

NEWSLETTER

January 2025



A message from your President

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2025. The committee and I hope you have been able to relax with family and friends over the Christmas and New Year period.

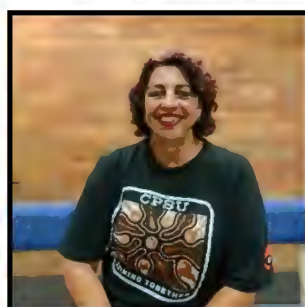
As you can see from the "Save the Date" section of this newsletter there are lots of activities scheduled for this year. We hope you are able to come along to some of these events.

2025 marks 50 years of the BIA and we will be holding a special function to celebrate this amazing milestone in October.

Sharing a meal, a game, a laugh and perhaps even a song while cooking together are all elements that continue to promote the ideals of Italian life and family.

Everyone is welcome, see you all soon.

Sofia Sarra



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

Benvenuti alla nostra prima newsletter per il 2025. Insieme con il comitato spero che abbiate potuto riposare con la famiglia e gli amici durante il periodo di Natale e Capodanno.

Come potete vedere dalla sezione "Save the Date" di questa newsletter sono tantissime le attività in programma per quest'anno. Ci auguriamo che possiate partecipare ad alcuni di questi eventi.

Il 2025 segna i 50 anni della BIA e ad ottobre terremo una funzione speciale per celebrare questo straordinario traguardo.

Condividere un pasto, un gioco, una risata e forse anche una canzone mentre cuciniamo insieme sono tutti elementi che sfruttiamo per promuovere gli ideali della vita e della famiglia italiana.

Tutti sono i benvenuti, a presto.

Sofia Sarra



Uprising Cup

What a day!

Russel Square was a buzz with Irish and Italian athletes who came together to honour a relationship forged on the Goldfields 170 years ago.

The Uprising Cup was hard fought, both teams brought their A Games.

The Gaelic Footy match was well supported by mixed teams playing in the October sunshine. I believe the result was a draw????!!!!???? The

Gaelic team won!

The Soccer match really tested the Irish players, as it is a totally different style of game. The Italians won this match-hands down. Both teams played each code with a positive attitude.

A special mention to the Ballarat Croation Association, Gordon Football Netball Club and Ballarat City Womens Soccer Team for sourcing players for the event. A big thank you to all

committee members that attended on the day and supported the event. Thanks to St Johns Ambulance and Snack On as well as the Lion Clubs.

The Uprising Cup sits in room 213 for the first half of 2025 and will then be handed over to the Ballarat and District Irish Association.





BOCCE DAY

Sunday 16th February



2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Entry Fee: \$5

Children U/14 Free

Antipasto Platters - Drinks at Bar Prices

Book via Trybooking:

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

Australian Croation Association- Ballarat
612 Kline Street, Ballarat East

Language & Cultural Classes

2024 has been another very successful year as far as our Language & Cultural Classes are concerned. We have had a record number of student enrolment, from people wishing to learn Italian for travel, to reconnect with their Italian Heritage and some just to learn another language.



A big thank you to Francesco, Judy and Tiziana for their dedication to students and classes for the 2024 year.

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

Monday 10th February to Thursday 3rd April

Monday 12th May to Thursday 3rd July

Monday 28th July to Thursday 18th September

Monday 20th October to Thursday 11th September

The BIA would like to welcome back Francesca Angeli Urbini who will be teaching two classes on a Monday. Angela Bigarelli will be taking over the coordinating of classes for 2025 as part of her Administration role.



SAVE THE DATE—2025



Friday 7th February—Tombola, Barkly Square

Saturday 15th February—Kids Club, Barkly Square

Sunday 16th February-Bocce Day, Croatian Club Rooms

Saturday 15th March—Pasta, Passata & Lunch (Harmony Festival) Barkly Square

Friday 21st March-Tombola, Barkly Square

Saturday 29th March - Kids Club, Barkly Square

April—Special General Meeting (Constitution Discussion)

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 18th October—BIA 50 year celebration

Sunday —Christmas Lunch

These events are subject to change, please refer to Facebook, Instagram



Cuciniamo Insieme

Lots of laughter and good food, what more could you ask for.

A lovely group gathered to experience some Christmas Cooking earlier in December. The menu consisted of Tortellini in Brodo and Tronchetto di Natale.



Expertly lead by Donato, the group learnt the art of making pasta, filling and shaping to create tortellini.



Life Member Rita Ripani is pictured above passing on her knowledge to some of the children in attendance. Thank you to Christiana, Guillianio and Michael for their assistance on the day.

At the end of the day all students sat down together to enjoy the fruits of their labour.





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 7th February

Friday 21st March

Friday 16th May

Friday 27th June

Room 213, Barkly Square

Ballarat Italian Association Inc.
Phone: 0492 928 828

BRMC 25th Anniversary and Christmas Celebrations

It's lovely to see our members get involved in the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc. (BRMC) functions.



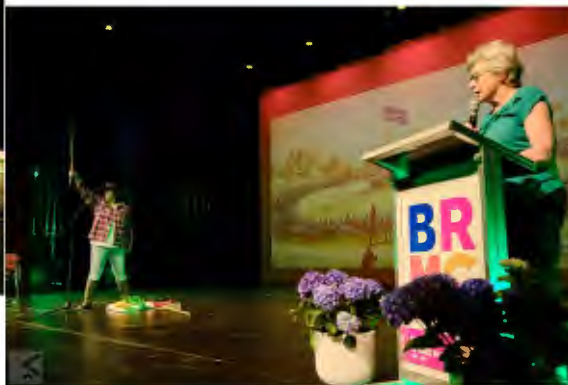
Members were spotted at the last Multicultural Tucker luncheon for 2024 as well as the BRMC's 25 year celebration and Christmas lunch.



Thank you to Sofia and Virginia for representing the BIA at the 25 year celebrations with a skit based



around the History of the Eureka Uprising, demonstrating how different cultures have shaped our city's story.



During Seniors Month (October), Life Member, Rita Ripani, was nominated by Helen Sarra for the City of Ballarat, Seniors Award Ageing Well. This nomination was endorsed by the BIA Present Sofia Sarra. Unfortunately Rita didn't win the award but was a finalist and presented at the Town Hall back in December with a certificate to acknowledge her nomination. Rita was joined on the day by her daughter Mara and friends.



Approximately 60 members and their families gathered late in November to celebrate Christmas at Inglenook Dairy Dunnstown. The weather gods looked after us and everyone had a fun day with Bocce and other games to entertain.

Thank you to Laura Boselli Artwork for her wonderful display and to those who participated in the competition centred around finding objects amongst the paintings. Josh did a wonderful job attempting to fill out the "Santa Suite". The kids all received a lovely gift from Santa and some choccies.



Do we have your correct details ??

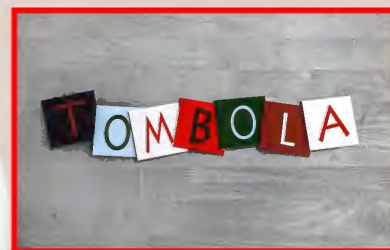
So you don't miss out on any news or events from the BIA please make sure that if your email address, mobile number or physical address changes that you contact our Administration Officer.



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

2024 finished off another fun year for our RAP group lead by the wonderful Helen Sarra. RAP members did a reverse Advent Calendar and it was finalised at our Christmas Break Up luncheon held at the Golf House Hotel. Members also attended a free breakfast at the Eureka Centre in December and were lucky enough to have a tour of the archives room which holds the Carboni Book. It happened to be on display and members were given a wonderful insight into the Eureka Story. Anna, a visitor from Italy, joined the group for Tombola and Panini whilst in Ballarat.

RAP will recommence on Tuesday 28th January 2025.

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 Friday between the hours of 2.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m..

Alternatively either leave a message or email

info@ballaratitalianassociation.org





ITALIAN KIDS CLUB

The Italian Kids Club will be an 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.

2025 DATES:

Saturday 15th February

Saturday 29th March-(Barkly Square Open Day)

Saturday 17th May

10.00 a.m. - Level 1

Room 213 Barkly Square

ITALIAN KIDS CLUB

We want to say a huge thank you to all the families that attended the Italian Kids Club in 2024. We had a great mix of families that have recently moved here from Italy, families continuing their connection to Italian heritage and families interested in Italian culture.



A huge thanks to committee and community members that helped make the kids club possible.

Most importantly, the kids had a great time, playing games and activities, reading Italian books and songs.



We look forward to kids club in 2025!

In December 2024 the BIA hosted a group of members from the Avondale Heights & East Keilor Residents Association Inc.. They travelled to Ballarat by coach and enjoyed lunch at Carboni's Italian kitchen then a lecture at Barkly Square presented by Dr. Ivano Ercole about "La Barricata di Eureka" Raffaello Carboni. Our members who



L-R: Cav. Frank Di Blasi, Sofia Sarra—President BIA & Dr. Ivano Ercole

attended the lecture said it was a very entertaining afternoon !!

Cav. Frank Di Blasi OAM sent a thank you email to our President and it reads as follows:

"I would like to thank you very much for your assistance and collaboration in making our visit to Ballarat a truly wonderful and significant educational experience for all of us. Please pass on our regards also to all Committee Members of your Association as we look forward in the new year, as I have been requested by my associations members to visit Ballarat again in 2025."



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