

COMMUNITY TRIBUTARIES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2020

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognize their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

1. ABOUT COMMUNITY TRIBUTARIES

HISTORY

Community Tributaries' (CT's) founding members began meeting in Melbourne in April 2016. They shared a perception that in order to increase the social inclusion of individuals and communities there is a need for improved access to the resources available throughout society. CT was developed to address these needs by facilitating networking and knowledge sharing with people seeking employment or starting their own businesses. CT could also support initiatives leading to improvements in community well-being.



CT provides an umbrella under which a range of diverse activities can take place and is open to individuals of all genders, ages, residency status, nationalities and religions.

CT was founded and incorporated in Victoria on 20th May 2016.

MEMBERSHIP

CT had 12 members on 30th June 2020. It had a committee of four member/office holders:

- Clovis Mwamba (President),
- Biljana Joveska (Vice President)
- Helena Grunfeld (Secretary),
- Ed Blake (Treasurer).

In addition, CT had a number of active associates and participants in its activities as well as numerous others who have participated in CT's networking and skill sharing activities.

CT liaises with many organisations that are involved in community services or represent cultural groups, e.g. the Walker Close and Brooklyn Hall Community Centre, Darebin Ethnic Communities Council and Victorian Council of African Australian Seniors.

MEETINGS

CT holds monthly open committee meetings that include CT members, associates and guests. These are held at Walker Close Community Centre but have been conducted online during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Committee decisions typically take into account the views of all meeting participants. Visitors are welcome to these meetings.

CT members and associates also meet regularly at other venues to network with the community and drive projects.

PURPOSE

CTs purpose is to:

- promote inclusive societies;
- facilitate research, support, skill development and networks to improve independence and well-being of individuals and communities.

CT's objectives are to:

- use the skills and networks of the members to help individuals and community groups to apply their skills in Australia;
- identify and harness the many resources available in Australia to support the well-being of individuals and communities from all backgrounds;
- welcome new members to CT to increase the level of resourcing for a broader range of initiatives.

2. ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY

The key areas of emphasis over 2019/20 were:

- Digital storytelling
- Drop-in centre, including discussions on how to support African-Australian youth
- Planning for a multicultural fashion parade
- Local and international solidarity

Other activities included informal advice to problems facing African-Australian youth, CT members' personal challenges to secure employment and promote their businesses as well as responses to hate crimes.

DIGITAL STORYTELLING

DST combines traditional storytelling with the use of short videos. Examples include:

- personal stories such as biographies, local history, traditional stories, poetry, short stories,
- the participant's view on a particular issue, educational public service announcements for a
- particular community, e.g. a message encouraging health related behaviour.

At the commencement of 2018/19 CT prepared and discussed a digital storytelling concept paper that outlined whether and how participating members and others might benefit from being involved.

The paper envisaged diverse forms of expression with a primary focus on participants preparing a 2-3-minute audio-visual clip that could include pictures, video, music and voice-over speech. Participants would decide what type of story he or she wanted to tell. Participants could also use DST for a variety of purposes such as educational announcements for their communities and promoting their small business.

A DST pilot project on how to stay motivated when looking for work, was conducted by a CT member and presented to CT members in February 2019. This pilot exercise demonstrated the potential value of the DST content to its target audience (job seekers) and the benefits to the storyteller. However, it also clearly demonstrated the need for improved digital video production skills to make the information more accessible to users.

CT planned to support the DST activity with a series of digital storytelling (DST) workshops that would be run by a professional workshop leader for up to 20 participants, culminating in a public event showing the stories that are to be uploaded online. CT investigated securing funding to run the workshops but decided to hold off on such a course due to the difficulties of coordinating availability of instructor, venue and participants.

CT pursued a less ambitious path in 2019/20 of developing its own internal technical capability to support digital storytelling learning sessions with an aim to have initial DST projects online via its website in early 2020.

CT members, with an auspice from the Walker Close and Brooklyn Hall Association, were successful in their application for a (Quick Response) grant from Hobsons Bay City Council to fund Hobsons Bay residents developing their own digital storytelling projects in a collaborative setting.

The grant included support for monthly and casual room hire costs and the purchase of video editing software licences and minor equipment (tripods) for participants to share.

The project was planned to commence in April 2020 but the learning sessions could not commence due to the pandemic. This will be conducted in 2020/21 as an online activity until the Covid 19 restrictions on meetings are lifted.

CT will also maintain a permanent online presence, initially on a specific YouTube channel and later, subject to further resources, on an upgraded CT website.

AUSTRALIAN AFRICAN YOUTH - SIMON KIMBANGU

In November, Mawanda Mawanda addressed CTs members and friends on the life and work of Simon Kimbangu and his potential to inspire Australian African youth. CT also had a discussion of the points raised by Mawanda.

Mawanda will continue to engage the African-Australian communities. CT proposed to support Mawanda in addressing other groups but this activity was deferred to the pandemic related meeting restrictions.

TALK BY RENE SEPHTON

In order to deepen understanding by CT members and friends of African culture in a way that would contribute to its work with African-Australian youth, Dr Rene Sephton was invited to talk about African Art of Authentic Humanity at the CT Cultural Diversity Week event. Her talk attracted a large audience from African-Australian communities, including participants involved in youth work.

MULTICULTURAL FASHION PARADE

CT members, supported by Walker Close Community Centre and Brooklyn Hall Association prepared a grant funding submission to Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion Division of the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet that related to a proposed fashion show even, featuring African entertainment, food and drinks. The centrepiece would be a fashion parade, underpinned by people from a Congolese background. Attendees would be encouraged to participate in the fashion show, dressed in clothing that reflects their culture.

The event and grant funding had to be deferred due to Covid-19 restrictions but CT members will reactivate the project as soon as restrictions permit.

LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Members continued their involvement in local and international solidarity, including participation in the International Metropolis Conference 2019 in Canada.

CT has facilitated collaboration between the West Papua Womens Office and the Congolese community in Victoria around tributes to Dag Hammarskjöld, the second Secretary-General of the United Nations. Dag Hammarskjöld worked hard in support of independence for West Papua when he died in a plane crash on his way to mediate in the Congo-Katanga conflict. Through this collaboration, the two communities have identified many similarities in their respective cultures.

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