



Annual Report



2015

**Ballarat Italian Association Inc.
President's Report 2015**

The newly elected Committee commenced its work soon after the AGM in November 2014 with a Christmas party attended by close to 150 members and friends at G-Place. It is reasonable to report that everyone enjoyed a great Christmas celebration.

The 2015 year started with "Salsa di Pomodoro" demonstration which was attended by a number of enthusiastic members and non-members wishing to learn the art of sauce making. This event was followed by a serve of delicious pasta to approximately 55 members who attended the afternoon lunch.

The Club was invited to participate in Harmony Fest on the 22nd March so we decided to showcase the game of bocce by erecting a mobile bocce court in Deakin Place in the midst of the Harmony Fest site. It was a very popular activity, particularly with the children. Joe had to draw on his teaching experience to wrangle the children into some sort of order so they could all enjoy the bocce experience.

Members have been requesting bus trips to be organised and it wasn't long before a trip to Warrenmang Winery and Resort was arranged. The trip was well attended by members enjoying a free bus trip and a subsidised lunch. The host Luigi Bazzani took the group into his winery and explained how he made his wine by hand. Everyone was able to taste the wine at different stages of maturation.

A small group of keen shoppers took advantage of another free bus trip to Melbourne to do a spot of shopping of all things Italian. I understand the bus was loaded with all sorts of Italian food.

This year the Committee decided to organise lunches at various restaurants to provide variety and, a rest for the few individuals preparing and cooking lunches. The first of the members lunch in the new format was held at Da Vinci Restaurant. The lunch attended by 65 members and their children was subsidised by the Club and provided the opportunity for a relaxed afternoon away from the wet and cold July day in Ballarat.

September saw the screening of the eighth Italian Film Festival with 3 films depicting different aspects of Italian life and culture. For the first time the festival started with Pinocchio - a film for children. Over 200 people attended the three films which were screened at M.A.D.E. Many thanks to Kathryn Steele, Jeanne Wheeler and Evie Dichiera for organising a very successful film festival.

September also provided an opportunity to arrange another lunch for members at Eureka Café. Close to 60 members attended the lunch which was once again subsidised and enjoyed in a convivial atmosphere.

Keeping the free bus trip theme in mind a busload of members headed to the annual Swiss-Italian Festa in the Hepburn and Daylesford area. The bus stopped over at Lavandula where we witnessed a dance performance by the Melbourne School of Tarantella Dance Troupe. This was followed by a short bus ride to Cricket Willow where members enjoyed a few games of Bocce in very pleasant surroundings. The trip home was enriched by piano accordion music and singing.

The Association has agreed to partner the City of Ballarat in organising Harmony Fest 2016. Planning has already started with a number of Italian style performers engaged to perform on the day.

Special thanks to Joe Sensi and Rita Ripani for continuing the Italian Conversation group which has been a continuing source of new members for the Association. This year Ciao Bambini—Italian Language for Children commenced and thanks to Maryann Morisi for coordination and Maria De Grazia for teaching.

I wish to thank Committee members for their commitment to the Association and for their work throughout the year. Thanks to Yvette for coordinating and preparing lunches for member functions and Maryann for her committee work. Both Yvette and Maryann are not seeking re-election for the coming 12 months.

I'm proud to inform members that the Association is in a strong financial position and the Committee has been diligent in ensuring that funds are securely invested. The Committee has also decided that members should receive some benefit and accordingly we have significantly subsidised lunches and bus trips.

Plans are in place for a busy and exciting 2016. Hopefully the projects and activities to be put to members for approval will be supported.


Cesare Dichiera
President 2015

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2014-15 FINANCIAL YEAR

I am pleased to report that the Ballarat Italian Association is in a very secure financial position as a result of the sale of land in Recreation Road. Current Assets, that is, Cash in Bank as at 30th June this year, totalled \$808,865. These funds, invested with the ANZ Bank, have earned interest of \$12,943.00. A further \$600,000 will be received in the 2015-16 financial year, with an amount of \$605,000 due in 2016-17. Cash, stock of liquor, plant and equipment and the receivables outlined above, total \$2,018,452.00 being the Total Assets as shown in the Balance Sheet of the Financial Report (refer to p. 3).

The Income Statement provides a break-down of the income received (refer to page 2):

- Profit on Bar and Function Activities - \$1,899
- State Government Grants of \$700 for Film Festival and \$920 for Organisational Support
- Ballarat Italian Film Festival - \$2,840
- Memberships - \$1,889.00 (65 members in total)

Expenditure for the financial year totalled \$24,918.00, with the major expenses being:

- Member function expenses for lunches - \$7,011
- Legal fees re sale of land and loss on sale of equipment - \$9,196
- Public Liability, Association and Officials, and Volunteer Workers Insurance - \$1,567
- Film festival - \$1,688
- Auditor's fee - \$1,320
- Travel, i.e. Bus trip - \$745


The overall result was a net loss of \$3,727.00 as expenditure was greater than income.

These Financial Statements were audited by Jason Hargreaves, PPT Auditing Pty. Ltd. and staff has assisted in setting up on on-line, time efficient, accounting system.

Without the hall to maintain in Recreation Road, there have been fewer on-going expenses. This has enabled the Association to provide 2 free bus trips for members: Warrenmang Vineyard in April and the shopping trip to Tullamarine in June, as well as subsidising the Members' Lunches. Christmas Lunch and the Independence Day Lunch on 31st May, were very capably catered for by Yvette Sarra and her sisters, Felicity, Sofia and Regina and we thank them very sincerely for their contributions to these events.

An information session led by a Financial Consultant from the Bendigo Bank was held with a number of members, to assist in gaining a better understanding of investment options. This was considered to be a starting point to explore how money could be invested to gain a better return whilst maintaining security over the assets. It is anticipated that a finance sub-committee will be formed in 2016 to develop a secure investment strategy to maximise returns.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Committee Members for their continuing support and their contribution in the language, cultural, social and culinary activities that the Association has provided to members.


Yvonne (Evie) Dichiera
Treasurer

REGISTER OF MEMBERS: 2014-15 FINANCIAL YEAR

<u>Life Members:</u>	Mrs. Rina Campana
Camelo Nuccio (& Sherry Nuccio)	Henk Batstra
Vincenzo Rossi (& Giuseppina Rossi)	Mrs. Alda Bernadeschi
Mario Iafrate (& Mrs. Iafrate)	Sue King
Aldo Ferri (& Ann Ferri)	Mrs. Maria Tocchet
Charlie Tarquinio	Ceare & Evie Dichiera
Margaret Tarquinio	Pirkko T. Peramaa
Giancarlo Faustini (& Maria Faustini)	Peter & Trina Jones
<u>Members:</u>	Jan & Dean Cinque
Judi & John O'Loughlin	Joseph Micich
Dino & Beatrice Cudia	Jan Anderson
Joseph Micich	Jeanne Wheeler
Elizabeth Astbury	Jennifer & Robert Phemister
Pascale & Anna Folino	Antonio & Dolly Spurgo
Adrian & Maryann Morisi	Yin Toe & Liz Denny
Maura McCabe	Giuseppe & Maria Angelini
Joseph & Frances Sensi	Pru & Eligio Digirolamo
Lelio & Iris Buczkowsky	Rosa Dawes
Helen & Armando Sarra	Filippa Bozzo & Maria DeGrazia
Yvette Sarra	Frank & Tina Rizzo
Sofia Sarra	
Regina Sarra & Tim	
Anthony & Tiffany Sarra	
Felicity Sarra	