

COMMUNITY TRIBUTARIES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR 2018-2019

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 17 members on 30th June 2019. It had a committee of three member/office holders:

- Clovis Mwamba (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 numerous 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.

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 2018/19 were:

- Digital storytelling
- Drop-in centre
- Market Stalls
- 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

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.

Community Tributaries continues to see digital storytelling as an area of opportunity to promote social inclusion and participation of current and prospective members as well as community members in general. CT will instead pursue a less ambitious path in 2019/20 of developing its own internal technical capability to support digital storytelling with an aim to have initial DST projects online via its website in early 2020.

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

CT also investigated live storytelling. CT members were introduced to the Newport Folk and Fiddle Club, which holds regular musical and other forms of sharing stories.

DROP-IN CENTRE

In 2017 CT held weekly drop in centre meetings at the Tarneit Community Learning Centre that provided a place for individuals to network in relation to their issues and aspirations.

The meetings at Tarneit wound up in September 2017 due to the shift of focus to Pop Up Shops/market stalls. In 2018, the drop-in centre meetings were recommenced at Walker Close Community Centre but there was a decline in support and attendance due in large part to key members being unavailable to attend in 2018/19. Following the return of the key members involved, CT plans to continue the drop-in centre at Walker Close in 2019/20.

MARKET STALLS

The market stalls (pop up shop) operated as a CT project, supported by a grant from the Wyndham City Council, until March 2018. In 2018/19 it was continued from time to time by the participants with the logistical support of CT, using market stall equipment funded as part of its grant.

VCAAAS EVENT

CT partnered with the Victorian Council of African Australian Seniors in supporting the very successful VCAAAS Community Engagement & Partnership Dinner held at Walker Close in January 2019. This included the celebration of an Appreciation and Recognition Award to CT's President Clovis Mwamba (pictured below with Florence Shinanduku and Secretary Helena Grunfeld) as part of the Victorian Senior of the Year Awards.

MELBOURNE KNOWLEDGE WEEK

CT submitted a proposal for a seminar on African knowledge systems at the Melbourne Knowledge Week in May 2019. The proposal was accepted, but CT had to withdraw its participation, as members nominated to talk at that seminar had to attend meetings overseas. CT has made another submission for 2020.

WALKER CLOSE AND BROOKLYN HALL COMMUNITY CENTRE

CT was invited to participate in music events organised by the Walker Close and Brooklyn Hall Community Centre and give a presentation about CT there.



LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

This year has seen significant work in the area of international solidarity, particularly related to Darfur and the Democratic Republic of Congo at various conferences.

Diasporas in Action

CT members participated in the Diasporas in Action conference, organised by Diaspora Action Australia' Diaspora Learning Network in September 2018 at Melbourne University. A CT representative delivered a presentation on the topic of 'How diasporas create change in Darfur'.

International Metropolis Conferences

CT's President, Clovis Mwamba, participated in the International Metropolis Conference held in Sydney in November 2018, on the theme of 'Global Migration in Turbulent Times', where policies related to migration, local and global diversity and sustainable integration were discussed.

Clovis also participated in the International Metropolis Conference held in Ottawa, Canada in June 2019 relating to "The Promise Of Migration: Inclusion, Economic Growth and Global Cooperation". He was a speaker at a workshop that discussed "Issues in Integration through Multiculturalism: National & Local Levels". The workshop focused on why multiculturalism has taken a back seat among many countries that had once championed it and some of the challenges it poses as an integration approach in countries with diverse populations like Canada, Australia, and Malaysia.

Conference on Leadership for Inclusive Development

A paper prepared by CT on the topic of 'Darfur - Diaspora Leadership for Inclusive Reconstruction and Development' was presented at the Conference on Leadership for Inclusive Development, arranged by the Research Network for Inclusive Development, at La Trobe University in June 2019.

This paper was published in the November issue of [ANU's Development Bulletin](#).

UN Inter-agency Task Force on the Social and Solidarity Economy' (UNTFSSSE)

After submitting a paper entitled '[Applying Principles of the Social and Solidarity Economy for Reconstruction in Darfur](#)' for a conference organised by the UN Inter-agency Task Force on the Social and Solidarity Economy' (UNTFSSSE) on the topic of

“Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: What Role for Social and Solidarity Economy?”, a member was invited to present the paper at the conference in Geneva in late June 2019.

Rehabilitation of the Ancestors’ Culture and Tradition of Kogi’

CT’s President, Clovis Mwamba participated in the event ‘Rehabilitation of the Ancestors’ Culture and Tradition of Kogi’, as an invited guest of the Kogi people of Colombia. The event was led by Mamo Sanchina, the guardian of the sacred wisdom of the Kogi (similar to an Archbishop or Mufti), an isolated indigenous people of this area. This was an opportunity to exchange knowledge of ancestral thoughts of the Kogi people and various parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the culture where Clovis grew up as well as how this knowledge can be made relevant for youth growing up in the western civilisation.

CT Response to Christchurch Mosque Killings

Two consecutive terrorist shooting attacks took place at mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, during Friday Prayer on 15 March 2019.

At the meeting following these shootings, CT members held a minute of silence in respect for the victims.

CT expressed its grief and condemnation of the killings, as well as its solidarity with the Muslim community.

Our support was also conveyed in letters to the two mosques in Christchurch and to various Muslim organisations in Victoria.