



ANNUAL REPORT

2021 - 2022

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President's Report 2021-2022

Since our last AGM in November 2021, we have all seen the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, which in turn created confidence for our members and the general community to start attending events. This was evident at our Christmas function that had, nearly 100 attendees enjoy a beautiful lunch, and music by Twilight Gypsy at Carboni's.

The Ballarat Italian Association had the pleasure at this event to present Chez & Evie with life memberships to the Association, for many years of service, dedication and commitment to the B.I.A.

January 2022, we welcomed after several postponements, The Three Tenors Tribute Show, to entertain us after much uncertainty on holding events. We were also fortunate enough to engage a well-travelled and known comedian Joe Avati. The night was filled with so much laughter, that it was enjoyed by all. Our Italian Republic Day was celebrated at the St. Patrick's Cathedral Hall, with Ballroom dancers, music by Bella Ciao, and plenty of fun, made the evening a delight. A luncheon at Table 48 was well received were our host Gus ensured that there was plenty of good food, in a warm atmosphere on a wintery day.

The year also saw the Association reconnect with the Ballarat Croatian Club, who welcomed us with open arms and beautiful BBQ lunches, and plenty of opportunities to improve our bocce skills. Unfortunately, we are still unable to come home with a win, but with further opportunities planned with the Croatian Club, there is still some chance.

The Association held Italian movie screenings at Showbiz in the early part of 2022, with the marquee event, Ballarat Italian Film Festival. (B.I.F.F) held in August. Further movies are planned for November to be held at the Regent Cinemas, which we encourage all to attend.

We continued to support the Ballarat Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Network, in providing fresh fruit and vegetables for those families in need. We also still supported the Forest Rangers Soccer Club to assist the disadvantaged families.

Our Italian Language classes continue to remain strong and well attended. Special thanks must go to our tutors, Glenda Cipolato, Julia Moore and Elizabet Astbury for being available and adaptable in accommodating the students, also to Carla Woodruff who has substituted as a tutor when required.

A lot of time and effort has been put in updating and upgrading our membership list, which will eventually make the system easier for the Association to manage. With changes, it does take time so we ask for your patience and understanding, and as always, if you require any assistance, that you make contact with our administration officer, Adrian Morisi.

The B.I.A Committee of Management have worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that our members and the broader community were able to enjoy and participate in what our culture brings. For this I am grateful to Sylvana Mitchell, Sonya Roberts, Michael Bigarelli, Carla Woodruff, Rita Ripani, Lou Campana, Romina Norello, David Berry and Sofia Sarra. Without their support and commitment this would not have been possible, so thank-you.

As my final duty as President for 2021/22, I am honored to present Rita Ripani a Life Membership to the Ballarat Italian Association. Her incredible support and commitment to the B.I.A is unmeasurable, so congratulations and well deserved.

Thank-you

Frank Cotronea

Treasurers Report 30 June 22

After a few difficult pandemic years, the financial year ended 30 June 2022 saw your Association slowly return to operating as it has for the last 39 years...*finalmente!*

Income for the year from our social functions and the language classes was \$32,900. The functions were dinners at Eureka, Table48 and Carbonis, performances by Joe Avati and The Three Tenors, the Italian Film Festival and our marquee event, The Festa Della Repubblica evening of Italian entertainment and culture.

The cost of the social functions and running the language classes, shown in total as Member Function expenses, was \$66,700.

In summary the net of cost (loss) of our member functions was \$17,800 and the language classes \$16,000. The net cost (loss) on the functions is higher than previous years as attendances were generally lower as we eased out of the pandemic. The net cost (loss) incurred by the classes is greater than last year and was caused by a sudden, unexpected and unfortunate need to reconfigure how the classes were taught and managed.

Our investment portfolio and term deposits generated income of \$47,000 compared to \$33,000 last year as share markets returned to normal after the tumultuous pandemic years.

Our major sponsorships and donations focus during the year was again 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 \$4,700 and sponsorship of the Forrest Rangers Soccer Club of \$1,000.

Administration Expenses have increased substantially due to the full year effect of our Administration Contractor.

At year end the value of our portfolio in our books is adjusted to equal the market share price – unfortunately the share market dipped mid year so our portfolio was adjusted down by \$76,900. The portfolio generated a 5% return this year.

During the year our shares in Sydney Airport were sold when its Board agreed to being taken over by a large infrastructure fund. It was outside our control. Post year end the Finance Committee has been reformed to advise on the most appropriate strategy to reinvest the realised funds from this sale of \$139,000. The reinvestment will be consistent with the risk profile agreed to by members after the sale of the clubrooms a few years back.

In June 22 we also received \$25,100 of shares in Woodside Energy as a “dividend” from BHP when it took over Woodside Energy.

In summary, your Association is in an enviably strong financial position.

Michael Bigarelli ACA
Treasurer



Ballarat Italian Association Inc. [BIA]
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 7th November 2022 | **Open From: 6.00pm** | **Commencing at: 6.30pm**

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 15th November 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 2022-2023 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 on Monday 15th November 2021 at 6.30pm

LOCATION

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

1. Present

Susan Clarke, Carla Woodruff, Brian Woodruff, Christiana Michich, Joseph Michich, Kym Procaccino, Dino Procaccino, Max Procaccino, Salvatore Procaccino, Sofia Sarra, Peter Jones, Trina Jones, Isabella Spurgo, Tina Rizzo, Elizabeth Astbury, Kathy Bigarelli, Michael Bigaelli, David Berry, Adrian Morisi, Charlie Tarquinio, Margaret Tarquinio, Helen Sarra, Felicity Sarra, Romina Norello, Sylvana Mitchell, Maura McCabe, Sonya Roberts, Frank Cotronea, Maria Cotronea, Cesare Dichiera, Sally Macarthur Clyde, Evie Dichiera, Sonia Cann, Glenda Cipolato,

2. Apologies

Maryann Morisi, Angela Bigarelli, Armando Sarra, Russell Roberts, Graeme Mayhew, Joyce Mayhew, Georgia Cann, Virginia Fenelon, Rhonda Humphries, Sue Lloyd, Collen Orchard, Peta Price, Margaret Rich, Antonio Spurgo, Mary Loicano, Ugo Loicano, Angelina Procaccino, Alisdair Horgen, Erin Padbury, Gary Trovato.

Moved by Dino Procaccino, Seconded by Helen Sarra.

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Special General Meeting held Wednesday, 24 March 2021.

Moved by Sofia Sarra, Seconded by Felicity Sarra.

4. President's Report

The last nine months has definitely continued to test us all, as we slowly begin to see the easing of some restrictions from covid19. 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



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Tenor's Tribute Show had to be postponed, all due to Covid19. 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 Covid19 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 renominating 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

Moved by Margaret Tarquinio, Seconded by Kathy Bigarelli.

5. Treasurer's Report

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.



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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

Moved by Cesare Dichiera, Seconded by Elizabeth Astbury



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6. Election of Committee of Management:

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

Executive Committee Members for 2022:

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

General Committee Members:

- Carla Woodruff
- Luigi (Lou) Campana
- David Berry
- Rita Ripani
- Romina Norello
- Sofia Sarra

7. Appointment of Auditor for 2021-2022 Financial Year

Motion: CountPro to be appointed as Auditors for financial year 2021-2022.

Moved by Michael Bigarelli, Seconded by Cesare Dichiera.

8. Other Business

Dino Procacino asked the question about the sale of the land that belonged to the BIA. There has been no further communication regarding the sale of the land. Once the land sells, the BIA will receive funds from the sale.

The BIA Christmas party email and mailout was sent on Monday 15 December.

Joe Avati the comedian performer has been booked for Friday 8 March.

9. Close

The Annual General Meeting concluded at 7.45pm and members were invited to stay for refreshments.