



ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 23th October 2023 | **Open From: 5.30pm** | **Commencing at: 6.00pm**

LOCATION

Barkly Square 25-39 Barkly Street Ballarat East
Lecture Theatre – Ground Floor
Enter from side entrance

AGENDA

1. Present
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 7th November 2022.
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Committee of Management:
 - Executive Committee Members:
 - President
 - Vice-President
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary
 - General Committee Members:
 - Committee (6)
7. Appointment of Auditor for 2023-2024 Financial Year
8. Other Business
9. Close

Following the AGM business please join us for light refreshments.



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MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held Monday 7th 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



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.



President's Report 2022 – 2023 FY

The 2022/23 year has once again delivered our members a variety of events and functions, as we continue to return to a so-called life of normality. It is always a challenge for the committee to arrange events that will please all, but I can say that an enormous amount of volunteer time and effort is spent for the Association by our committee.

With our first event, A Night at The Opera, we were magically entertained by Cosimo Ciccone and Friends. With storytelling through opera and catered with beautiful food and drink from the staff at The Hydrant Food Hall, it truly was a memorable evening. Our annual Christmas function took on a slightly different approach. Families and their children enjoyed themselves with indoor bocce, jumping castle, gelati van, mobile pizza and coffee van, and topped off with a buffet style lunch, all this in the beautiful St Patricks Cathedral Hall and its gardens. Entertainment by Twilight Gypsy and a visit from Santa capped off the day.

The associations, Republic Day Celebrations began on the Friday with a flag raising ceremony in front of the Ballarat Town Hall. Although the morning was fresh, the attendance by so many members and guests quickly warmed up the atmosphere. The support of the Fiat and Alfa Romeo car clubs with their vehicles parked out the front of the town hall, was quite impressive. The Saturday evening saw the St Patricks Cathedral Hall transformed into lights and colour with the Bella Ciao band entertaining some 100 attendees with music, dance, food and plenty of giveaways.

Our movie buff organiser, Carla Woodruff and her little movie scrutineers, had the challenging job of selecting suitable films for two events. The first movie event at the Regent Cinemas, was for the BIA's involvement in the City of Ballarat's Harmony Fest. The showcase movie, The Last Prosecco was very well attended, of course it must have been those attending, were given a glass or two of Prosecco to enjoy during the film. Our second presentation of films, was the Ballarat Italian Film Festival (B.I.F.F) held at Showbiz Cinemas. Unfortunately, the films were not as well supported as in previous times. The inclusion of a children's film, due to requests by members to have, was the most disappointing attended.

A shopping trip by bus to Sydney Rd Brunswick, and a stopover in Assembly Drive Tullamarine, gave some 18 members the opportunity to do some enjoyable shopping, but what else, FOOD. The last event prior to our AGM and held at the Art Gallery of Ballarat, was the Wine and Cheese Pairing, with storytelling by our own language teacher, Cristina. As a first-time event, the number of those attended was quite pleasing.

Our language and Culture Classes have continued to grow. Through the tireless work of Romina, Sofia and especially Carla who has continued to manage these classes, sometimes in difficult situations and with the support of our admin, Adrian, we thank you. Of course, the classes would not be possible if not for our tutors of Cristina Giovannini, Julia Moore and Jessica Ringin.

We have continued to provide assistance to the Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Network and the Forest Rangers Soccer Club, as part of our community engagement. In very recent months the BIA has begun to provide assistance to the Retired and Pensioner Social Members Group, with their monthly lunches and outings.

Finally, to the committee of Sylvana Mitchell, Sonya Roberts, Carla Woodruff, Romina Norello, Lou Campana, Sofia Sarra, Antonia Vinci, Giovanni Piazza, and Michael Bigarelli (resigned Feb. 2023), I truly thank you all for not just your support but the commitment you have provided to the Association. A special thankyou also to Adrian Morisi who has been an integral part of the BIA.

Unfortunately, Sylvana, Carla and Romina will not be nominating for the upcoming board. I wish to thank them for their amazing contribution to the BIA over many years and for the support that I have received, especially my vice president, Sylvana.

Frank Cotronea
President | Ballarat Italian Association