

COMMUNITY TRIBUTARIES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2021

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 14 members on 30th June 2021. 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 mostly been conducted online (Zoom) during the Covid 19 pandemic Melbourne lockdowns.

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

CT's 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

CT's activities were necessarily delayed or curtailed by the Covid 19 restrictions, with only six meetings held for the 2020/21 year.

The key areas of emphasis in this limited year were:

- Training members in digital storytelling with the assistance of a Multicultural Commission Victoria (MCV) grant.
- Working with community organisations to tell their digital stories with the assistance of a grant from the City of Hobsons Bay
- Planning for a multicultural fashion parade
- Liaising with the Creative Cooperative to auspice their grant from the Victorian Multicultural Commission to make videos addressing Covid Health matters.
- Supporting a tree planting ceremony in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to honour the memory of Dag Hammarskjöld
- Partnering with the Victorian Council of African-Australian Seniors (VCAAS) in an event to raise health awareness in the community as well as joining VCAAS at their annual dinner.
- Liaising with the new WestSeed project, Volunteer West, to source volunteers for CT's digital presence and upcoming events
- Commencing planning for a major event for Refugee Week 2022 funded by Jemena
- Preparation of a grant application to the Westgate Tunnel project for a food forest and regular community lunches at Brooklyn Hall.

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)

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 received a \$3,300 grant under a new round of digital capability grants provided by the Victoria Multicultural Commission – Melbourne Festivals and Events. The grant covered the cost of 5 persons attending each of two DST courses: a Mobile Online Content Creation Course (Australian Film Television & Radio School) and Stories for Impact (Digital Storytellers Inc.). Five CT members attended the AFTRS course and five members participated in the Stories for Impact course.

CT members created an informal association (Western Digital Storytelling), with an auspice from the Walker Close and Brooklyn Hall Association. This association was successful in late 2019 in their application for a Quick Response Grant of \$2,132 from Hobsons Bay City Council; to fund Hobsons Bay residents developing their own digital storytelling projects in a collaborative setting. Commencement of this project had to be delayed until February 2021 due to Covid restrictions. Completion is now due in December 2021.

Following recommencement CT sought to assist individuals to tell their own story using their own technology but there was limited interest in the DIY option with only two successful participations. In the meantime other sources of DIY training for individuals were becoming available in Hobsons Bay.

From April 2021 CT changed its focus to community organisations. CT contacted a wide range of community organisations in the Hobsons Bay area and commenced working with them to publish their stories, with CT performing the filming and the editing, assisted by equipment and software acquired through its grants from the Multicultural Commission Victoria and the Hobsons bay City Council.

The objective is to produce a new video each month, subject to Covid restrictions. At 30th June there were 8 videos completed and published on CT's YouTube channel. In addition, several DIY videos were prepared/published by individuals.

CT has established a permanent online presence, on its own YouTube channel and later, subject to further resources, will do so on an upgraded CT website.

The following videos have been produced:

- About Community Tributaries
- Learn Digital Storytelling in Hobsons Bay
- Clovis Mwamba – My Story
- Muslim Women's Council of Victoria preparing food for those in need due to Covid 19
- How to get yourself motivated while unemployed
- Victorian Council of African Australian Seniors – Dinner
- Ayelign's Story from Childhood – the Baboons
- Life in Early Altona – by George Said OAM (George has his own YouTube Channel)
- Story of the Greek Orthodox Community of North Altona

MULTICULTURAL FASHION SHOW

CT was successful in obtaining a Multicultural Festivals and Events Program Round One 2021 grant for a fashion show to be held as a 2021 Spring Racing Carnival Event and had commenced planning for it. However it was decided to defer the event due to Covid restrictions and it will be rescheduled to 2022.

CREATIVE COOPERATIVE ORGANISATION

The Creative Cooperative Organisation (CCO) works with diverse, values-aligned organisations to provide design, marketing and digital services as well as support services for small businesses and start-ups. CT has acted as the auspice provider for the Victorian Government's grant to Creative Cooperation Pty Ltd to make a set of Covid Health videos.

DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD HONOURED

CT responded to a request from the Democratic Republic of Congo Association of Victoria (DRCCAV) to provide assistance in supporting a tree planting ceremony in DRC to honour Dag Hammarskjöld's support for the fledgling DRC during the 75th anniversary year of the United Nations. CT contributed \$100 to the project funding. School children planted over 100 palm trees

VCAAS EVENTS

CT has close ties with the Victorian Council of African-Australian Seniors (VCAAS). CT partnered with VCAAS in holding an event at Walker Close Community Centre in March 2021. Sido Ndaye, a member of the Congolese Community in Melbourne shared her health experiences with the meeting. In May 2021, CT was invited to join the annual VCAAS annual Seniors' Night, an event supported by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (Government of Victoria) and the City of Hobsons Bay. [CT made a video of the event.](#)

WESTSEED

CT registered with a new Volunteer West initiative called WestSeed that is designed to support and connect multicultural community groups in Melbourne's West.

WestSeed has assisted with obtaining volunteers for the Refugee Week 2022 event and for the CT website and social media. CT is still seeking a volunteer to assist with DST activities.