

Ballarat Italian Association Inc.



Annual Report



November 2016

**BALLARAT ITALIAN ASSOCIATION INC.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday 20th November at 2.00 pm**

**Place: G-Place
102 English Street Ballarat**

AGENDA

1. Present
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 15 November 2015.
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Committee of Management:
Office Bearers:
 - President
 - Vice-President
 - Treasurer
 - SecretaryCommittee Members:
7. Appointment of Auditor for 2016/17 Financial Year
8. Discussion on Activities/Events for next Calendar Year
9. Close

Followed by Afternoon Tea

BALLARAT ITALIAN ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 15th November 2015 at 2.00pm

At G-Place

102 English Street, Ballarat

1. PRESENT:

Peter Jones, Miriam Coyle, Elizabeth Astbury, Barry Henderson, John O'Loughlin, Judith O'Loughlin, Felicity Sarra, Sylvana Mitchell, Richard Sain, Frances Sensi, Noelene Eva-Cincotta, Yvette Sarra, Evie Dichiera, Cesare Dichiera, Jeanne Wheeler, Adrian Morisi, Joseph Sensi, Tony Spurgo Snr., Gwendoline Blake, Dean Cinque, Margaret Tarquinio, Charlie Tarquinio, Aldo Ferri, Johanna Ferri, Carmelo Nuccio, Sherry Nuccio, Eligio DiGirolamo.

2. APOLOGIES. Yin Toe, Liz Denny, Frank Rizzo, Maura McCabe, Rosa Dawes, Vince Rossi, Giuseppina Rossi, Tony Campana, Rina Campana, Mrs. Tocchet, Josephine Antonelli, Joe Birritta, Francesca Henderson, Lelio Buczkowsky, Iris Buczkowsky, Rita Ripani, Gemma Gilbertson, Maryann Morisi, Maria De Grazia, Filippo Bozzo, Trina Jones, Dolly Spurgo, Jan Cinque, Helen and Armando Sarra, Jan & Donald Anderson.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 31ST MAY 2015.

Correction to the Minutes of Special General Meeting held 31st May 2015. In attendance: Gwendoline Blake. An apology was passed on to Gwendoline for this omission.

Minutes were confirmed by Margaret Tarquinio, and Seconded by Felicity Sarra.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Cesare Dichiera read the President's Report, as presented in the AGM 2015 Report.

Moved by Cesare Dichiera and Seconded by Peter Jones, "that the President's Report be accepted".

5. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Evie Dichiera read the Treasurer's Report as presented in the AGM Report as distributed to members present.

There were no questions raised in connection with the Report.

Moved by Evie Dichiera, Seconded by Charlie Tarquinio "that the Treasurer' Report be accepted".

6. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BALLARAT ITALIAN ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED CONSTITUTION.

Resolution 1:

"That section 20 (3b) be amended to *six (6) ordinary members but no less than five (5), each of whom shall be elected at the annual general meeting of the Association in each year*".

After the resolution was discussed, it was moved by Dean Cinque and Seconded by Peter Jones, "that the above Resolution be accepted". This was agreed unanimously by members who were present.

Resolution 2: The following clause be added to Section 32 of the Ballarat Italian Association Incorporated Constitution.

"That the purchase of any capital asset over and above \$10,000.00 shall be approved by members at a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose".

After considerable discussion, a Motion was Moved by Dean Cinque, and Seconded by Barry Henderson, "that the above-worded Resolution be accepted". A majority of members agreed to this Resolution.

7. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT:

The following nominations for office bearers and committee members were received in writing prior to the AGM. These nominations had been seconded and the members nominated had accepted the nominations to the various positions on the Committee:

Cesare Dichiera	President
Adrian Morisi	Vice-President
Jeanne Wheeler	Secretary
Evie Dichiera	Treasurer

Ordinary Committee members nominated were:

Tony Spurgo (Snr), Joseph Sensi, Francesca Henderson and Sylvana Mitchell.

Nominations were called for to fill the two new positions on the committee, and Felicity Sarra offered her services and was accepted.

Moved by Evie Dichiera, Seconded by Joseph Sensi.

There were no other nominations for Committee Members. This position will be filled in due course.

7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR.

Jason Hargreaves of PPT Auditing Pty. Ltd. was appointed auditor for the 2015/2016 financial year.

Moved by Evie Dichiera and Seconded by Peter Jones, "that Jason Hargreaves, PPT, be appointed auditor for the current financial year". This was agreed to unanimously.

8. DISCUSSION ON ACTIVITIES / EVENTS FOR THE NEXT CALENDAR YEAR

Members were provided with a document of Proposed Activities for 2016 and Projects for 2016 (attached)

The meeting welcomed Professor Kler Reeves (Director, Collaborative Research Centre for Australian History, Professor of Australian History at Federation University) to address the meeting about a research collaboration between the Ballarat Italian Association and the Faculty of Education and Arts at Federation University. The purpose of the research is to capture the memories and contributions of Italians to the Ballarat community and the history of the Ballarat Italian Association. It is anticipated that a coffee table style book will be produced from interviews and information provided by members of the Ballarat Italian community including photos and other historical material. It is anticipated that this component of the Italian Heritage Project will cost approximately \$98,240 of which the Association will contribute \$61,800. Federation University will provide an in-kind contribution of \$27,440. Other components of the Project, namely: The establishment of the Italian Choir, Production of a Video of Italians in Ballarat and the Portrait Project will cost approximately \$53,500.

The treasurer advised the meeting that BIA is eligible to apply for grants from The Victorian Multicultural Commission and other bodies to assist with the costs of these projects.

MOTION: "That the members support this Research Project to gather the history and contribution by Italians to the Ballarat Community including the history of the Ballarat Italian Association.

Moved: Cesare Dichiera, Seconded: Adrian Morisi

The motion was carried by an overwhelming majority of members present at the AGM.

9. The Meeting closed at 4.00 pm, and was followed by afternoon tea.

Ballarat Italian Association Inc.
President's Report for 2015-16

Since the last Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association membership has grown considerably to over 150 financial members. I'm pleased to report that the new and expanded Committee responded enthusiastically and set about planning a packed program of events for the 2016 calendar year.

Members have benefitted greatly from the sound financial position of the Association as all events have been substantially subsidised and, in the case of bus trips, paid for entirely by the Association.

This year the Committee embarked on an ambitious project foreshadowed by the screening of the historic film 'Dall'Italia All'Australia' that chronicled the 1924 epic voyage of the Regina d'Italia and its passengers. This was followed up in July when "Italians in Ballarat" heritage project was officially launched with a lunch at GPlace including the introduction of Jan McGuiness, journalist and author, who spoke about the project methodology. The "Italians in Ballarat" heritage project aims to record the stories, memories, settlement and migration experiences of Italians, including their contributions to the economic, social, educational and culinary development of Ballarat, since the 1850s. I'm pleased to report that the project is progressing well and we anticipate a book launch during the second half of 2017. The delicious lunch, at the launch, was prepared by Dolly Spurgo and her family. Close to 100 people including members and the children of past members attended the launch of "Italians in Ballarat" heritage project.

Other significant activities include the establishment of the Italian Choir – Coro dell'Oro professionally directed by Kavisha Mazzella, a renowned composer and musician. The Three Tenors, a major event organised by the Committee, attracted a large number of patrons. Unfortunately we had to turn away many patrons due to the limited capacity of the venue.

This year the Italian Association partnered with the City of Ballarat to organise Harmony Fest – a celebration of cultural diversity in Ballarat. To assist in the Italian theme for Harmony Fest school children from St. Aloysius Primary School, studying Italian, played a central role in adding colour and movement in the parade, dressed in Italian costumes and expertly led by Rosa Voto from the Melbourne Tarantella Dance School. Many thanks to all the members who participated in the parade and assisted with the Italian stall on the day. And special thanks to Maria Antonelli for sewing costumes for the school children performing the tarantella dance, and to Mara Ripani for the pasta making demonstration.

Other events and activities organised by the Committee included:

- Christmas Party at the Ballarat Regional Soccer Centre. Over 130 members and friends attended
- Free Bus Trip to Melbourne Tomato Festival held at the Edendale Community Farm in Eltham
- Subsidised Lunch at La Porchetta.
- Italian Republic Day Dance with the band "Bella Ciao"
- Free Bus Trip to the Casa D'Abruzzo for a dinner dance
- 9th Annual Ballarat Italian Film Festival. Very successful and well attended. Held at MADE.
- Subsidised Lunch at Carboni's Pizza Kitchen. Plenty of food and attended by 60 people.
- Free Bus Trip to Lygon Street Italian Fiesta attended by over 50 people.

Ballarat Italian Association Inc.
President's Report for 2015-16

This year the Committee decided to sponsor the Red Devil's Junior Soccer Academy to assist in promoting the participation in soccer of youth from ethnic background. This is a very important initiative for the Association as it continues the positive contribution Italians have made to community development in Ballarat. The Committee believes that it is essential to share our good fortune to foster harmony in our community by reaching out to new and emerging groups.

As will be reported by the Treasurer, the Association is in a sound financial position. Significant funds from the sale of the property at Recreation Road have been received although scheduled payments have not always occurred in accordance with contractual arrangements. I wish to assure members that the Committee is taking appropriate action to ensure outstanding payments are made by the Developer as the land is progressively developed and houses are sold.

It is with sadness that I report the passing of Vince Rossi and Giuseppe 'Joe' Angelini. Both were members of the Association and regularly attended functions. Vince Rossi was a foundation member of the Association, a life member and a financial supporter during the construction of the building. We express our sincere condolences to both families.

Committees cannot function effectively without dedicated members who are prepared to work and participate in activities. The Association has been fortunate to have Joe Sensi as a committee member for the last two years. Joe has provided selfless support, leadership and astute knowledge to the deliberation of the Committee and the coordination of the Italian Conversation Group. I extend our sincere thanks for his work and contribution to the Italian community.

Also I wish to thank Francesca Henderson for her participation on the Committee. I know her participation has been limited due to her time commitments however her support and enthusiasm for all things Italian has been invaluable, in particular, her input into organising the Three Tenors Show.

Outside of the Committee there are members who work enthusiastically to promote Italian culture and language. Rita Ripani is one such person who has been active in the Italian Conversation Group and Ciao Bambini. We extend our sincere thanks to Rita. Thanks also to Maria de Grazia for her support with Ciao Bambini. It also gives me great pleasure to report that Rita received an award for meritorious service to the community from the Victorian Multicultural Commission in December 2015.

The Association recognises members who have provided exemplary and dedicated service to the Association with a life membership. At the Association's Christmas Party in December 2015, Tony Spurgo Snr and Dino Cudia were made life members of the Ballarat Italian Association in recognition of their service.

Finally I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all Committee members – Evie, Jeanne, Adrian, Sylvana, Filippo, Felicity and Tony for their dedication and support throughout 2016. Committees cannot function without selfless dedication, hard work and vision.


Cesare Dichiera
President

TREASURER'S REPORT 2015-16 FINANCIAL YEAR

I am pleased to report that the Ballarat Italian Association Inc. is in a secure financial position. As at 30th June 2016, the Association held the following assets: Cash Assets \$1,009,733, with Property & Equipment valued at \$4,442 (Trailer, Bocce Court Edging & Printer). The Association invested in Term Deposits that accrued interest of \$22,284, and these funds were used to provide members with many functions and activities over the past 12 months.

A profit of \$682.00 was made from the annual film festival held in September 2015, and attracted a government grant of \$700. 'The Three Tenors' show, held in March, attracted a large audience and made a profit of \$550, and my thanks to Francesca for her time and energy in coordinating this event. Another significant event was the screening of 1924 migration journey from Italy to Australia 'Dall' Italia All' Australia' with music by I Viaggiatori and introduction by Tony De Belfo. The Association received a government grant of \$850.00 for staging this event which launched the 'Italians in Ballarat' Heritage Project.

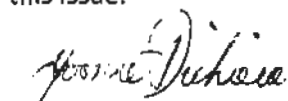
Income from the functions and activities held was \$12,734 and the expenditure \$30,681 (net loss of \$17,947) – Refer to Statement of Comprehensive Income of Auditor's Report p. 2. The functions included Sunday lunches at Da Vinci's, Eureka Bistro & Pizza, La Porchetta and Mr. Rede's, as well as the Republic Day Dance with Italian Band 'Bella Ciao'. All these events were subsidised by the Association, with the Christmas Party receiving the greatest subsidy of \$6,000.

The establishment of an Italian Choir 'Coro dell'Oro' with Kavisha Mazzella leading the choir, has attracted many new members, and reconnected other people who were members in the past. 8 Sessions were held between February and April, costing \$2,800, and the hire of the hall in Neil Street \$120.00. Membership almost doubled from \$1,889 in the previous year to \$3,610.00 in this last financial year. Due to the increase in membership, with many people joining in the first half of this calendar year, the Committee decided to extend the membership for all members through until 30th June 2017.

Harmony Fest was a major investment of time for the Association and involved attending many meetings with the City of Ballarat and other organisations to plan and stage this event. The Italian Association liaised with St. Aloysius Primary School and paid for Rosa Voto to teach Grade 3 & 4 students, the Tarantella Dance. This resulted in students participating in the parade and performing the dance at Harmony Fest. For its involvement in the organisation of Harmony Fest, the Italian Association received income of \$3,000 from the City of Ballarat.

The Association organised and paid for 2 bus trips during the last financial year amounting to \$2,625.00, being the Swiss Italian Festa in October 2015 and the Tomato Fest to Edenvale in February this year. The Association also provided sponsorship of \$500 to the Swiss Italian Festa for the Bocce Tournament which was played at Cricket Willow, and provided an opportunity for club members to play bocce after an enjoyable stop over at Lavandula beforehand. Other expenditure included: Printing & Stationery \$2,450, Legal Fees \$3,337, Insurances \$2,177, Venue Hire \$2,349 and Auditor's Fee \$1,870.00. The overall loss for the financial year was \$4,099.00, compared with \$3,727 in the previous year.

A Finance Sub-Committee was convened this year to discuss options for investing funds of the Association. It was agreed that a diversity of investment options would suit the Association, however in the interim period until funds from the land sale are finalised, term deposits with the ANZ Bank have provided the Association with reliable investment options. As indicated in the President's Report there has been some delay in the land sale instalments as set out in the contract, and legal advice has been sought to communicate with the developer on this issue.



Yvonne (Evie) Dichiera, Treasurer.

Ballarat Italian Association Inc. - Financial Members

Life Members

Carmelo & Sherrie Nuccio
Aldo & Ann Ferri
Vince & Giuseppina Rossi
Mario & Mrs. Iafrate
Giancarlo & Maria Faustini
Margaret Tarquinio
Carmine Tarquinio
Dino & Beatrice Cudia
Antonio & Dolly Spurgo

Members

John Cheeseman
Mr. & Mrs. Buczkowsky
Maura McCabe
Trina and Peter Jones
Elizabeth Astbury
Elena Evagora
Tony & Leanne Campana
Cesare & Evie Dichiera
Jeanne Wheeler
Tina & Frank Rizzo
Felicity Sarra
Armando & Helen Sarra
Regina Sarra & Tim Winter
Anthony & Tiffany Sarra
Sofia Sarra
Yvette Sarra
Rita Ripani
Angelo Fiusco
Joseph & Frances Sensi
Dean & Jan Cinque
Rosa Dawes
Carla & Elvia Arecco
John & Judi O'Loughlin
Mrs Rina Campana
Eligio & Pru DiGirolamo
Gwendoline Blake
Mrs. Maria Tocchet
Cora Hains
Nonnie Tennant
Mandy Nuccio
Giuseppe & Maria Angelini

Tony & Katie Spurgo
Julie & Anthony Cappello
Beth & Tim Lamont
Sylvana Mitchell
Kathy Towns
Mrs. Maria Antonelli
Mrs. Alda Bernadeschi
Pirkko Peramaa
Jan & Donald Anderson
Filippo Bozzo & Maria De Grazia
Henk Batstra
Michael Kearney
Carlene & Jeff Matthews
Sue King
Gaetano Rizzo
Daniele Rizzo
Anthony & Noelene Eva-Cincotta
Joseph Micich
Maryann & Adrian Morisi
Adrian & Jane Tinetti
Richard Sain
Miriam Coyle
Joe Birritta & Melissa Anthony
Gemma Gilbertson
Francesca & Barry Henderson
Jennifer & Robert Phemister
Liva & Christina Dellore
Sonia & Peter Kamaretsos
Michael & Juliette Taranto
Andrew Nuccio
Frank & Mandy Nuccio
Ken & Karen Sparnon
Maxine Trembath
Mara Ripani
Michael & Kathryn Bigarelli
Fiona Watson
Phyl & Peter Graham
Rick & Kathryn Steele
James Thorpe
Bernadette Brouwers
Sandra Lorensini
Jan Brodle
Sharon Mead

Ballarat Italian Association Inc. - Financial Members

Members (Continued):

Glenys & Peter McGrath
Giacomo & Diane Micich
Mariza Bozic
Margot Hamilton
Sam Lynch
Ronda Burns
Corrie Hart
Loey & Robert Moss
Helen Drew
John Macguire
Julie Pittard
Nicolette Petheram
Francesca Angeli-Urbini
Loey & Robert Moss
Jacey Kavenagh
Marcia Spring
Emma Mirabella
Lina Muller
Ann Ball
Peta Price
Heather Fryar
Maria Toomey
Jan Jones
Yvonne Horsefield
Carmel & Robert Young
Elly Rem
Cassie Santoro

Members 2016-2017

Sonya Roberts (Procaccino)
Maria Ann Kornas
Dino & Kym Procaccino
Livio Campana
Clive Stratford
Ann Foley
Alan Pittard
Michael John Faulkner
Joseph & Pat Giuliano
Angela Bigarelli
Stefan Carli