



Ballarat Italian Association



Annual Report

2014

Ballarat Italian Association Inc.
President's Report for 2013-14

As reported last year the Association was on the cusp of an exciting future. I'm now pleased to report that the sale of land contract was finalised in March 2014 with the first instalment of \$570,000 to be received on the 14th October 2014. Six additional payments to be received progressively over the next two years.

At this point it is my great pleasure and honour to acknowledge the tireless work and foresight of the foundation members to procure the parcel of land at 19 Recreation Road Mt Clear and then to construct the Club premises with the support of a Federal Government employment initiatives grant.

I'm acutely aware of the emotional attachment the Club premises has for many members, in particular those who donated time and money to ensure the success of the Club. However whilst the sale of the land and Club premises is tinged with sadness I sincerely hope that the funds will regenerate the Italian Club whilst contributing to the broader multicultural community in the Ballarat region. It is an opportunity for the Italian Community to broaden its cultural legacy whilst contributing to the rich and diverse multicultural community.


The Management Committee has worked tirelessly during the year to finalise the land sale but also to arrange functions for members. The first function for 2014, held in April, was the Lunch to Honour Founding Members. The Lunch was very successful, attended by over 100 members and special guests, where three new life memberships were awarded bringing the total life memberships to seven. They are Giancarlo Faustini, Carmine Tarquinio, Margaret Tarquinio, Carmelo Nuccio, Aldo Ferri, Vincenzo Rossi and Mario lafrate. Life membership is awarded to a member after a period of exemplary service to the Club.

This year the Association was invited to participate in the Ballarat Heritage Week, organised by the City of Ballarat, with the theme – People Who Made Ballarat. The successful involvement of the Association was co-ordinated by Frances Sensi and Yvette Sarra. They did an amazing job to prepare the display, arrange and record interviews and ensure enough people were available to staff the display.

This year three Committee members will not seek re-election. I wish to express sincere thanks to Peter Jones for his active participation and support over the last two years and in particular ensuring drinks at the bar were served responsibly. Kathryn Steele has been instrumental in coordinating the Italian Film Festival with Carla Woodruff over the last five years and for that I thank her sincerely. Her contribution to the function of the Committee has been invaluable, supportive and balanced. It is also with sadness that Frances Sensi has decided not to seek re-election. In her position as Secretary, Frances brought a high level of professionalism, experience and wise counsel to Committee deliberation. Her overall contribution as a Committee member will be greatly missed.

I also wish to thank other Committee members for their contribution and hard work. In particular Evie Dichiera for mastering MYOB to ensure the financial affairs were kept in order and for numerous other tasks performed throughout the year. Yvette Sarra for her enthusiasm of all things Italian and ensuring functions were well catered and, for co-ordinating the kitchen and brilliantly supported by Felicity, Regina, Sofia and Tim. Tony Spurgo Jnr for his contribution, assistance and wise input during Committee meetings. Adrian Morisi for keeping members informed through the production of the Italian Club News.

Finally, sincere thanks to the members for supporting the Club and Management Committee over the last 12 months. I hope that with the funds to become available the regeneration of the Club will begin, underpinned by a financially sustainable future, increased participation from members of the Italian community and support from broader community.


Cesare Dichiera
President

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2013-14 FINANCIAL YEAR

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the Ballarat Italian Association Inc. for the financial year ending 30th June 2014. The audit was conducted by Jason Hargreaves, Auditor, PPT Audit Pty. Ltd., 20 Lydiard Street South, Ballarat.

Income was derived from Memberships, Government Grants, Italian Film Festival, Bank Interest and Hall Hire totalling \$8,218.00. Expenditure totalled \$22,298.00 resulting in a net loss of \$14,419.00. Current Assets totalled \$1,508.00 and Non-Current Assets totalled \$2,022,179.00. The increase in Non-current Assets being the Contract that the Ballarat Italian Association entered into with a Developer on 17th March for the sale of land and buildings to be realised over the next 2½ years.

Membership Income totalled \$1,905.00 being an increase from the previous financial year and reflects a total of 82 members, comprising 31 family and 20 individual memberships. This is very encouraging and again, a special thanks to Rita Ripani whose enthusiasm for teaching the Italian conversation group has continued to attract a number of new members. Special thanks also to Joe Sensi who has assisted with coordination of 'Il Mio Libro'.

The Association was successful in securing 2 government grants through the Victorian Multicultural Commission: \$1,000 for the Film Festival and \$920.00 support for Organisational activities. The Association is very appreciative of support provided by the State Government.


The Ballarat Italian Film Festival screened 3 films at the Museum of Australian Democracy Eureka (M.A.D.E.) in September 2013, with an excellent response from the public with over 240 people attending. Event organisers, Carla Woodruff and Kathryn Steele, are to be commended on staging another successful Italian Film Festival in Ballarat. The festival made a net profit of \$886.00.

In April this year, the Committee of Management organised a special function to honour the founding members of the Association, and thank all those who contributed to the building of the clubrooms in Recreation Road. The Committee allocated \$10,500 which included the new Honour Board, Life Members awards, music, catering, table arrangements etc. My thanks to everyone who assisted in making this a very successful event.

The cost of maintenance, insurance, rates and utilities, were similar to the previous financial year. The sale of goods, that is, income raised from functions and the bar, showed a small net loss of \$339.00. Members received the benefit of participating in the special dinner in April, and the AGM Lunch in November 2013, as free events.

In conclusion many thanks to all members who renew their membership annually and continue to support the Association by attending functions. The year ahead will provide financial security from the sale of land and clubrooms, and signal a time of significant change.

My thanks to the Committee of Management for their support over the last 12 months, and to members who have taken on projects that promote Italian culture, heritage and language in Ballarat.


Yvonne (Evie) Dichiera, Treasurer.

REGISTER OF MEMBERS: 2013-14 FINANCIAL YEAR

<u>Life Members:</u>	
Camelo Nuccio (& Sherry)	Henk Batstra
Vincenzo Rossi (& Josephina)	Joseph & Frances Sensi
Mario Iafrate (& Mrs. Iafrate)	Antonio & Dolly Spurgo
Aldo Ferri (& Ann)	Guisepe & Maria Angelini
<u>Members:</u>	Charlie & Margaret Tarquinio
Jeanne Wheeler	Lelio & Iris Buczkowsky
Robert Godfrey	Eligio & Pru DiGirolamo
Cesare & Evie Dichiera	Mrs. Maria Antonelli
Maria DeGrazia & Filippo Bozzo	Mrs. Rosa Dawes
Peter & Trina Jones	Bill & Dawn Greiner
Helen Lawson	Frank & Tina Rizzo
Adrian & Maryann Morisi	Rick & Kathryn Steele
Giancarlo & Maria Faustini	Dean & Jan Cinque
Mrs. Alda Bernadeschi	Tony & Katie Spurgo
Maura McCabe	Margot De Deugd
Pirkko T. Peramaa	Eric & Alison Sharman
Gwendoline Blake	Adrian, Jane & Sophie Tinetti
Mrs. Maria Tocchet	Carla & Brian Woodruff
Helen & Armando Sarra	Mario & Rita Ripani
Yvette Sarra	Karen & Ken Sparnon
Sofia Sarra	Loretta Toohey
Regina Sarra	Heather Fryar
Anthony Sarra	Elena Evagora
Felicity Sarra	John & Judi O'Loughlin
Mrs. Rina Campana	Dino & Beatrice Cudia
Elizabeth Astbury	Joseph Micich

BALLARAT ITALIAN ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Sunday, 3rd November 2013 at 2.00 p.m.
At 19 Recreation Road, Mount Clear

1. Present:

Maria Antonelli, Giuseppe Angelini, Maria Angelini, Vince Barbaro, Henk Batstra, Alda Bernadeschi, Gwendoline Blake, Iris Buczkowsky, Leilo Buczkowsky, Rina Campana, Joe Carta, Dean Cinque, Rosa Dawes, Evie Dichiera, Cesare Dichiera, Eligio DiGirolamo, Giancarlo Faustini, Bill Greiner, Dawn Greiner, Mario Iafrate, Peter Jones, Maura McCabe, Adrian Morisi, Maryann Morisi, Carmelo Nuccio, Sherrie Nuccio, Pirkko Peramaa, Mario Ripani, Frank Rizzo, Tina Rizzo, Sofia Sarra, Felicity Sarra, Regina Sarra, Frances Sensi, Eric Sharman, Antonio Spurgo, Isabella Spurgo, Tony Spurgo, Kathryn Steele, Rick Steele, Tony Taranto, Maria Tocchet, Luisa Vanderkley.

2. Apologies:

Jan Cinque, Liz Denny, *Trina Jones*, Maryann Morisi, Rita Ripani, Joseph Sensi, Yin Toe, Brian Woodruff and Carla Woodruff.

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous AGM held on 9th September 2012

The President paid tribute to members who had passed away, Eddo Delloro and Guido Iacono (Il Capitano).

"That the minutes of the 2012 AGM are true and correct"

noting the addition of the names of Henk Batstra and Kathryn Steele as being present.

Moved: Giancarlo Faustino Sec: Antonio Spurgo

4. President's Report:

The President's report was distributed to the members and read by the President. The President thanked retiring members of the Committee for their dedicated work and support during their participation as Committee members. Organisers of the fourth Italian Film Festival were praised for a most successful event as was the Italian Conversation Group's success and contribution. Though the planning process for the development of the land has been slower than expected; it has been stringent and meticulous. The BIA is about to enter an exciting stage as a result of the development and potential cash flow. The President projected the subdivision Plan for all members to see and explained the reason for the realignment of the road which also necessitated the relocation of the Clubhouse within the site. The President responded to several questions in depth so that all could understand the current stage of the proposal and that the Planning Permit was about to be submitted to Ballarat City Council for approval.

"That the President's report be accepted" Moved: Cesare Dichiera, Sec: Rick Steele

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the audited accounts for the 2012-13 financial year with the full report included in the BIA 2013 Annual Report. A question was asked regarding the appointment of the Secretary and Treasurer. Evie responded that at the last AGM, Maxine Bland had declined nomination for Treasurer. She cited the last AGM Minutes that,

"given that there was no other nomination it was agreed that the new Committee would arrange for a Treasurer to be appointed."

The Committee acted on the AGM motion at a subsequent Committee meeting and appointed Frances Sensi as Secretary and Evie Dichiera was appointed Treasurer to fill the vacancy.

"That the Treasurer's Report be accepted" Moved: Evie Dichiera, Sec: Peter Jones

Giancarlo Faustini sort clarification on the appointment of Evie Dichiera as Treasurer and pointed out that it may be perceived as a conflict given that her partner is the President. The issue was raised in view of the substantial funds that BIA will accrue as a result of the land sale and he felt the President and Treasurer being partners and signing cheques may be seen as a conflict.

Dean Cinque explained that a conflict does not exist and these executive positions are often time consuming and generally clubs find it hard to fill.

The President also explained that all cheques and payments are approved by the Committee. He also indicated that a fund management plan will need to be put in place when funds start to flow to BIA from the development.

6. Report on Development

The agreement with the Developer was based on a two stage plan. All heritage, overlay, hydrology reports and traffic studies for the area have been completed as part of the Planning Application to the Ballarat City Council.

There will now be a 27 allotment subdivision to be put to the Ballarat City Council for Planning Permit approval. BIA will receive 50% of the agreed sale price for the 19 allotments and the full agreed price of the additional 8 allotments when the Planning Permit is approved. The remaining 50% of the 19 allotments will be received as each house is sold.

The Developer has agreed to demolish the current Clubhouse as required by the road realignment, and has offered to rebuild it with the same "footprint" area of the current Clubhouse and still retain one acre land area to accommodate parking and a recreation area. It is estimated that the relocation will cost in order of \$500,000.

It is envisaged that the internal area would be improved to include commercial kitchen and flexible meeting rooms with technology built in for User Groups, including the Conversation Group. If the BIA decided to build elsewhere, then another 6 to 8 allotments could be developed, giving the BIA additional income.

The President responded to Members' questions saying much research and discussion had been undertaken, including obtaining the opinions and expressions of interest of potential User Groups. The responses and interest in hiring space in the new building have been overwhelmingly positive from other community groups.

The President indicated that BIA has naming rights for the development and the road and urged members to submit suggestions. These names could honour past Members.

The President also indicated that a tribute function for past Committee members was being planned for early 2014.

7. Election of Office Bearers and Committee of Management

7.1 Election of Office Bearers

Dean Cinque agreed to act as the Returning Officer and declared all positions vacant and called for nomination for the members of the management committee.

Nomination for President.

Cesare Dichiera was nominated by Mario Ripani and seconded by Maria Tocchet.
As there were no other nominations Cesare was declared President for 2013 - 2014.

Nomination for Vice-President

Tony Spurgo (Jnr) was nominated by Antonio Spurgo Tony and seconded by
Tony accepted the nomination.
As there were no other nominations Tony was declared Vice-President for 2013 - 2014.

Nomination for Secretary

Frances Sensi was nominated by Cesare Dichiera and seconded by Frank Rizzo.
As there were no other nominations Frances was declared Secretary for 2013 - 2014.

Nomination for Treasurer.

Evie Dichiera was nominated by Mario Ripani and seconded by Dolly Spurgo.
As there were no other nominations Evie was declared Treasurer for 2013 - 2014.

7.2 Nomination of General Committee of Management Members

Kathryn Steele was nominated by Evie Dichiera.
Kathryn accepted the nomination.

Peter Jones was nominated by Evie Dichiera.
Peter accepted the nomination.

Yvette Sarra was nominated by Cesare Dichiera.
Yvette accepted the nomination.

Adrian Morisi was nominated by Antonio Spurgo.
Adrian accepted the nomination.

Frank Rizzo and Antonio Spurgo were also nominated for Committee Members however the Constitution stated that all General Committee positions had been filled, so they withdrew their nominations. They were thanked by the President.

8. Appointment of New Auditor for the Association:

Motion – by the new Committee:

“That Jason Hargreaves from Prowse Perrin & Twomey, CPA, would be appointed BIA, Auditor.”

Moved: Adrian Morisi Seconded: Peter Jones

The motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting closed at 3.10 pm