- Sharon Redmond – LGV
- Phil Mason – Monash CC
- Daniel O'Shea – LGV
- Martin Thompson – Crowe Australasia
- Fiona Rae – Golden Plains SC
- Dennis O'Keefe – Port Phillip CC
- Simon Rennie – Moira SC
- Andrew Zavitsanos – Crowe
- Lynda Cooper – Crowe
- Gabrielle Castree – Crowe

This week has seen the release of two reports from VAGO – Maintain Local Roads and Results of the 2019-20 Audits into Local Government (article on page 4 of this Update). I encourage you to grab a coffee and have a read of both documents. There are a number of recommendations included in both reports that we believe FinPro can assist our members with, so we will review and be in touch.

Enjoy the weekend, Go Swans!

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

## Membership News

We welcome the following new members to FinPro:

**Devin Teoh**, Procurement Support Officer, Monash City Council

**Daniel Hair**, Contracts and Procurement Officer, Hindmarsh Shire Council

**Darryn Young**, Coordinator Corporate Reporting, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

**Anneliese Calder**, Assistant Accountant, South Gippsland Shire Council

### Thank-you to our 2021 Corporate Partners

- Commonwealth Bank
- CT Management
- MAGIQ Software
- LG Solutions
- VOTAR Partners
- Vision Super
- Westpac

Membership Renewal information [available here](#)

Corporate Partnership information [available here](#)

## FinPro Online Professional Development

It has been a busy month for the Professional Development team. 6 sessions, covering a range of topics, have been delivered online. The last will be run today at 12.30 which will discuss the Revenue and Rating Plan.

### Completed:

- Friday 26 February 2021 - FinPro Online Seminar & AGM – completed. [Recordings available](#)
- Friday 5 March 2021 Model Budget and Model Accounts - completed. [Recordings available](#)
- Wednesday 10 March - Budget Preparation Progress - completed. [Recordings available](#)
- Thursday 18 March 2021 – Fraud Awareness – completed. [Recordings available](#)

### Upcoming

- Friday 19 March 2021 from 12.30 – 2.00pm - Revenue and Rating Plan Webinar

**Revenue and Rating Plan – Friday 19 March 2021 from 12.30 – 2.00pm**

### REGISTER NOW

This webinar will cover the following:

- An introduction to the key aspects of the Revenue and Rating Plan better practice guidance;
- A summary of the legislative and regulatory requirements and how the Revenue and Rating Plan supplements the previous 2014 Revenue and Rating Strategy guidance; and
- Opportunity to raise any questions or queries you have about the Revenue and Rating Plan.

Registration is required for EACH EVENT and is free for all FinPro Members who are enrolled in the online PD Program.

All sessions are recorded and shared with members asap after the event.

## DETAILS OF OUR MOST RECENT WEBINAR:

### Fraud Awareness – Thursday 18 March 2021

Fraud awareness training is one of the main tenets of a fraud strategy. Educating members in respect of what to look for and how fraud happens, empower them to take the necessary action to mitigate the risk of it occurring, or, when it does occur, address it in the correct way.

The team from Crowe Australasia, led by Andrew Zavitsanos, Partner Risk Consulting, ran a webinar for FinPro members where they discussed a range of topics associated with fraud awareness.

Thank-you to the team at Crowe (Andrew Zavitsanos, Gabrielle Castree and Lynda Cooper) for providing this informative session to our members.



#### **Andrew Zavitsanos**

Partner - Risk Consulting

[andrew.zavitsanos@crowe.com.au](mailto:andrew.zavitsanos@crowe.com.au)

Mob: 0421 013 770

[Further details and a recording of the session and a copy of the slides is available 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.

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 – [at this link](#)

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.

**The new Local Government Act 2020**



## Proposed Local Government (Long Service Leave) Regulations 2021

The Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020) is coming into effect in stages with the fourth stage commencing on 1 July 2021. As part of the fourth stage, it is proposed that new Local Government (Long Service Leave) Regulations 2021 (Regulations 2021), which will give effect to the long service leave arrangements for council staff, be made and come into operation on 1 July 2021.

It is intended that the Regulations 2021 will substantially replicate the current Local Government (Long Service Leave) Regulations 2012, which will be repealed on 1 July 2021.

It is also envisaged that further amendments be proposed to the Regulations 2021 in the future, following an extensive review and consultation process through a Regulatory Impact Statement by Local Government Victoria. This will provide the sector and stakeholders an opportunity to inform the development of more substantial reforms to the Regulations at that time.

## VAGO Update – New audit reports tabled 16 March 2021

Andrew Greaves, Victorian Auditor-General, tabled three reports in Parliament this week.

1. Maintaining Local Roads – Are councils achieving value for money in maintaining their local Roads?
2. Results of 2019 – 20 Audits: Local Government
3. Results of 2019 – 20 Audits: State-controlled Entities

For more information on any of these reports please refer to the [VAGO website](#).

## Useful information - AASB 16 Leases

HLB Mann Judd recently released the following useful guide in relation to AASB 16 Leases.

AASB 16 Leases became mandatorily effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019 and brought significant change to lease accounting for lessees as most leases now need to be recognised on a lessee's balance sheet in the form of right-of-use assets with corresponding lease liabilities.

HLB Mann Judd's six-part guide focuses on some of the key aspects of the standard with helpful examples and diagrams:

- Part 1: Definition of a Lease
- Part 2: Lease Term
- Part 3: Lease Payments
- Part 4: Discount Rate
- Part 5: Transition Options
- Part 6: Reassessments and Modifications

[\*\*DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE HERE\*\*](#)

## External Training Opportunities

### ATO e-invoicing panel webinar series

The ATO have run a number of training sessions this week on the topic of e-invoicing.

You are invited to an ATO webinar to learn about how to get your agency e-invoicing ready.

Due to popular demand, the ATO have added one more session to our Peppol Panel webinar series on **Tuesday 23 March, 1:00pm to 2:00pm.**

Do not miss this unique opportunity to hear directly from the service and solution providers on the 'Peppol Capabilities and Associated Services Panel' and ask your questions about e-invoicing technology and costs.

While the use of the panel is not mandatory, it will help your agency to streamline e-invoicing procurement.

In this session, two different providers (EY and Fuji Xerox) will present their:

- Company overview
- Specialisation and experience with Peppol e-invoicing
- E-invoicing service offering to government entities.

Register for the free webinar below. This session is open to all government employees.

[Register here](#)

## MAV IT Conference

**FinPro is pleased to be able to support the MAV in advertising their upcoming IT Conference.**

**Details as follows:**

MAV Technology is proud to offer this important and careful step in our collective recovery:

- a COVIDSafe opportunity to catch-up with colleagues
- view the latest offerings from more than 50 state-of-the-art technology and service providers
- be inspired by expert speakers as we discuss transforming government for the digital era
- networking evening with curated tours at ACMI (Australian Centre for the Moving Image)
- participate in Masterclasses or a walking tour of Melbourne's Innovation Districts
- Welcome Reception on the boundary line at Marvel Stadium
- musical celebration of achievements at our famous Awards for Excellence Dinner

[More information and tickets available here.](#)

## Scholarships for women's leadership - applications extended to March 31

FinPro is pleased to be able to support Women & Leadership Australia in promoting their leadership development courses.

Scholarships are still available through Women & Leadership Australia to support the development of female leaders across Australia's local government sector.

Scholarships of \$1,000 to \$5,000 enable participation in one of three leadership development courses designed for emerging through to senior leaders. All scholarships must be allocated by the end of March and it is unsure when these scholarships will be available again.

Register your interest by completing the Expression of Interest form

<https://www.wla.edu.au/localgovernment.html>

## Current positions advertised on the FinPro Website

- **Financial Coordinator**

- Wangaratta Rural City Council

- <https://candidate.aurion.cloud/wangaratta/production/vacancies/2914206661261499~1/edit>

- Further enquiries should be directed to Claire Barnes, Finance Manager on 0428 301 120

- Applications close on March 21, 2021

- **Coordinator Revenue Services**

- Maribyrnong City Council

- <https://maribyrnong.recruitment.com.au/Vacancies/>

- Further enquiries about this position should be directed to Mark Connor, Manager Finance on 0423 845 187 for a confidential discussion.

- Applications close 24 March 2021

- **Director Corporate Performance**

- Alpine Shire Council

- <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/council/careers/current-vacancies/director-corporate-performance>

- For any enquiries, please contact Charlie Bird on 0428 392 554

- Applications close 28 March 2021

## The Third Space

This article is shared with the consent of the author, Dr Adam Fraser.

*We are all now truly engrained in the work from home ‘pivot’ thrust upon many of us at the beginning of COVID-19 worldwide pandemic. Our survey showed that 88% of workers were in either a work from home or a hybrid work situation. We all were and are affected, no one got away unscathed. For those of us that aren’t essential and frontline workers, who had the opportunity to work from home, the transition out of the office happening in a whirlwind of claiming your end of the dining room table, fending off your partner or housemates for the best position with natural light and enough privacy for your daily Zoom meetings. All the while juggling home schooling, arming up to take on the empty supermarket shelves, becoming an instant software pro, maintaining connection with your loved ones as best we could, mustering motivation to keep up with your workload and staying sane without finding the bottom of the case of wine. Sound familiar? What a time it’s been.*

*In amongst all of the shift and changes, we’ve noticed the obvious things that we’re missing like moving around freely, physical gathering and overseas holidays to name a salient few. Interestingly and somewhat surprisingly, a research study we conducted with over 400 professionals, showed that the majority of people miss their commute. Well not exactly. They don’t miss the physical process of going to work. They miss what the commute gave them. Specifically, a chance to decompress from the workday, and the ‘me’ time that they used to get. On reflection I missed my 15 minutes of playlist time every afternoon (mostly of the metal, rock out variety), that helped to shake off my workday and get me ready to take on my duties waiting at home. It was my time and now it’s just not there as part of my daily ritual – I’d lost this very important transition time. I’d lost my Third Space. So many of us use this commute time in that big daily shift between work and home to tap into our Third Space, so we are showing up ready for the days next situation... Home Mode!*

***“65% of people said that they are finding it difficult to separate work and home.”***

*So, what is the fall out of not having a clear and defined commute between work and home?*

*Our data shows that:*

*65% of people said that since moving to working from home they are finding it more difficult to separate work and home.*

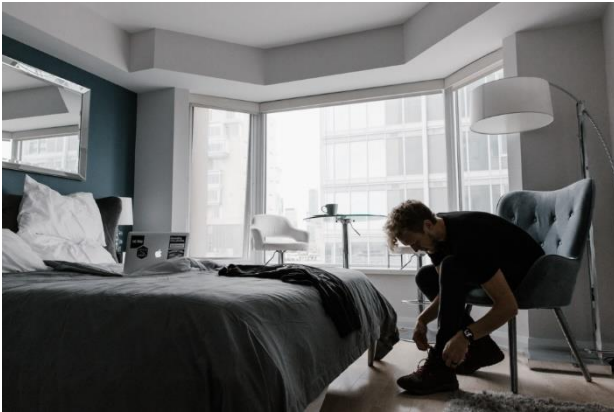
*47% of people said they did not have a specific strategy to switch from work mode into home mode*

*64% of people said that since working from home, they are thinking about work more in their personal time.*

*55% of people said that after working from home they're working longer hours. How much longer? Five to ten hours per week.*

*We have had an extraordinary number of people ask how they can find their Third Space in the new work from home context, where we are working from home or more accurately for many, living at work. So, our curious research brains started to ask, “How is this new norm affecting us and how have people changed their Third Space to suit their new pivot position?” and we have found that those utilising their transition space in a brand-new context have found some widely varied, constructive and in some cases creatively fun ways of finding that space again.*





*We had one family inform us of how they used the Third Space during an extended lockdown period that involved the most evil of tasks, home schooling. David, Fiona and the kids jump up with their alarm every weekday, pack their bags and set out for 'work' and 'school'. They all take a walk around the block, dressed in their work clothes and school uniforms, arriving back at the front door of the house to commence their schoolwork and work meetings. At the end of the day, you guessed it, they do the 10-minute round trip all over again in reverse. Each member of the family uses the time to make the mental and physical break between their work, school and home life, with the added bonus of exercise to get the blood pumping and the body moving. Everyone gets 10 minutes on their walk to decompress and shed their work mode and transit to the night time routine of dinner, family time, bath, teeth and bed!*

*As a team, we reflected on what has changed for us. One member of the team's Third Space at the end of a work day was listening to a storytelling podcast while walking her dog. She said she loves listening to other people's stories, and during the COVID lockdown, living alone, it allowed her to vicariously travel, indulge a variety of life experiences reminding her that there are all sorts of different people out there in the wider world with their own unique perspective and experiences. She said that as silly as it sounds, it helped her find human connection. Her genius dog worked out how to tell the time through COVID and waited everyday with her lead in her mouth for her owner to finish her days work. We are all convinced that the dog enjoys her Third Space more than she does!*

*Now as we settle into our new norm of 2021, filled with flexible working locations and a wide spectrum of hybrid working arrangements, what do you do to find your work life balance and stop your workday leaking into your time for you? It could be as simple as separating your spaces physically or changing out of your work clothes, creating a new commute to the coffee shop and back or setting a time to stop work and cook dinner with the family, chatting to a friend on the phone to shift your thinking or dedicating new time to an artistic venture or hobby.*

*In an uncertain future there are a couple of things we know for sure. Hybrid working is here to stay and working from home will be part of our life for a very long time. Because of that we have to manufacture our own commute to not only benefit our mental health and wellbeing but also our connection to the people that mean the most to us.*

*How will you change your daily practices to find your Third Space in the new norm?*

Source: <https://www.dradamfraser.com/blog-content/2021/3/10/the-third-space>





## Photo of the week

**Surf Coast Shire** – this photo was taken in a small town called Gnarwarre, near Winchelsea (or 20mins west of Geelong). IT was taken in spring when all the canola is going crazy.

Photo taken by FinPro member Ash Hughes, Financial Accountant at Surf Coast Shire

If you would like to see more of his amazing photography [take a look here](#)

---

## FinPro Executive Team 2021

<b>President</b>	Bradley Thomas (Hepburn SC)
<b>Vice-President – Chair Professional Development</b>	Binda Gokhale (Wyndham CC)
<b>Vice-President – Chair Technical</b>	Tony Rocca (Maroondah CC)
<b>Secretary / Treasurer</b>	Gabrielle Gordon
<b>PD Committee Members</b>	Alan Wilson (Melbourne CC) Belinda Johnson (Southern Grampians SC) Charles Nganga (Casey CC) John Brockway (Surf Coast SC) Melissa Baker (South Gippsland SC)
<b>Technical Committee Members</b>	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)

---

### FinPro Contact Details

FinPro (Local Government Finance Professionals Inc.)

Executive Officer – Gabrielle Gordon

Email: [gabrielle@finpro.org.au](mailto:gabrielle@finpro.org.au)

Mobile: 0400 114 015

Web: [www.finpro.org.au](http://www.finpro.org.au)

---