



ANNUAL REPORT

2020 - 2021

CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
TREASURER'S REPORT
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 15th November 2021 | **Open From: 6.00pm** | **Commencing at: 6.30pm**

LOCATION

Barkly Square 25-39 Barkly Street Ballarat East
Pot of Courage Café – Ground Floor
Enter from side entrance

AGENDA

1. Present
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes of Special General Meeting held Wednesday, 24 March 2021.
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 2021-2022 Financial Year
8. Other Business
9. Close

Following the AGM business please join us for light refreshments.

BALLARAT ITALIAN ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

MINUTES OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

**Held on Wednesday, 24 March 2021 at 6.30pm
Barkly Square 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat East (Lecture Theatre)**

1. Present

Cesare Dichiera, Frank Cotronea, Sylvana Mitchell, Sonya Roberts, Michael Bigarelli, Carla Woodruff, Rita Ripani, Alisdair Horgen, Kym Procaccino, David Berry, Lou Campana, Dino Procaccino, Salvatore and Angelina Procaccino, Margaret and Charlie Tarquinio, Brian Woodruff, Kathy Bigarelli, Angela Bigarelli, Elizabeth Astbury, Bruna Pomella, Armando Sarra, Helen Sarra, Felicity Sarra, Sofia Sarra, Aldo Ferri, Maria Cotronea, Malcolm Freeman, Dolly Spurgo, Tina Rizzo, Judith O'Loughlin.

2. Apologies

Russell Roberts, Trina Jones, Sonia Cann, Tony Spurgo, Evie Dichiera, Veronica Punshon, Trish O'Donoghue, Licia Sullivan, Joseph Sensi, Paul Tant, Laurene Dietrich, Alda Bernadeschi, Kazia & Jim Iwanowski, Ugo & Mary Lo Iacono, Maura McCabe, Adrian Morisi, Julie & Alan Pittard, Erin Padbury, John Hynes, Mal Davey, Yvette Sarra.

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 18th November 2019

Moved by Kathy Bigarelli, Seconded by Elizabeth Astbury

4. Past President's Report

Outgoing BIA Committee President Cesare Dichiera read his President's report as presented in the BIA Annual Report for 2020.

Cesare recapped on his letter to all members dated 17 February 2021, in brief: The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Ballarat Italian Association Inc (BIA) scheduled on Monday 15th February 2021 was cancelled due to the latest COVID-19 Statewide lockdown. The AGM had already been postponed from 16th November 2020 when it is normally held. Notice of meeting and Committee Nomination Forms were sent out to Members in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and Rules of the Association. Cesare re-iterated as per his letter that nominations were received for all positions on the Committee. The number of nominations received did not exceed the number of positions available, therefore voting was not required for any of the positions.

In light of the snap February COVID-19 lockdown with no clarity at that stage as to whether a gathering of members could be arranged to safely hold an AGM in the near future, it was determined to declare the nominated individuals duly elected to the BIA Committee. This decision was made to give the new Committee sufficient time to plan and arrange functions and events for members without interruptions and holdups.

Cesare noted to members present that he had sought advice from Consumer Affairs Victoria (which Frank Cotronea subsequently noted and affirmed he had also consulted CAV).

Cesare commended the contribution of the Italian community to Ballarat. He also acknowledged the dedication and contribution of the BIA Committee over the years and welcomed the new Committee members.

Moved by Dino Procaccino, Seconded by Charlie Tarquinio

BALLARAT ITALIAN ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

5. Treasurer's Report

Michael Bigarelli read his Treasurer's report and audited Financial Statements for FY2020, reporting a strong balance sheet. BIA is in a sound financial position and the Finance Sub-Committee ensures the stability of the Association into the future. The Committee will ensure funds continue to be invested wisely to be available to support future projects and activities.

Member comments raised the issue of franking credits. Cesare Dichiera stated BIA is not registered as a charity or benevolent institution, and advice sought from the ATO two years ago affirmed that BIA did not meet the relevant criteria to change the Constitution.

Moved by Michael Bigarelli, seconded by Dolly Spurgo

6. Presentation of elected Committee:

Cesare Dichiera advised there were 10 vacancies and 10 nominations had been received in accordance with the BIA Constitution.

The office bearers for 2021 are:

OFFICE Bearers

President Frank Cotronea
Vice President Sylvana Mitchell
Secretary Sonya Roberts
Treasurer Michael Bigarelli

General Members

Carla Woodruff
Kym Procaccino
Alisdair Horgen
Rita Ripani
Luigi (Lou) Campana
David Berry

Cesare Dichiera thanked the elected members of the Committee of Management for their re-election. He congratulated the appointment of Frank Cotronea as incoming President and Sylvana Mitchell as Vice-President, and he welcomed Lou Campana and David Berry as new Committee members.

Incoming President, Frank Cotronea, thanked Cesare Dichiera for his long-standing commitment to the Association and its members including 15 years as BIA President, and acknowledged Evie Dichiera for her dedication over many years to BIA's members. Frank also acknowledged Rita Ripani for her commitment to leading the Italian conversation groups for 13 years.

Frank Cotronea reported that the Committee has some key functions such as the Autumn Lunch in April and Italian Republic Day Celebrations in June. Frank noted that the Committee is mindful of costs when negotiating menu costs with suppliers, and elaborated (as an example) on comparative costings by two suppliers for the planned Italian Republic Day event.

In response to a recommendation by Sofia Sarra that it was time to review the Constitution. Frank Cotronea concurred and advised it was timely to review the membership as well. Frank encouraged all members present to express their interest in participating and taking an active role in relevant Sub-Committees.

7. Special Resolution: To review and amend Section 4 of the BIA Constitution: Nomination Fee and Annual Subscription

Frank Cotronea presented the proposed amendment to Section 4 of the BIA Constitution relating to the annual subscription and abolition of the nomination fee, in summary:

BALLARAT ITALIAN ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

- Individual - \$25
- Couple without children - \$40
- Family with children under 18 years - \$50
- Nomination fee of \$10 to be abolished
- Membership fees payable on or about 1st July each year.

There is no discount for Circolo Pensionnati members.

Moved by Sofia Sarra, Seconded by Tina Rizzo / Carried

Sofia Sarra asked how many members were currently registered with BIA:

Michael Bigarelli reported: 66 family, 54 individuals, 8 life members, 8 Pensionnati – 136 in total.

8. Appointment of Auditor for 2020/2021 Financial Year

Motion: PPT Audit Pty Ltd to be re-appointed as Auditors for financial year 2021.

Moved by Cesare Dichiera, Seconded by David Berry / Carried

9. Other Business

A summary of various member comments is noted below.

Armando and Helen Sarra commented about the Circolo Pensionnati: the BIA should fund a grant/donation for funeral expenses for the Circolo Pensionnati; there were three recently deceased members whom they believed had not been acknowledged (by published notices or flowers). Sonya responded that flowers and cards had been sent and shared an email thank you from one of the families. Cesare Dichiera advised that condolence cards and flowers had been sent to the families, but also noted that the Circolo Pensionnati was a separate Association. Sylvana Mitchell also noted that the BIA Committee takes due diligence of members passing.

Aldo Ferri commented that Italian should be spoken more often at BIA forums. The Committee, notably Cesare Dichiera and Carla Woodruff who leads the Language Sub-Committee, responded about BIA's continued investment in developing the Italian Language Program with the engagement of Francesca Angeli-Urbini to promote and deliver Italian Language classes into 2021. It was reported that there has been a demand averaging one or two enquiries a month from people wishing to learn Italian, and the language program was growing in popularity with over 45 students currently enrolled in semester one 2021.

Some members advised the Christmas vouchers from Carboni's had proved unsatisfactory as there was misunderstanding about whether only one could be used at a time. Frank Cotronea and Sylvana Mitchell reported that they already had a review meeting with Carboni's to provide feedback.

A handful of members stated they had not received the nomination forms (which were mailed in mid January 2021) and were therefore unable to submit their nominations. [BIA did not receive returned mail, bounced emails were followed up.]

Helen Sarra mentioned the opportunity to hold an Italian Mass for the Feast of St Anthony at St Alipius Church, Ballarat East – the date proposed is 13 June at 5pm. Frank Cotronea advised the next BIA newsletter would be developed and circulated shortly.

10. Close

The Special General Meeting concluded at 7.30pm and members were invited to stay for refreshments.

Ballarat Italian Association Inc.
President's Report 2021

The last nine months has definitely continued to test us all, as we slowly begin to see the easing of some restrictions from COVID-19. We have had various challenging times, but I can say that the committee of management has not abstained in their endeavours to deliver a viable association to the members and broader community.

From the time of our Special General Meeting held in March, the appointed office bearers, have continued to focus on several goals and to date we can say that most of those goals have been achieved.

Unfortunately plans for our Republic Day celebrations had to be cancelled and the Three Tenor's Tribute Show had to be postponed, all due to COVID-19. Lunches at Eureka Pizza and Table 48 were well supported considering the current environment that we live in now.

A very successful Ballarat Italian Film Festival in August had over 150 patrons attend the three sessions, thanks to Carla Woodruff who was able to select three outstanding movies for all to enjoy. Once again Show Biz Cinemas have gone out of their way to accommodate us all, and we thank them.

The Italian language classes continued under the guidance of Francesca Angeli Urbini, and well supported by Carla Woodruff and Michael Bigarelli, but due to COVID-19 many classes were held by zoom. As of Late October, Francesca was not able to continue teaching Italian classes for the B.I.A. The requirements of the mandatory vaccination for essential workers were against her own personal beliefs and moral views. We thank her for her contribution in collaborating with the B.I.A, in introducing and building a very successful Italian language school. The B.I.A is committed in delivering face to face Italian language classes, and is pleased to announce that we have been fortunate enough to engage several tutors to continue with the Italian Language classes under the guidance of Carla. We wish this group all the best and thank them for continuing with the classes.

During this term Natalie Athayde administration officer, left due to other work commitments. We were fortunate enough to engage the services of one of our own members, and past committee member, Adrian Morisi who brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the B.I.A. We also acknowledge Alisdair Horgen for his contribution to the committee who has left due to work requirements. Unfortunately Kym Procaccino who has been a valuable member of the committee will not be re nominating for the BIA committee. Her support for the BIA and especially for the Events committee has been most appreciated and we thank her for her input.

In this interrupted short period of time, the B.I.A. has been able to support the Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Network with a \$5000.00 contribution for another 12 months. This will assist in providing fresh fruit and vegetables for families in need. A further \$2000.00 has been made to the Forest Rangers Soccer Club in a two year agreement to support children from disadvantaged families.

The work the management committee has continued to achieve is evident in some of the major events that have been planned for the coming months. These will include the rescheduled event of the Three Tenors Tribute Show, Italian Movies on a regular basis, Joe Avati-Comedian, B.I.A. Republic Day Ball, just to name a few.

Finally to the B.I.A. committee, my sincere thanks and gratitude goes out to every single one of you, for the support and commitment you have shown not only to me but for the better of the B.I.A.

Frank Cotronea
President

Ballarat Italian Association Inc.
Treasurer's Report 2021

It is with pleasure that I present my second report as Treasurer of the Ballarat Italian Association Inc.

The Statement of Comprehensive Income or in more traditional language, our Profit and Loss report, summarises our financial performance for the year.

Our income for the year from activities run for members is \$20,200. These activities were a dinner at Eureka, Christmas toys, a Cherry-picking trip and tuition fees charged for our language school.

The cost of the functions, two lots of meal vouchers and our classes are shown lower down on the Statement as Member Function expenses and were \$40,958.

The net cost of the activities provided to our members is \$20,725. The major items being the vouchers at total cost of \$10,834 and the language classes at a net cost of \$6,600.

It is a massive understatement to say that life has been tough during the pandemic but the Committee, to its credit, has been prepared to leverage off our strong financial position and provide activities, functions and meal vouchers for members to perhaps bring a little joy and normality to our lives.

Our investment portfolio generated income of \$37,600 compared to \$36,500 last year. We were fortunate in that our dividend stream was strong enough to offset the historically low interest rates on term deposits.

Our major sponsorship focus during the year was the provision to refugee families of boxes of fresh fruit and vegies in collaboration with BRASSN Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seeker Network at a cost of \$2,370.

Our only other major item of expense during the year was payment for the provision of Administration fees of \$9,700. This relieved the Committee of many of the day to day tasks of running your association allowing them to be more efficient with the time they freely give.

At year end the value of our portfolio in our books is adjusted to equal the market share price - last year due to the pandemic our portfolio was adjusted down by \$115,497, this year, as some sense of normality returned to the market our portfolio was adjusted up by \$172,700, in other words we regained what we lost. The portfolio generated 3% income over the year – much better than fixed interest rates of less than 1%.

Our purchases of equipment were an air conditioner and furniture for our room and 2 laptops.

We are extremely fortunate to have an Association that is clearly in a very healthy state financially. While this does create some interesting challenges it does allow us the freedom to concentrate on providing activities and functions, as you can see from the list of events planned next year, without the worry and burden of fundraising.

Michael Bigarelli ACA
Treasurer