



Ballarat Italian Association Inc. [BIA]  
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# MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022, at 6.30pm

## LOCATION

Barkly Square 25-39 Barkly Street Ballarat East  
Lecture Theatre – Ground Floor

### 1. Present

Elizabeth Astbury, Angela Bigarelli, John Blake, Sonia Cann, Glenda Cipolato, Susan Clarke, John Coco, Frank Cotronea, Maria Cotronea, Cesare Dichiera, Evie Dichiera, Peter Jones, Trina Jones, Carlene Matthews, Maura McCabe, Sylvana Mitchell, Adrian Morisi, Romina Norello, Giovanni Piazza, Dino Procaccino, Kym Procaccino, Rita Ripani, Sonya Roberts, Felicity Sarra, Helen Sarra, Sofia Sarra, Yvette Sarra, Joseph Micich, Christiana Soosai, Tina Rizzo, Margaret Tarquino, Charlie Tarquino, Dolly Spurgo, Antonio Vinci, Carla Woodruff, Brian Woodruff, Christine Ellis, Almando Sarra, David Berry, Lou Campana, Trich O'Donohue, Maria Antonelli, Enio Zelencich, Josie Cudia, Dino Cudia.

#### Online

Michael Bigarelli.

**Moved by:** Helen Sarra

**Seconded by:** John Coco

### 2. Apologies

Confirmed apologies prior to the meeting:

Malcom Freeman, Colleen Orchard, Lynette McClenaghan, Kathy Bigarelli, Julia Moore, Fiona Watson, Brian Anstey, Russell Roberts, Salvatore Procaccino, Peta Price, Maryann Morisi, Ugo & Mary Loi acono.

Confirmed apologies at the meeting:

Antonio Spurgo, Jim & Kazia Iwanowski, John Blake.

**Moved by:** Felicity Sarra

**Seconded by:** Angelina Bigarelli

### 3. Confirmation of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 15th November 2021.

**Moved by:** Elizabeth Astbury **Seconded by:** Kym Procaccino

### 4. President's Report

Frank Cotronea read the President's report as presented in the BIA Annual Report for 2021-2022

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**Moved by:** Cesare Dichiera **Seconded by:** Brian Woodruff

## 5. Treasurer's Report

Michael Bigarelli read the Treasurer's report

**Moved by:** Susan Clarke **Seconded by:** Dino Procaccino

## 6. Election of Committee of Management:

The returning Officer, Cesare Dichiera declared all positions vacant. Cesare Dichiera announced there were 10 vacancies and 12 nominations had been received. 8 nominations received were for Committee Members positions. Only 6 positions available. In accordance with the BIA Constitution, this outlines the need to go to a Ballot vote. 2 people will be eliminated.

The Ballot Votes are as follows:

Name	Votes
Antonio Vinci	44
Sofia Sarra	43
Romina Norello	43
Lou Campana	43
Carla Woodruff	39
Giovanni Piazza	37
David Berry	14
Malcolm Freeman	6

David Berry and Malcolm Freeman received the lowest numbers of votes.

The office bearers were elected as follows:

### Executive Committee Members:

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

### General Committee Members:

- **Committee (6)**
  - Lou Campana
  - Carla Woodruff
  - Romina Norello
  - Sofia Sarra
  - Giovanni Piazza
  - Antonio Vinci.

The President, Frank Cotronea, thank the elected members of the Committee of Management for their re-election and welcomed Giovanni Piazza and Antonio Vinci.



## **7. Appointment of Auditor for 2022-2023 Financial Year**

Jason Hargreaves of CountPro Audit Pty Ltd be reappointed for 2022/2023 Financial Year.

## **8. Other Business**

- Rita Ripani was honoured the award as a Life Member of the Ballarat Italian Association. Her incredible support and commitment to the Ballarat Italian Association is unmeasurable as mentioned by Frank.
- During the counting of Ballot votes, Frank discussed many topics and discussed a few events occurring this year:
  - A sub-committee has been formed which will assist searching for a building property or a room for the Ballarat Italian Association. This will cater for all language classes, committee meetings, and a place for the Pensionati group to socialise.
  - Currently, the Pensionati group is slightly disengaged. Frank and the committee need a clearer vision on what the Pensionati group is trying to achieve within their organisation. The Ballarat Italian Association will offer assistance where possible. The Pensionati group have divided, now we wait for more confirmation with their direction. The Pensionati would come under the Ballarat Italian Association umbrella and assistance can be provided with bus trips, events, administration assistance.
  - Elizabeth Astbury enquired if the Ballarat Italian Association has the available funds to make a purchase or would a loan be required. Frank mentioned funds are available to purchase a property and make it our own.
  - Frank highlighted the films screening at The Regent Multiplex and the film festival earlier in the year at Showbiz Cinema.
  - Dolly Spurgo and Tina Rizzo raised concerns about the expense to attend the Christmas party if you are not a Ballarat Italian Association member. Frank explained the benefits of becoming a member, so, you can enjoy events at a discounted price.
  - Frank mentioned a bus excursion to Bacchus Marsh for cherry picking.
  - Frank went into detail about the Christmas lunch in December. Emphasising the fun filled day the whole family can enjoy. With a jumping castle, face painting, balloon making, Santa's visit, gelato van, pizza van, entertainment all afternoon to be amused by.

## **9. Close**

The AGM was declared closed at 7.37pm.

At the conclusion of the AGM, attendees were invited to stay for some light refreshments.