



Victorian Community History Awards 2019

Proudly participating in History Week 2019


Cultural Diversity Award

This award recognises the most outstanding project or publication that highlights the cultural diversity of Victoria.

WINNER

La Nostra Storia
The Story of Italians in Ballarat

Jan McGinness
Ballarat Italian Association Inc, Ballarat


Robert Brown
Emeritus Professor of Military Law, FRCR
Honorary Royal Historical Society of Victoria


Robert Brown
Honorary Professor of Law, RCUK
Public Record Office Victoria

The 2019 Victorian Community History Awards are proudly presented by
Public Record Office Victoria and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria



ANNUAL REPORT

November 2019

Ballarat Italian Association Inc.
President's Report 2018-19

The 2018/19 year has once again provided Association members with a variety of events and functions. The Committee, being mindful of member wishes, has endeavoured to organise activities and functions with a broad appeal. The primary focus has been on promoting Italian cuisine, language and culture and placing the Italian community in a leadership position in the Ballarat community by supporting community groups, individuals and intercultural activities.

On the 26th October 2018 "La Nostra Storia – The Story of Italians in Ballarat" was launched after two years of intense work. Over 240 people attended, with Paul Bongiorno masterfully launching the book with a recollection of memories and anecdotes. The feedback from members has been overwhelming and was hailed as the event of the year for Ballarat. The buzz in the room, in anticipation of reading the personal stories of each family who contributed to the beautifully produced book, was tantalizing, and there were many tears as snippets of individual stories were read out. On the 15th March 2019 the book was launched in Melbourne where over 130 people attended. The launch was well received and 30 books were sold on the night. Many thanks to CO.AS.IT. for providing the venue and promoting the launch.

Almost a year to the day after the launch, "La Nostra Storia" won the Victorian Community History Award in the Cultural Diversity Award section recognising the most outstanding publication that highlights the cultural diversity of Victoria. I can say we are truly honoured to have been recognised for the wonderful contribution Italians have made to the cultural diversity of Ballarat and our State.

I wish to report that the membership of the Association is growing steadily and changing, not only to a younger demographic but also to those seeking to learn Italian or wishing to immerse themselves in Italian culture. To support this trend the Association has been promoting the weekly Italian conversation group, Italian language classes, the Italian choir, and growing the Italian Film Festival. The Committee plans to expand and further promote these activities in 2020. Our growing relationship with CO.AS.IT. has enabled us to attract world class Italian performers to Ballarat with our first collaboration being Lucia Brighenti, Italian classical pianist, who will perform at the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery on 14th December.

It is my sad duty to acknowledge that three of our senior members passed away during the last 12 months. Rita Campana, Maria Tocchet and Giuseppina Rossi, all long standing members who contributed greatly in the formative years of the Italian Club. Later they enjoyed supporting the Club by participating in member functions and events. They are greatly missed.

Finally to the Committee, Frank Cotronea, Sonya Roberts, Kym Procaccino, Mike Bigarelli, Carla Woodruff, Sylvana Mitchell, Rita Ripani & Evie Dichiera. They have worked tirelessly throughout the last 12 months to ensure a variety of activities and functions were organised for members and to ensure the Association has a broad reach into the community whilst ensuring the Italian flavour is maintained and promoted.

As a final comment, on behalf of the members, I wish to pay tribute to Evie and thank her for the work and dedication she has given to the Association as she will not be seeking re-election. Evie has been a continuous member of the Committee since 2002 and has served as secretary and/or treasurer for most of that time. Evie has been instrumental in developing and strengthening the Association and to ensure it is open and inclusive for all members. In the early years of her Committee involvement the financial position was not very secure and it was through her foresight that the Association organised the Buninyong Farmer's Market which provided financial viability for a number of years until the sale of the Association property in Mt Clear. The dedication and support she has provided to many of our older members, coupled with her attention to detail, has enabled the Association to maintain older members and attract new ones. Although she may not serve as a Committee member I'm confident she will continue to play a hand in the Association in some capacity.

Cesare Dichiera

Treasurer's Report 2018-2019

It gives me pleasure to present an overview of the financial position of the Ballarat Italian Association as set out in the Auditor's Report carried out by Jason Hargreaves, PPT Audit.

As at 30th June 2019 the Total Equity was \$1,566,545 as detailed in the Balance Sheet. This comprises: Current Assets of \$1,158,344 and Non-Current Assets \$410,015, less current Liabilities of \$1,814. For explanation of the breakdown of Assets and Liabilities refer to Notes Accompanying Financial Statements (pages 10, 11). In 2018 the Association's Equity was \$1,532,725 therefore there has been an increase in equity over the past 12 months of \$33,820.

The Profit & Loss Statement (Comprehensive Income p.2) shows an overall Operating Loss of \$55,431. This loss is offset by income of \$75,000 received from the land sale, leaving a net profit of \$19,569 (p3). Income comprised of: Function Ticket Sales \$11,230, Dividends \$21,151, Bank Interest \$24,617, Book Sales \$25,800 and Membership Subscriptions \$2,380.

The total expenditure in the financial year was \$144,954. The main expenses comprise: Member Function \$26,135, Heritage Book Project \$65,465, Book Launch \$15,129 and Sponsorship \$6,666. Member functions have been substantially discounted on all events with an overall discount of \$14,905. During the year there were six functions organised for members at a total cost of \$327 per member, of which members paid \$170 resulting in an individual saving of \$157. In addition, members were provided with 2 free bus trips, one to an exhibition at CO.AS.IT., and another trip to Casa D'Abruzzo for a dinner dance in April.

The publication of "La Nostra Storia" spanned 3 financial years, with the cost in 2018-2019 being \$65,465. In addition, the launch in Ballarat and Melbourne cost \$15,129. It was very gratifying that there were significant book sales at both launches with income totalling \$9,835. Bookstores sales were valued at \$8,580 less commission of \$4082. As at 30th June outstanding invoices to bookstores totalled \$2,422. The overall cost to the Association for the Heritage Project was \$133,312 with 210 books left in stock.

The cultural activities of the Association included the Ballarat Italian Film Festival held at Showbiz Cinemas with expenses of \$1,186; the Italian language class \$1,690; and Italian choir \$1,761. From these groups new members have joined with Association and they are keen to continue their involvement, particularly with a focus on Italian educational and cultural activities.

Sponsorship to the Forest Rangers Soccer Club totalled \$3,000 with other recipients of sponsorship being St. Aloysius Primary School \$500 for students learning Italian, and \$1,000 to the grand piano fund for the performance centre at Barkly Square.

I'm pleased to be able to finish my term as Treasurer with the knowledge that the Association is in a very secure and advantageous financial position. I'd like to thank all the committee members, who I have served with over my time on the committee, for their support and wish the incoming committee all the very best with their endeavours. I'm very confident that the incoming Treasurer will do an exceptional job.

Yvonne Dichiera

Life Members

Carmelo Nuccio
 Aldo Ferri
 Mario lafrate
 Giancarlo Faustini
 Margaret Tarquinio
 Carmine Tarquinio
 Dino Cudia
 Antonio Spurgo
 Margherita lafrate
 Isabella (Dolly) Spurgo

Members

Beatrice Cudia
 Gerda Faustini
 Johanna Ferri
 Elena lafrate
 Sherry Nuccio
 Giuseppina Rossi
 Steve Altieri
 Maria Antonelli
 Elizabeth Astbury
 Ann Ball
 Luigi & Athalie Bazzani
 Alda Bernardeschi
 David Berry
 Angela Bigarelli
 Michael & Kathy Bigarelli
 Stephen & Debra Bigarelli
 Joe Birritta
 Gwendoline Blake
 Helen Bloom
 Rose Boquida
 Kitty & Eric Bulic
 Livio Campana
 Rina Campana
 Sonia Cann
 Helen Caruccan & Sandy Anderson
 Rosalie Channing
 John Cheeseman
 Anthony & Noelene Eva- Cincotta
 Dean & Jan Cinque
 Angelo & Robyn Cocomazzo
 Frank & Maria Cotronea
 Vince & Jenna Cotronea
 Antonella Cupello
 Mario Ripani

Malcolm Davey
 Rosa Dawes
 Margot de Deugd
 Claudio & Jenny Dellore

Liva & Christina Dellore
 Cesare & Evie Dichiera
 Tony & Lynne Di Giovanni
 Helen Drew
 Angelo & Rosetta Fiusco
 Pasquale & Anna Folino
 Heather Fryar
 Phyllis & Peter Graham
 Lilia & John Graovac
 Cora Hains
 Meredith & Jack Harvey
 Maria Hodder
 Alisdair Horgen
 John Hynes
 Jim & Kazia Iwanowski
 Trina & Peter Jones
 Jacey Kavenagh
 Michael Kearney
 Mariza Ann Kornas
 Damian Lettieri
 Liliana Lettieri
 Naomi & Robert Lettieri
 Maura McCabe
 Glenys & Peter McGrath
 Carlene & Jeff Matthews
 Craig & Angela Mayhew
 Christiana & Joseph Micich
 Emma Mirabella
 Sylvana Mitchell
 Adrian & Maryann Morisi
 Lina Muller
 Laurie & Rita Nigro
 Andrew Nuccio
 John & Judi O'Loughlin
 Colleen Orchard
 Winston Palmier
 Pirkko Peramaa
 Nicky Petheram
 Julie & Alan Pittard
 Bruna Pomella
 Peta Price
 Veronica Punshon
 Martin Purcell
 Claudio & Lindy Procaccino
 Dino & Kym Procaccino
 Agostino Raschilla

Rita Ripani
Frank & Tina Rizzo
Georgia Rizzo
Maria Rizzo
Tony & Debra Rizzo
Sonya & Russell Roberts
Jason & Louise Rossi

Aaron Sarra
Anthony & Tiffany Sarra
Armando Sarra
Felicity Sarra
Helen Sarra
Regina Sarra & Tim Winter
Sofia Sarra
Yvette Sarra
Joseph & Frances Sensi
Karen & Ken Sparnon
Licia Sullivan

Michael & Juliette Taranto
Nonnie Tennant
Adrian & Jane Tinetti
Maria Tocchet
Kathy Towns
Marina & Greg Veal
Fiona Watson
Jeanne Wheeler
Denise White
Bill Whiteside
Carla & Brian Woodruff
David & Marie Wynack
Enio Zelencich