

COMMUNITY TRIBUTARIES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2022

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise 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 2022. It had a committee of four office holders and 2 other members:

- Clovis Mwamba (President),
- Biljana Joveska (Vice President)
- Helena Grunfeld (Secretary),
- Ed Blake (Treasurer).
- Mawanda Basweka (Committee Member)
- Varsha Thapar (Committee Member)

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 were conducted online (via Zoom) in 2021/22.

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

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 increased following the previous year's Covid 19 restrictions and delays, with ten meetings held for the 2021/22 year.

The key areas of emphasis were:

- Conducting a major refugee week event at Coburg Town Hall in June 2022;
- Conducting a multicultural fashion parade at Brooklyn Hall in April 2022;
- Completing the Digital Story Project undertaken with a grant from the Hobsons Bay City Council (January 2022);
- Planning for the implementation of a grant from the Westgate Tunnel project for a small garden and regular outdoor activities based at Walker Close Community Centre (originally the Brooklyn Hall food forest project);
- Supporting the Creative Cooperative to auspice their grant from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

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

REFUGEE WEEK EVENT

CT was successful in July 2021 in obtaining a Community Grant from Jemena Ltd to hold an event to celebrate Refugee Week 2022, in partnership with multiple organisations representing asylum seeker and refugee communities. CT was awarded \$10,000 to cover its costs and those of the participating organisations.



This event took place on Saturday, 25 June 2022 at the Coburg Town Hall. It was called "Healing through Cultural Performances and Food", consistent with the national refugee week "Healing" theme.

The event was supported by the Moreland City Council who joined CT in planning the event and made the Coburg Town Hall available as well as contributing food and other assistance.

This event planning was also a collaborative effort with many other organisations. The following participated in the event:

- Arabic Welfare Incorporated,
- Beth Nahrain Assyria Association,
- Australian Chaldean Family Welfare,
- Democratic Republic of Congo Community Association of Victoria,
- Kurdish Democratic Community Centre of Victoria,
- Melbourne Eritrean United Community,
- Uniting Church's Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre.

At the event, the participating communities showcased their cultures through dancing and music and by providing attendees with the opportunity to taste and enjoy a range of foods.



The event was also an opportunity for other organisations that assist refugees and asylum seekers to provide information about their services. The following also provided information stalls:

- Salvation Army,
- Grandmothers for Refugees,
- Many Coloured Skies,
- Foundation House,
- Jobs Victoria Advocate at Moonee Valley.

The event was attended by the Moreland councillors Sue Bolton, Angelica Panopoulos, Annalivia Carli Hannan and Oscar Yildiz (JP).

Councillor Mark Riley (Mayor) and Johan Ng, Commercial Manager Jemena gave the opening addresses.



The Member for Wills, Peter Khalil MP, was unable to attend and sent a message, which was read out.

We received very positive feedback from the 300 people who attended this successful event. This was especially pleasing as the event was considerably larger than any event previously organised by the CT team.

CONGOLESE MULTICULTURAL FASHION SHOW

CT was successful in obtaining a Multicultural Festivals and Events Program Round One 2021 grant for a Congolese multicultural fashion show that was to be held as a 2021 Spring Racing Carnival Event. However, it was necessary to reschedule the event to 23rd April 2022 due to Covid issues.



This colourful and exciting event attracted 100 attendees who enjoyed a multicultural fashion parade based on traditional styles as well as a range of Congolese dishes. The Congolese community also provided a dance group.



The Honourable Melissa Horne MLA and Minister in the Victorian Government attended and joined CT's President Clovis Mwamba in addressing the audience.



The event also promoted the "Hearts of Women" association which supported the event.

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.

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. This was intended to fund Hobsons Bay residents developing their own digital storytelling projects in a collaborative setting. Commencement of this project was delayed until February 2021 due to Covid restrictions.

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, alternative 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.

The following videos have been produced:

- About Community Tributaries,
- Learn Digital Storytelling in Hobsons Bay,
- Clovis Mwamba – My Story,
- 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,
- Muslim Women’s Council of Victoria preparing food for those in need due to Covid 19.



The completed videos were published on [Community Tributaries YouTube channel](#)¹ and had been viewed over 700 times to June 2022. In addition, several DIY videos were published by individuals, encouraged and assisted by our members.

As a result of the DST project our members acquired the capability to produce creditable videos including:

- Creating storyboards in collaborations with others,
- Sourcing free and paid images and sounds,
- Understanding and working with publishing constraints,
- Editing photos and other supplied material to video formats and standards,
- Using a smartphone (and supporting technology) to shoot videos,
- Using multiple smartphones and computer-based applications to edit videos.

Our members have also learned how manage the CT's YouTube channel and make it available to host and promote videos for others.

The individuals who participated benefitted from:

- Recording their stories for posterity,
- Sharing their stories with others around the world.

The community organisations that participated benefitted from:

- Recording their history and achievements,
- Sharing their culture,
- Promoting their organisation.

¹ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnL6SX_F-DAIry_xKfAjjgg

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 agreed to act as the auspice provider for a \$50,000 grant from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to enable CCO to make a set of health videos.

Creative was unable to meet its original completion date of 31 January 2022. CT entered into an extension of the funding agreement with DFFH to 30th April, but the project completion needed to be further extended until the end of July 2022.

CT wasn't able to support a further extension of the auspice and on the advice of DFFH, transferred the \$50,000 grant funding to CCO in June 2022 (retaining a \$1,000 management fee). This is expected to effectively remove CT's further involvement. However, CT will be ineligible for further Victorian Government grants until Creative's project is finalised.

WESTGATE TUNNEL FUND GRANT

CT members created an informal association, (Friends of Community Tributaries, (FOCT) with an auspice from the Walker Close and Brooklyn Hall Association. FOCT was successful in mid-2021 in its application for a Westgate Neighbourhood Fund - Connecting Neighbourhood Round 1 Grant. Management of the grant has since been transferred to the Hobsons Bay City Council grants team.

This project was to expand the existing garden beds adjacent to Brooklyn Hall, with a food forest consisting of a number of fruit trees suitable for this area. This was to be a community project that combines gardening with regular community lunches, to which speakers on different health related topics would be invited.

However the project has been hampered by the following issues.

- There is another proposed community garden project, “Patch in the Park” at Brooklyn Hall. FOCT’s project to contribute fruit trees to the garden appears compatible but indications are that FOCT would need to spend a significant amount of time to explore cooperation with a number of stakeholders. Time constraints outlined in the funding agreement for the project do not allow enough time for this to occur.
- Brooklyn Hall closed in April 2022 for redevelopment but the works have yet to commence, while the State and Local Governments consider the wider redevelopment of the precinct.
- As a result, all project activities need to be moved to the Walker Close Community Centre.
- If the delays continue, FOCT’s project manager may at some stage not be available to support the project.
- The \$9,740 funds have yet to be transferred by the grants team due to the uncertainties.
- The project manager is in discussion with Hobsons Bay Council regarding proposed changes to the project, with a site visit planned at the end of July 2022. FOCT will propose building a small First Nations garden and a demonstration wicking bed with seasonal fruit, herbs and vegetables while also running related activities such as designing and planting the gardens, visiting nurseries and community gardens, forest bathing, storytelling, cooking demonstrations, etc.

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.