

NEWSLETTER

April 2025



A message from your President

Buona Pasqua -well a belated Happy Easter!! Mi dispace!

Well as always, the year has started off with some wonderful events. The one that is a great achievement is our Life Member Dino Cudia who recently celebrated his 100th birthday. What a milestone to have reached. Mr Cudia is enjoying life and ageing well. He attends the RAP group and enjoys interacting with the community.

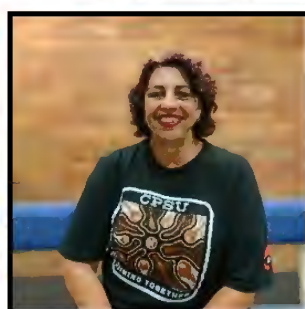


Pasta and Passata was a great success, and we gained a family membership from the event.

Also, the cooking class that Donato taught was well received and again delivered the Association some new members.

We were able to be a part of the Barkly Square Open Day this year which was encouraging as it demonstrated that the broader community wanted to see what the BIA was all about.

Tombola and Kids Club continue this year, being held twice each school term.



BIA Committee 2024/2025

President
Sofia Sarra

Vice President
Josh Bedson

Secretary
Felicity Sarra

Treasurer
Malcolm Freeman

Committee
Christiana Micich
Tina Rizzo,
Melissa Bedson
Donato Pentassuglia
Virginia Fenelon
Nadia Farrell

Administration Assistant
Angela Bigarelli
0492 938 828

Un messaggio dal vostro Presidente

Buona Pasqua - beh, una Buona Pasqua in ritardo!! Mi dispace!

Come sempre, l'anno è iniziato con eventi meravigliosi. Quello che rappresenta un grande traguardo è il nostro Socio a Vita Dino Cudia, che ha recentemente festeggiato il suo 100° compleanno. Che traguardo raggiunto! Il signor Cudia si sta godendo la vita e invecchia bene. Frequenta il gruppo RAP e ama interagire con la comunità.

Pasta e Passata è stato un grande successo e grazie all'evento abbiamo ottenuto un'iscrizione familiare.

Inoltre, il corso di cucina tenuto da Donato è stato molto apprezzato e ha portato nuovamente nuovi membri all'Associazione.

Quest'anno abbiamo potuto partecipare all'Open Day di Barkly Square, il che è stato incoraggiante perché ha dimostrato che la comunità più ampia voleva vedere di cosa si occupa la BIA.

Tombola e il Kids Club continuano quest'anno, con due appuntamenti ogni quadrimestre.

Language classes have commenced again this year with 7 classes. Thank you to our teachers, Francesca, Judi and Fancesco and our newly appointed language coordinator Angela Bigarelli.

Please ensure that you book early for the **Festa della Repubblica Italiana** which is to be held on the 1st of June. We also hope to have a flag raising ceremony on 2nd of June at the Intercultural Garden in Sturt St (near City Oval). This is yet to be confirmed.

PLEASE "SAVE THE DATE" for the 50th Anniversary of the BIA - DATE: Saturday 18th of OCTOBER.

Thank you to those that have provide support to all events thus far this year.

I hope to see you all soon.

Ciao

Sofia Sarra

I corsi di lingua sono ricominciati quest'anno con 7 lezioni. Grazie ai nostri insegnanti Francesca, Judi e Fancesco e alla nostra nuova coordinatrice linguistica Angela Bigarelli.

Assicuratevi di prenotare per tempo per la **Festa della Repubblica Italiana** che si terrà il 1° giugno. Speriamo anche di poter organizzare una cerimonia di alzabandiera il 2 giugno presso l'Intercultural Garden in Sturt Street (vicino al City Oval). La data è ancora da confermare.

SEGNATEVI LA DATA per il 50° anniversario del BIA - DATA: sabato 18 ottobre.

Grazie a tutti coloro che hanno supportato tutti gli eventi di quest'anno.

Spero di vedervi tutti presto.

Ciao

Sofia Sarra



SAVE THE DATE—2025

Friday 16th May—Tombola, Barkly Square

Saturday 17th May—Kids Club, Barkly Square

Sunday 1st June—Festa della Repubblica Luncheon, Carbonis

Friday 27th June—Tombola, Barkly Square

Saturday 28th June—Kids Club

Saturday 19th July—Kids Club

Saturday 26th July—Cuciniamo Insieme (Arancini/Zeppole)

Saturday 20th September—Kids Club

Sunday 5th October—Annual General Meeting

Saturday 18th October—BIA 50 year celebration

Saturday 25th October—Cuciniamo Insieme (Risotto alla Milanese/Torta Mimosa)

Friday 31st October—Tombola

Saturday 8th November—Kids Club

Friday 28th November—Tombola

Sunday 7th December —Christmas Lunch, Eureka Bistro

These events are subject to change, please refer to Facebook, Instagram and the BIA Website for updates.



Festa Della Repubblica Italiana

SUNDAY 1ST JUNE 2025

CARBONI'S ITALIAN KITCHEN

150 EUREKA STREET

11.30 AM - 3.00 PM

4 COURSE MEAL

RAFFLES - LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

KIDS PASS THE PARCEL



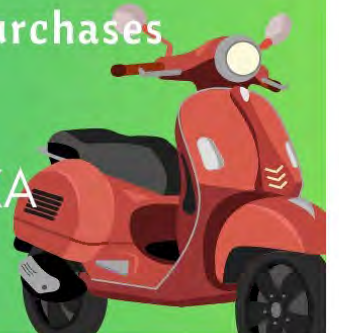
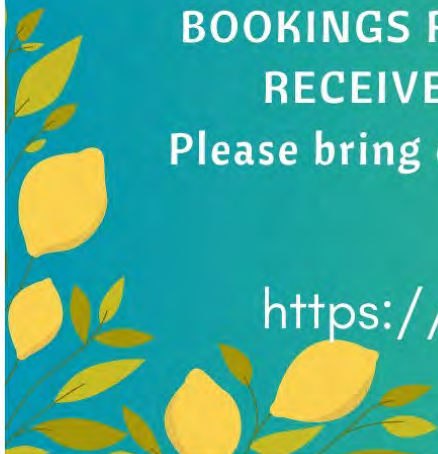
**MEMBERS: ADULTS \$40
CHILDREN 12 & ABOVE \$40
U/12 FREE**

**NON MEMBERS: ADULTS \$60
CHILDREN 12 & ABOVE \$60
U/12 FREE**

**BOOKINGS RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE 1ST MAY WILL
RECEIVE A FREE TICKET INTO THE RAFFLE
Please bring cash on the day for any ticket purchases**

Trybooking:

<https://www.trybooking.com/DBAKA>



Pasta & Passata

Another fun day as part of the City of Ballarat's Harmony Fest Week. Donato demonstrated Pasta and Passata making then everyone had the opportunity to make their own pasta, which was a bit of fun.



Once the pasta was cooked we all enjoyed a beautiful plate for lunch and got to sample four different types of Sugo, thanks to Dolly Spurgo, Nadia Farrell, Helen Sarra and Donato.

New members Fiona and Davide Parenti attended on the day with Davide's mother who was visiting us from Italy. Marina joined in the pasta making and had a wonderful day. During her stay in Ballarat she also attended RAP and was made feel very welcomed by the group.





TOMBOLA

★ EYES DOWN AT
5.45 P.M. ★

Practice your Italian whilst having a bit of fun and enjoying a wine and some nibbles.

5.30 p.m. for eyes down at 5.45 p.m. Sharp

THIS EVENT IS FREE & ALL WELCOME

Please RSVP to events@ballaratitalianassociation.org

Friday 16th May

Friday 27th June

Friday 31st October

Friday 28th November

Room 213, Barkly Square

Ballarat Italian Association Inc.
Phone: 0492 928 828

Language & Cultural Classes

Language classes for Term 2 will commence on Monday 12th May with a new Beginners Class being added. Since taking over the Co-ordinators role I have been blown away by the amount of weekly enquiries for classes we receive. We try and accommodate everyone but sometimes it is a little difficult when levels of learning vary.



At this stage we have approx. 50 students enrolled in 7 classes over 4 nights. Our Students are very lucky to have the expertise of our 3 amazing teachers.

Language Classes in 2025 will run for 8 weeks each term and commence on the following Mondays.

Monday 12th May to Thursday 3rd July

Monday 28th July to Thursday 18th September

Monday 20th October to Thursday 11th September

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Intermediate 2 5.45 to 7.00 pm	Intermediate 1 5.15 to 6.30 pm	Beginners 1 6.00 to 7.15 pm	Intermediate 1 5.15 to 6.30 pm
Beginners 7.15 to 8.30 pm	Beginners 1 6.45 to 8.00 pm		Beginners 2 6.45 to 8.00 pm

ITALIAN KIDS CLUB

The Italian Kids Club kicked off the year with the Festa Degli Aquiloni Kite Festival at Victoria Park. Kids had a great time making and flying kites and families braved the wild weather while enjoying Donato's homemade panzerotti.

We're very grateful to the BIA for providing the Barkley Square room for our regular catch ups. We've had wonderful feedback from families that it's been great for the kids to catch up with friends and enjoy their shared Italian heritage and language.



The kids have said their favourite thing about kids club is the snacks, friends and balloons. We look forward to the second half of the year and we'd love to see kids club grow. We'd encourage members to share the word about kids club with their families and grandkids.

Cuciniamo Insieme

Lots of laughter and good food, what more could those that attended our latest Cooking Class ask for. It is so lovely to walk into the Kitchen at Barkly Square and see everyone working together as a team and producing some amazing food under the guidance of our very own Donato. We also signed up two new families on the day. One of the nice things about our Cooking Classes is that all students sit together at the end of the day and enjoy the fruits of the labour. Students made Gnocchi with Pumpkin, Sage & Pecorino Cheese as well as Cannoli Siciliani with Pistachio and Orange filing.

Our next class will be held on **Saturday 26th July** featuring Arancini Siciliani with piselli e ragu di maiale e mozzarella (Arancini with peas, mozzarella cheese & a pork sauce). Arancini with pomodoro e mozzarella (Arancini with a tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese) as well as Zeppole di San Giuseppe (Fathers Day Cake). A link to try booking will be sent out over the coming weeks.





This year marks 50 years since the Ballarat Italian Association was formed. Haven't we come along way since those days back at the Ballarat Showgrounds. In order to celebrate such a wonderful milestone, we will be holding a special Dinner Dance function on Saturday 18th October at the Victoria Bowling Club.

A Flyer will go out in the next couple of months with details regarding bookings etc.

In the meantime, we ask that you reach out to any previous Committee and/or Members who you still have contact with but are no longer part of the Club. We would like to see as many people as possible come together on the 18th October and celebrate in style. The night will be a reunion of such with lots of stories to be told.

If you have any old photos from Dances or Functions held in the past you are more than welcome to email them through to the BIA email:

info@ballaratitalianassociation.org



Barkly Square Open Day

On Saturday 29th March Barkly Square held an Open Day for all tenants to showcase what services they provide to the Community. The day was very well attended. The BIA had a table set up outside our room plus Kids Club was also on. A lot of people stopped, asked questions, had a little sample of home made focaccia (thanks Sofia) and possibly a chocolate !!!! A booklet on all of our current activities was provided for anyone interested as well as membership forms and copies of La Nostra Storia. We have signed up more members from the day and also some enquiries relating to our Language Classes.

Thank you to Committee Members Felicity Sarra, Nadia Farrell, Malcolm Freeman, Melissa Bedson and Josh Bedson for being the faces of the BIA on the day.



2025 Flag Raising Ceremony

We are pleased to confirm that the City of Ballarat will be holding a flag raising ceremony to recognise Italian Republican Day on Monday 2nd June.

This event will take place at the Intercultural Gardens situated on the Corner of Sturt and Pleasant Streets at 10.00 a.m.

All members are most welcome to attend.





ITALIAN KIDS CLUB

The Italian Kids Club is a wonderful opportunity for parents and their children to enjoy Italian Language and Culture, providing an opportunity for socialising and having fun.

All parents and children are welcome who are interested in the Italian Language and Culture.

Children will need a parent with them during their time at the Club. You only need to bring yourself, however if you'd like to share any Italian books, songs or games, please bring them with you.

Saturday 17th May

Saturday 28th June

Saturday 19th July

Saturday 20th September

Saturday 8th November

Barkly Square - Room 213, Level 1
25-39 Barkly Street Ballarat

To Book please TXT Melissa on 0438 419 981

Do we have your correct details ??

So you don't miss out on any news or events from the BIA please make sure that if your email address, mobile number or physical address changes that you contact our Administration Officer.



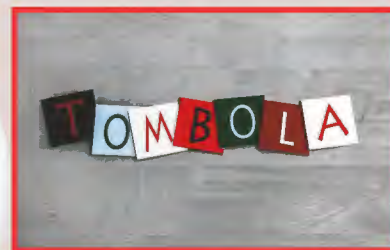
RETIRED & PENSIONERS GROUP (RAP)

Tombola is held every Tuesday at 1.00 p.m. at the Ballarat Community Health Cooida Centre—10 Learmonth Road, Wendouree Vic 3355.

Please contact **Helen Sarra on 0409 862 138** for any enquiries you have with regards to RAP and their activities.

La tombola si svolge ogni martedì alle ore 13:00. presso il Ballarat Community Health Cooida Centre—10 Learmonth Road, Wendouree Vic 3355.

Si prega di contattare Helen Sarra allo 0409 862 138 per qualsiasi domanda relativa al RAP e alle sue attività.



The first Monday of each month members are welcome to attend lunch at the North Ballarat Sports Club.

Latest News

RAP have certainly been very busy since the start of 2025.

As well as their monthly luncheon at North Ballarat the group has also had a fish and chip luncheon with the Wendouree Seniors group, attended a free movie held at the Sebastopol Library and went on a bus trip to Chocolateria which included a smorgasbord luncheon.



Pasta and Passata saw some of the RAP group attend and participate in Pasta and Passata making. The Ageing Well Team have recently held at the Sebastopol Library a Liberation Day movie. The screening of 'Iris', a documentary based on the life of fashion icon and businesswoman Iris Apfel, I do hope the RAP members that attended dressed in bright colours and enjoyed the movie.



Visitors from Italy, Anna and Marina joined in with group activities whilst visiting from Italy but have now both returned home.

BIA ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

A reminder that this is a part time role.

If you wish to speak to Angela, our Admin. Officer, she is available on the phone each Monday and Tuesday between the hours of 2.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m..

Alternatively either leave a message or email

info@ballaratitalianassociation.org



La Nostra Storia
THE STORY OF
ITALIANS IN BALLARAT



Do you ever wonder how the
BIA came to be ?

The families that helped shape the Italian
Community in Ballarat ?

The answers to these questions and other
interesting facts can be found in this wonderful
publication.

**\$65 per copy, available by contacting the
BIA on 0492 938 828**



BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

*Do you have family or friends that would like to become a member/s of
the Ballarat Italian Association ?? You do not have to be Italian to join.*

*Benefits include: discounted member prices for all events, Italian
Language Classes at a special members rate, social gatherings etc.,*

Contact the BIA today info@ballaratitalianassociation.org

0492 938 828

THE BALLARAT ITALIAN ASSOCIATION (BIA)

A: ROOM 213 LEVEL 1, 25-39 BARKLY STREET, BALLARAT, VIC 3350

P: PO BOX 167, BALLARAT VIC 3353

M: 0492 938 828

E: [INFO@BALLARATITALIANASSOCIATION.ORG](mailto:info@ballaratitalianassociation.org)

WWW.BALLARATITALIANASSOCIATION.ORG