



Ballarat Italian Association Inc. [BIA]
PO Box 167 Ballarat 3353
ABN 21610913173
www.ballaratitalianassociation.org
info@ballaratitalianassociation.org

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Monday 15th November 2021 at 6.30pm

LOCATION

Barkly Square 25-39 Barkly Street Ballarat East
Pot of Courage Café – Ground Floor
Enter from side entrance

1. Present

Susan Clarke, Carla Woodruff, Brian Woodruff, Christiana Michich, Joseph Michich, Kym Procaccino, Dino Procaccino, Max Procaccino, Salvatore Procaccino, Sofia Sarra, Peter Jones, Trina Jones, Isabella Spurgo, Tina Rizzo, Elizabeth Astbury, Kathy Bigarelli, Michael Bigaelli, David Berry, Adrian Morisi, Charlie Tarquinio, Margaret Tarquinio, Helen Sarra, Felicity Sarra, Romina Norello, Sylvana Mitchell, Maura McCabe, Sonya Roberts, Frank Cotronea, Maria Cotronea, Cesare Dichiera, Sally Macarthur Clyde, Evie Dichiera, Sonia Cann, Glenda Cipolato,

2. Apologies

Maryann Morisi, Angela Bigarelli, Armando Sarra, Russell Roberts, Graeme Mayhew, Joyce Mayhew, Georgia Cann, Virginia Fenelon, Rhonda Humphries, Sue Lloyd, Collen Orchard, Peta Price, Margaret Rich, Antonio Spurgo, Mary Loicano, Ugo Loicano, Angelina Procaccino, Alisdair Horgen, Erin Padbury, Gary Trovato.

Moved by Dino Procaccino, Seconded by Helen Sarra.

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Special General Meeting held Wednesday, 24 March 2021.

Moved by Sofia Sarra, Seconded by Felicity Sarra.

4. President's Report

The last nine months has definitely continued to test us all, as we slowly begin to see the easing of some restrictions from covid19. We have had various challenging times, but I can say that the committee of management has not abstained in their endeavours to deliver a viable association to the members and broader community. From the time of our Special General Meeting held in March, the appointed office bearers, have continued to focus on several goals and to date we can say that most of those goals have been achieved. Unfortunately plans for our Republic Day celebrations had to be cancelled and the Three



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Tenor's Tribute Show had to be postponed, all due to Covid19. Lunches at Eureka Pizza and Table 48 were well supported considering the current environment that we live in now. A very successful Ballarat Italian Film Festival in August had over 150 patrons attend the three sessions, thanks to Carla Woodruff who was able to select three outstanding movies for all to enjoy. Once again Show Biz Cinemas have gone out of their way to accommodate us all, and we thank them. The Italian language classes continued under the guidance of Francesca Angeli Urbini, and well supported by Carla Woodruff and Michael Bigarelli, but due to Covid19 many classes were held by zoom. As of Late October, Francesca was not able to continue teaching Italian classes for the B.I.A. The requirements of the mandatory vaccination for essential workers were against her own personal beliefs and moral views. We thank her for her contribution in collaborating with the B.I.A, in introducing and building a very successful Italian language school. The B.I.A is committed in delivering face to face Italian language classes, and is pleased to announce that we have been fortunate enough to engage several tutors to continue with the Italian Language classes under the guidance of Carla. We wish this group all the best and thank them for continuing with the classes. During this term Natalie Athayde administration officer, left due to other work commitments. We were fortunate enough to engage the services of one of our own members, and past committee member, Adrian Morisi who brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the B.I.A. We also acknowledge Alisdair Horgen for his contribution to the committee who has left due to work requirements. Unfortunately, Kym Procaccino who has been a valuable member of the committee will not be renominating for the BIA committee. Her support for the BIA and especially for the Events committee has been most appreciated and we thank her for her input. In this interrupted short period of time, the B.I.A. has been able to support the Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Network with a \$5000.00 contribution for another 12 months. This will assist in providing fresh fruit and vegetables for families in need. A further \$2000.00 has been made to the Forest Rangers Soccer Club in a two-year agreement to support children from disadvantaged families. The work the management committee has continued to achieve is evident in some of the major events that have been planned for the coming months. These will include the rescheduled event of the Three Tenors Tribute Show, Italian Movies on a regular basis, Joe Avati-Comedian, B.I.A. Republic Day Ball, just to name a few. Finally, to the B.I.A. committee, my sincere thanks and gratitude goes out to every single one of you, for the support and commitment you have shown not only to me but for the better of the B.I.A. Frank Cotronea President

Moved by Margaret Tarquinio, Seconded by Kathy Bigarelli.

5. Treasurer's Report

It is with pleasure that I present my second report as Treasurer of the Ballarat Italian Association Inc.

The Statement of Comprehensive Income or in more traditional language, our Profit and Loss report, summarises our financial performance for the year.

Our income for the year from activities run for members is \$20,200. These activities were a dinner at Eureka, Christmas toys, a Cherry-picking trip and tuition fees charged for our language school.



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The cost of the functions, two lots of meal vouchers and our classes are shown lower down on the Statement as Member Function expenses and were \$40,958.

The net cost of the activities provided to our members is \$20,725. The major items being the vouchers at total cost of \$10,834 and the language classes at a net cost of \$6,600.

It is a massive understatement to say that life has been tough during the pandemic but the Committee, to its credit, has been prepared to leverage off our strong financial position and provide activities, functions and meal vouchers for members to perhaps bring a little joy and normality to our lives.

Our investment portfolio generated income of \$37,600 compared to \$36,500 last year. We were fortunate in that our dividend stream was strong enough to offset the historically low interest rates on term deposits.

Our major sponsorship focus during the year was the provision to refugee families of boxes of fresh fruit and vegies in collaboration with BRASSN Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seeker Network at a cost of \$2,370.

Our only other major item of expense during the year was payment for the provision of Administration fees of \$9,700. This relieved the Committee of many of the day to day tasks of running your association allowing them to be more efficient with the time they freely give.

At year end the value of our portfolio in our books is adjusted to equal the market share price - last year due to the pandemic our portfolio was adjusted down by \$115,497, this year, as some sense of normality returned to the market our portfolio was adjusted up by \$172,700, in other words we regained what we lost. The portfolio generated 3% income over the year – much better than fixed interest rates of less than 1%.

Our purchases of equipment were an air conditioner and furniture for our room and 2 laptops.

We are extremely fortunate to have an Association that is clearly in a very healthy state financially. While this does create some interesting challenges it does allow us the freedom to concentrate on providing activities and functions, as you can see from the list of events planned next year, without the worry and burden of fundraising.

Michael Bigarelli ACA

Treasurer

Moved by Cesare Dichiera, Seconded by Elizabeth Astbury



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6. Election of Committee of Management:

Cesare Dichiera advised there were 10 vacancies and 10 nominations had been received in accordance with the BIA Constitution.

Executive Committee Members for 2022:

- President Frank Cotronea
- Vice-President Sylvana Mitchell
- Treasurer Michael Bigarelli
- Secretary Sonya Roberts

General Committee Members:

- Carla Woodruff
- Luigi (Lou) Campana
- David Berry
- Rita Ripani
- Romina Norello
- Sofia Sarra

7. Appointment of Auditor for 2021-2022 Financial Year

Motion: CountPro to be appointed as Auditors for financial year 2021-2022.

Moved by Michael Bigarelli, Seconded by Cesare Dichiera.

8. Other Business

Dino Procacino asked the question about the sale of the land that belonged to the BIA. There has been no further communication regarding the sale of the land. Once the land sells, the BIA will receive funds from the sale.

The BIA Christmas party email and mailout was sent on Monday 15 December.

Joe Avati the comedian performer has been booked for Friday 8 March.

9. Close

The Annual General Meeting concluded at 7.45pm and members were invited to stay for refreshments.