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85TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

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VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Rocco Lumbaca

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Mrs Morena Strano

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Mrs Christine Madaschi, Mr Pat Luca,
Mr Nick Agostino

LADIES COMMITTEE 2018 - 2019



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Gene Koltasz and Joe Radici

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Sal Vallelonga, Nic Agostino, Frank Romano,
Larry Cipriani, Tony Vallelonga,
Pat Luca and Robert Gesmundo

Thank you

THE PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO SINCERELY
THANK MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE CLUB WHO HAVE
DONATED THEIR TIME AND SERVICES IN ASSISTING THE CLUB
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. YOUR HELP IS SINCERELY
APPRECIATED AND IS VALUED BY ALL MEMBERS.

Condolences

THE PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE EXPRESS THEIR
SYMPATHY TO ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO
IN THE LAST YEAR HAVE SUFFERED
THE LOSS OF THEIR LOVED ONES.

Condoglianze

IL PRESIDENTE E COMITATO, VOGLIONO ESPRIMERI
LE PIÙ SENTITE CONDOGLIANZE A TUTTI FAMILIARI DEI
SOCI CHE NELL'ULTIMO ANNO, SONO STATI ADDOLARATI
DALLA PERDITA DEI LORO CARI.

AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Will be held on **Friday 18 October 2019**
at 6pm in the Members Bar of the WA Italian
Club, followed by light refreshment
and drinks for members.

Si notifica che l'Assemblea Generale
Sara' convenuta **Venerdi 18 Ottobre 2019**
alle 6pm presso il Bar del WA Italian Club.
Al al termine sara' offerto
un rinfresco a tutti i soci.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

Can I commence by thanking each and every one of you for your encouragement and support in my first year as President of the WA Italian Club. It truly is an honour to serve you all and the wider Italo-Australian Community; particularly during a year that marks the 85th anniversary

since our fine club's inception in 1934.

The **WA Italian Club** is the **oldest Italian Club in the world** and it is something that I, along with my wonderful committee and all sub-committees are so proud to be representing. As a community, we must be extremely proud of this achievement and we can celebrate it, by continuing to support what is an iconic Club right here in Perth, Western Australia.

Whilst we have worked extremely hard to be a profitable club, it has not come easy. We have been extremely busy in creating so many new and wonderful events for the Club, along with establishing many new relationships with cultural, community and charitable organisations throughout the year.

I extend my sincerest gratitude to the many wonderful Club sponsors. With their continued support, our next 12 months remain extremely encouraging. In particular, can we thank our major sponsors that pledge \$20,000 or more per annum toward our wonderful club. To Nick Catania and the Board of Bendigo Bank North Perth for their ongoing commitment, we sincerely thank you, along with thanking Cav. Tony Fini for his continued support this year. We also welcome a new major sponsor in Dan McKeig and his team at Purslowe & Chipper Funerals who have just increased their pledge, to move from a Platinum Sponsor to a Major Sponsor.

It goes without saying that member clubs, along with most in hospitality are experiencing the toughest trading conditions this State has ever seen, coupled with a fast decline in memberships. Fortunately, the WA Italian Club has maintained its membership numbers, along with many new members signing up throughout the past 12 months.

The Club has invested an enormous amount of time in re-inventing itself to a new demographic, along with maintaining what is important to its long-standing members. In doing so, we have put an emphasis on new types of events throughout the year. I am now also working closely with the Pool and Dart Club's, to look at ways we can perhaps improve the facilities to assist them with their drive to grow their membership, which in turn provides an increase in turnover at our bar and restaurant.

This past 12 months has seen an ever-increasing number of baptisms, communions and confirmations, along with 21st and other milestone birthdays celebrated at the Club. Since opening 1934 Ristorante, we have celebrated more of these types of events in 18 months than the club has seen in approximately 10 years. This is extremely encouraging as it

appears our members and their friends are seeing the improvements that we are making to our facilities, are meeting their needs. Accordingly, we are now presenting as a serious contender in the functions market.

This growth in events could not have been achieved without the hard work of the Management Committee, sub-committees; and particularly the loyal support of our Management and Staff and I sincerely thank them all. A particular thanks must go to our Operations Manager, Morena Strano, our Business Manager, Marzia Gastaldi and our General Manager of 1934 Ristorante, Rimon Saad for their hard work and dedication in facilitating the club's transition and event growth.

Can I thank Board Member Pat Luca for arranging the Annual Rottneest Boat Trip, along with our club sponsors and members who attended and participated in the fundraising endeavours. Not only was it a fun few days, but it also raised an enormous amount of money for various charities and for the Club.

It goes without saying that our wonderful Ladies Committee continued to support the Club in so many ways and on behalf of the Management Committee I sincerely thank Chiara Scaffidi, her committee and members for their hard work and loyal support.

Can I thank our immediate past vice president Mr Nunzio Nici for his dedication and hard work in developing new initiatives and reviving a spirit within the membership that will remain strong. The WA Italian Golf Club is an important part of our community and we sincerely thank him for his leadership in establishing this for our Club. Our sincere gratitude also to the committee of the WAIGC, who have done an enormous amount of work, so please support them in October 2019 when they host the Festival City Challenge Cup, a National Golf competition of all the Italian Golf Clubs across Australia. We are so proud here at the WA Italian Club to be the host of this magnificent tournament in Perth this year.

Lastly, I would like to pay my respects and sincere gratitude on behalf of the Trustees, Board of Management and members of the WA Italian Club to our immediate past president and life member, Mr Joe Radici. Joe successfully led the club for 13 years as president; and 2 as Vice President, during a very difficult time for the Club. Joe was a strong leader who guided the Club well, by attracting so many loyal supporters, sponsors and members. Joe's hard work and dedication to the Club is a true testament to his character and because of this, his legacy will remain very strong at the Club, for many generations to come.

I take this opportunity to wish all our sponsors and members a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year. I do hope the festive season brings you all so much joy and happiness; and allows you to share some wonderful memories with your family and friends. With God's blessing we look forward to seeing you all back at the Club in 2020.

Sal Valfelonga

President

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Cari soci,

Desidero iniziare ringraziando ognuno di Voi per il Vostro incoraggiamento e supporto durante il mio primo anno come Presidente del WA Italian Club. Servire il Club e tutta la comunità italo-australiana rappresenta per me un vero

onore, in particolare quest'anno che segna l'85esimo anniversario della nascita del Club nel 1934.

Il WA Italian Club è il più longevo Club italiano nel mondo e una realtà che io, assieme al mio insostituibile comitato e ai numerosi sub-comitati, sono orgoglioso di rappresentare. Come comunità, dobbiamo andare davvero fieri di questo traguardo, e possiamo celebrarlo continuando a supportare quello che è un Club iconico qui in Perth, Australia Occidentale.

Abbiamo lavorato duramente per garantire continuità al Club, e non è stato facile. Siamo stati molto impegnati a creare eventi innovativi e interessanti per il Club, oltre che a instaurare nuovi rapporti con diverse organizzazioni culturali, sociali e di beneficenza nel corso dell'anno.

Estendo i miei più sinceri ringraziamenti a tutti gli insostituibili sponsor del Club. Grazie al loro continuo supporto, i nostri prossimi 12 mesi si prospettano assai incoraggianti. In particolare, desideriamo ringraziare i nostri Major Sponsor che si sono impegnati a contribuire al nostro magnifico Club con \$20,000 e oltre all'anno. Un particolare ringraziamento va a Nick Catania e al Comitato della Bendigo Bank North Perth per il loro continuo impegno negli anni, e al Cav. Tony Fini per il rinnovato supporto di quest'anno. Diamo inoltre il benvenuto tra i Major Sponsor a Dan McKeig e al suo team di Purslowe & Chipper Funerals, essi hanno infatti incrementato il loro contributo annuo, progredendo da Platinum a Major Sponsor.

È risaputo che i club associativi, così come il settore della ristorazione, stanno vivendo il più difficile dei periodi che si sia mai visto in questo stato, oltre che un declino nelle adesioni da parte dei soci. Fortunatamente l'Italian Club ha mantenuto il numero degli iscritti, assieme a molti nuovi tesserati che hanno sottoscritto negli ultimi 12 mesi.

Il club ha investito diverso tempo nel rinnovarsi per raggiungere un nuovo pubblico e al contempo mantenere vive le attività importanti per i soci di lunga data. Nel far ciò, abbiamo dato enfasi a nuovi tipi di eventi durante il corso dell'anno. Stiamo inoltre lavorando a stretto contatto con i club del Biliardo e di Freccette per apportare migliorie alle strutture del club in modo da assistere questi club nell'attrarre nuovi soci e di conseguenza aumentare i volumi del nostro bar e ristorante.

Gli ultimi 12 mesi hanno visto un incremento nel numero di battesimi, comunioni e cresime, oltre che di 21esimi e altri compleanni festeggiati al Club. Dall'apertura di 1934 Ristorante, abbiamo celebrato in 18 mesi molti più eventi di questo tipo rispetto a quelli organizzati al Club in quasi 10 anni. Ciò è assai incoraggiante in quanto suggerisce

che i nostri soci e i loro conoscenti hanno apprezzato i miglioramenti apportati per andare incontro alle loro esigenze.

Tale aumento nel numero di eventi non sarebbe stato possibile senza il duro lavoro del comitato manageriale e dei sub-comitati; e in particolare del sostegno fedele della nostra direzione e dello staff che ringrazio sinceramente. Un particolare grazie va al direttore operativo Morena Strano, al nostro responsabile commerciale Marzia Gastaldi e il nostro direttore di 1934 Ristorante Rimond Saad, per il loro grande impegno e dedizione nel facilitare la transizione del Club e lo sviluppo degli eventi.

Vorrei inoltre ringraziare il membro del comitato Pat Luca per l'organizzazione dell'annuale giro in barca a Rottnest, nonché sponsor e soci del club che hanno partecipato all'evento e contribuito alla raccolta fondi. Non solo si sono trascorsi alcuni giorni in allegria, ma è anche stata raccolta un'ingente donazione destinata in parte a diverse associazioni benefiche e in parte al Club.

Non c'è bisogno di dire che il nostro meraviglioso comitato delle donne continua a sostenere il Club in molti modi, e a nome della direzione ringrazio sinceramente Chiara Scaffidi, il suo comitato e i soci per il loro duro lavoro e leale supporto.

Voglio ringraziare il nostro precedente vice presidente Sig. Nunzio Nici per la dedizione e il duro lavoro nel creare nuove iniziative e nuovi stimoli per i nostri soci. Il WA Italian Golf Club è una realtà importante nella nostra comunità e ringraziamo sinceramente Nunzio per il suo impegno nell'istituire il Golf Club all'interno del nostro Club. La nostra sincera gratitudine va anche al comitato del WAIGC che ha lavorato duramente e merita il nostro supporto questo Ottobre 2019 quando si terrà la Festival City Challenge Cup, la competizione nazionale di golf che vede partecipi tutti i Golf club italiani in Australia. È un onore per l'Italian Club ospitare a Perth quest'anno tale torneo di successo.

Per concludere, desidero rendere omaggio ed esprimere sincera gratitudine a nome del consiglio di amministrazione, della direzione e dei soci dell'Italian Club, al nostro precedente presidente e membro a vita, Sig. Joe Radici. Joe ha guidato il Club con successo per 13 anni nel ruolo di presidente e 2 come vice presidente, durante un periodo molto difficile per il Club. Joe è stato una guida forte che ha condotto il Club nella giusta direzione, attraendo sostenitori fedeli, sponsor e soci. Il duro lavoro e la dedizione di Joe sono una testimonianza significativa del suo impegno, e in quanto tali hanno lasciato un segno permanente nella storia del Club e verranno ricordati dalle future generazioni.

Colgo l'occasione per augurare a tutti i nostri sponsor e soci un Buon Natale e un sicuro e prospero Anno Nuovo. Mi auguro che le festività vi portino tanta gioia e felicità, e vi permettano di creare ricordi indelebili con le vostre famiglie e amici. Che Dio vi benedica, e spero di incontrarvi tutti al Club nel 2020.

Sal Vallefong
Presidente



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OPERATION MANAGERS REPORT

Dear Members,

It is with great pleasure that I write this report as the Club celebrates its 85th Anniversary and as we are aware the Club has endured many triumphs and tribulations to reach this milestone.

As you read this special edition of the Bulletin I

hope that you enjoy reflecting on the memories that you have of the Club.

The Club continues to evolve and with the continued support from our members, sponsors and patrons who frequent the Club and 1934 Ristorante I am confident that the Club will be here for future generations to enjoy and experience.

With our new President Salvatore Vallelonga at the helm we have implemented many new initiatives so that the Club can evolve and attract younger members to ensure its survival. We have our monthly "Let's Catch Up" on the first Wednesday of the month, "Ladies Let's

Catch Up" which is held every quarter, either it be for dinner at 1934 Ristorante or Tapas and Cocktails upstairs at the Empire Function Centre. Our social media presence on FaceBook has reached 2900 likes and growing. We are continuously posting to engage with our younger generation.

We have installed a new POS system which makes the tracking of memberships, sales and activities easier and gives us an indication of what changes or improvements may need to be taken to continually improve our services to members and customers.

To commemorate our 85th Anniversary we will have available at the office a special commemorative pen to collect upon payment of your membership.

Finally, I would like to thank the President – Mr Salvatore Vallelonga, Vice President – Mr Rocco Lumbaca and the WAIC Board of Management, staff and members for their continued assistance and support in my role which is much appreciated.

Morena Strano

Operations Manager



BUSINESS MANAGERS REPORT

Dear Members,

I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome into your Club, in particular, our President Sal Vallelonga and our Operations Manager Morena Strano for their ongoing support. It has been an exciting first year to me - full of new connections and engaging

projects - and a special year for the Club that salutes its 85th anniversary with a great celebration on the 5th of October 2019.

Let's Catch Up events are a regular monthly appointment on the Club's agenda with outstanding guests of the calibre of the AFL players Andrew Gaff and Elliot Yeo, and the Perth Glory athletes Dino Djulbic, Liam Reddy and Shane Lowry. The wine and sausage competition nights are always engaging for the members attending, with many of you entering the contests with your home-made products. A big thank you to the Comunità di Delianuova Club for preparing for us their popular zeppole (or zippoli, depending on where you are from in Italy!).

This year, Let's Catch Up turned pink with the Ladies Nights that marked the Club's fundraising commitment towards the Breast Cancer Research Centre - WA. The ladies of the Club have come together and raised \$15,000 for breast cancer research after many families within our community have been touched by the disease. Our dedication to this wonderful cause continues in the new year with the main Gala Ball scheduled at the end of May 2020.

Last July, we had the opportunity to host the Hon. Mark McGowan MLA, Premier of Western Australia, for a business lunch with more than 300 guests attending. The Hon. McGowan gave us the honour to unveil our 85th celebration plaque and visit the Sports Bar where he caught up with the members that were present on the day.

We are already planning the 2020 Events calendar and we would like to invite everyone to subscribe to our newsletter for regular updates, and to follow the Club Facebook page /waitalianclub and Instagram profile @ waitalianclub. I hope to see you all soon at the Club and at many of our upcoming events.

Marzia Gastaldi

Business Manager



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OPERATIONS COMMITTEE - FINANCE REPORT

Dear Members

The net profit of the club for the year was \$23,459 (before depreciation) which is a substantial improvement from prior year's results. A summary of the prior years is shown below:

(2019- Profit	\$23,459
before depreciation)	
(2018 - Loss	(\$89,920)
before depreciation)	

(2017 - Profit	\$67,062	before depreciation)
(2016 - Profit	\$93,473	before depreciation)
(2015 - Profit	\$86,753	before depreciation)
(2016 - Loss	(\$150,479)	before depreciation)
(2013 - Loss	(\$121,047)	before depreciation)

Some highlights of the clubs operations are summarised as follow:

- Consolidated revenue of the club over the last 12 months has increased by \$168,771 compared to the previous year. This was mainly due to the 1934 Ristorante having a full year of operations.
- This year the club spent \$47,055 (prior year \$21,286 and \$40,110 in 2017) on improvements to ensure the members requirements are catered for.
- Membership has remained constant and this support is welcomed, with many new members replacing those that did not renew their annual membership.
- The Bar revenue decreased again this year and this appears to be a reflection of the challenges faced by most clubs.

- The functions activity and function bookings is increasing, this increase together with special events has helped to increase the overall consolidated gross profit.
- The Western Australian Italian Golf Club continues to gain numbers and has contributed \$22,635 to the profit (prior year \$9,952).
- The club enjoys the strong support of the sponsors who have again increased their ongoing financial support. Sponsorship was \$71,534 (prior year \$53,954).
- The new restaurant has now been operating for just over 12 months. The turnover which is averaging \$60,500 per month continues to increase, however the restaurant needs to achieve better margins in order to begin to trade profitably. The committee continues to address the restaurant operations and is working towards improving the profitability.
- The Management Committee continues to take steps to control expenditure and overheads so that the impact on the net profit is controlled.

The budget for the 2018/2019 year targeted a break even result which has been achieved. The budget for the 2019/2020 year is budgeting for a similar breakeven result. However, as with all ventures the support is necessary from many people, including the committee but more importantly ongoing support is necessary from the Members of the club. A big thank you to the members of the Operations and Finance Committee for their work and to the club members who regularly participate and contribute their time and sponsorship funds.

Charles Foti
Chairman Operations Committee

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MAINTENANCE REPORT

Dear Members,

Again, this year has seen a considerable amount of work completed to our club in order to maintain its structural integrity and uphold its quality and compliance.

As you can appreciate the age of the building means that constant maintenance

is required and this year has seen significant works, especially in the way of plumbing, tiling, roofing, air-conditioning, replacing deteriorated ceiling panels, and cleaning and repairing gutters and downpipes, to touch on some items. Some specific works completed over the course of the year included the tiling works to the hallway and toilets, as well as the concrete cancer treatment to the building façade, and the extensive air-conditioning repair works. All-in-all there has been very proactive trade activity at our Club this year, and these improvements are imperative to provide our members and guests with premium facilities.

2019 also saw the Club undergo an extensive clean up. Board members and volunteers dedicated several weekends to scrub and clean every corner of the Club, removing over 30m³ of clutter and providing the Club with a fresh feeling of space.

Trades are generally given short notice, and we would like to extend our appreciation to these trades, some of whom attended to issues after hours and on weekends, etc. Our building is a wonderful old building, with some great history behind it. Again, we are very grateful to our sponsors and volunteers, as well as all staff and committee members for all their hard work to keep our Club working and looking good. We strive to continue this work throughout 2020 and beyond, and to maintain its aesthetic presence, which means that we need to allocate substantial funding, as well as sustaining a tight budget, to keep it operational and provide a comfortable and vibrant space for our members to enjoy.

Regards,

Rocco Lumbaca
Vice President



SPONSORSHIP REPORT 2019

I am pleased to report that during the 2019 year our Club has had strong support from our sponsors and in fact almost every sponsor has renewed their support for the 2020 year. Given the

terrible economic conditions in our community this is a fantastic result and we are enormously thankful to those sponsors, especially those who have been sponsoring for a number of years.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge our Major Sponsors, namely Bendigo North Perth Community Bank (via Chairman Mr Nick Catania) and also Cav Tony Fini who have both continued with their annual sponsorship of \$20,000 each. We also wish to acknowledge and thank Dan McKeig of Purslowe &

Chipper Funerals for upgrading their Sponsorship from Platinum to Major.

Once again I ask that our members familiarize themselves with who are our Club Sponsors and to support them when the opportunity arises. I can tell you from personal experience that Club Sponsors will look after our members when they are approached for their services.

Some of our sponsors have been supporting the Club for many years now and it would be nice to have some new sponsors come on board, so if any member would like to become a sponsor or is able to introduce a new sponsor we would be most appreciative and we can create a Sponsorship Package to suit each person's requirements.

Joe Radici
Sponsorship Coordinator

85th

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SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2019 - 7PM

Gala Ball



Ticket \$150 includes:

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guest appearance by Joe Avati

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WAIC LADIES COMMITTEE



Hello to all our dear members.

Let me start by congratulating the Club for its 85 years of Service, not only to its members but also to the wider community.

"Congratulations and well done!"

We celebrate 85 years of service, many many great functions and special occasions. So many great memories have been made during these years – from humble beginnings to what we are today.

To all the past visionaries of the Club, Presidents, Committees, Staff and members we thank you all for your great foresight in creating our beautiful Club and to all the current ones keep up the good work.

I hope to see you all at the Gala Ball on Saturday 5th October to celebrate this wonderful milestone.

Now to what the Ladies Committee have been up to. We are still enjoying our Tuesday afternoon catch ups, many lunches throughout the year and also our bingo on the last Wednesday of the month.

Our thanks and gratitude to our President, Mr Sal Vallelonga, Committee, admin, bar and 1934 Ristorante staff, for all their assistance and service during the year.

To end I send compliments of the season to everyone and hope to see you all again next year.

God Bless

Chiara Scaffidi

President - WAIC Ladies Committee



WAIC REDEVELOPMENT CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am proud to announce that the City of Vincent has on the 28th May 2019 approved a Local Development Plan (LDP) for the redevelopment of our site and that of the Italo- Australian Welfare Cultural Centre Inc., subject to a number of modifications.

The approved LDP permits a maximum of 8 storeys or a maximum height of 31 metres. The LDP contains a number of provisions which amend or replace certain Acceptable Outcomes of the State Government's Policy Residential Design Codes and therefore it requires a separate approval from the Western

Australian Planning Commission for its consideration. I am led to believe that the Commission should not have any problems in approving the development.

I would like to acknowledge Mr Frank Arangio the Town Planning consultant from Creative Design & Planning and the consulting Architect Mr Anthony Casella for working together with me to be able to achieve this magnificent result.

I am pleased to see that after a few years of negotiations with the City of Vincent this development is coming to fruition.

Tony Vallelonga JP

Chairman

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Dear Members,

How quickly does time pass? This is our fourth year since the formation of the WA Italian Golf Club. This year is a special year as we are hosting the National Italian Golf Association "Festival City Challenge Cup" (FCCC) from Saturday 12th

October to Monday 14th October and this is a National Golf Tournament with a 29-year history. The tournament will involve 140 players over two days at Western Australia's prestigious Joondalup Resort and Karrinyup Country Club and social events including a welcome dinner at WAIC Empire Function Centre, Ladies luncheon at Fraser's Kings Park and the Gala Presentation at the Crown Resort Ballroom.

As well as this tournament we are also celebrating 85 years of the WA Italian Club which has created many sporting clubs under its roof such as Azzurri Soccer club, pool club, darts club and shooting club.

With this year hosting the FCCC we have fortunately attracted several new sponsors to help fund this huge event. These sponsors are of course our foundation sponsors AusGroup Insurance Brokers and annual sponsors Perth Iveco Centre Burswood and Ricciardo Earthworks. To celebrate the 2019 FCCC we have been fortunate to attract new sponsors, namely New Town Toyota, Toyota Australia, Holman Industries, Merlino Furniture, Motive Travel and SRG Global.

This year again we have enjoyed a wonderful year of golfing and camaraderie, playing again at Perth's best golf courses at a very affordable price.

This year is the end of my four year term as committee member and President and because unfortunately being diagnosed with MND for two years I need to resign at the end of my term. The Golf Club is fortunate to have a very dedicated committee with strong determination to continue the clubs success, and I have no doubt they will.

I wish to personally wish all members and affiliates and their families of this glorious club a healthy safe and happy Christmas and prosperous new year.

Nunzio Nici

President WAIGC

President
Vice President
Captain
Vice Captain
Treasurer
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member

Nunzio Nici
Charles Foti
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Welcome to all WAIC Members & Pool Players.

The 2018 /2019 season has been; interesting; challenging;sad;and to be perfectly honest, a period of mixed emotions all rolled into one for the WAIC Pool Club.

Sad, following the recent and sudden loss of our President and dear friend, Mario Panaia. Mario, as everyone well knows has been the backbone of the WAIC Pool Club in recent years, and especially since the WAIC Pool Club members agreed to run its own competition that commenced in summer 2018. Without Mario this would not have happened.



Left to Right (Mario Panaia (RIP) President WAIC Pool Club, Chiara Scaffidi (President WAIC Ladies Committee), Lou Musca (RIP), Guy Sabetta)

To add to the sadness, Pool Club members are also still mourning the loss and recent passing of another dear friend, Lou Musca (RIP). Lou was also a long time WAIC and Pool Club member and friend to many. I will always remember him as a crafty pool competitor who was willing to share his knowledge of the game.

Mario and Lou will both be sorely missed but their memories will live with the WAIC Pool Club forever.

Interesting, following the decision of WAIC 2nd Division Pool Club members to leave the WA 8 Ball Federation and to start a WAIC Pool Competition. The club has had to face the challenges; recruiting teams to our competition; administering the competition; running the weekly rounds, all while still remaining competitive in the division.

Despite this the competition got off to a good start with

a group of 8 teams competing in summer and continues with 6 teams making up the winter comp for this year. Although we have had to face the usual teething problems it seems the competition is set for the long run.

Challenging, unfortunately because of the matters I refer to above, and a number of other circumstances beyond the clubs control,the 2019 trip to Kalgoorlie was cancelled at late notice. We look forward to 2020 when we will travel inland once again to compete and hopefully win back the Goldfields Trophy we lost in 2018.We are planning the 2020 trip now so if anyone is interested in joining us on this great weekend, please let the club know, as places are limited and normally by invitation only.

Additionally, we face challenges attracting new leadership to the Pool Club. The club needs members who are dedicated to step up and assist in the running and oversight of the Club. If you are interested please talk to Lino or Joe.

THANK YOU again to all of our sponsors; Hairloom Unisex Design, Paul Smirolido Painting, Mark Anthony Design, Cameleon Paint, M & G Stone, Mobile Trailer Fix, Bobridge Gym and Rent WA. We all know that without your support we would not be able to survive.

Finally, thank you to the WAIC President Sal Vallelonga, the Committee of the WAIC Pool Club, Mario Panaia (RIP), Lino D'Andreis, Joe Ferraloro, and all the WAIC staff. Your continued support and assistance of the pool club is greatly appreciated.

We are looking forward to hosting the Kalgoorlie Pool Club in the first weekend of November at the Club and to some good fun and competition amongst our players

The WAIC Pool Club has a proud tradition of playing competitive pool at all levels, we encourage members and friends of the WA Italian Club interested in Pool, to join us – we look forward to welcoming you!

Alan Williams

(on behalf of) WAIC Pool Club



WAIC Pool Club



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MESSAGGIO DEL CONSOLE D'ITALIA IN AUSTRALIA OCCIDENTALE



Cari amici dell'Italian Club,
nell'ultima occasione di rivolgermi a tutti voi tramite queste poche righe, ritengo sia tempo di bilanci.

Nell'ultimo quadriennio il Club ha dovuto affrontare numerose sfide dovute ai profondi cambiamenti in atto non solo all'interno della nostra comunità, ma più in generale nell'ambito del tessuto sociale. Nuovi interessi, nuovi gusti, nuove tecnologie hanno generato un cambiamento nella domanda e la conseguente difficoltà di intercettare le nuove generazioni e rispondere

in maniera appropriata alle loro esigenze.

Pur tra difficoltà assolutamente comprensibili, il Club sta vincendo la complessa sfida di mantenere da un lato vivo l'interesse dello zoccolo duro costituito dalla componente "tradizionale" della nostra comunità e dall'altro di attrarre le nuove generazioni di italiani ed amici dell'Italia attraverso un ampio ventaglio di attività.

Il Club ha un'opportunità storica: costituire un ponte tra generazioni (profondamente) diverse di italiani, continuando a mostrare la nota Italia che l'Australia ama, accanto all'Italia di oggi, un'Italia 2.0, in cui

le nuove tecnologie e l'innovazione costituiscono elementi imprescindibili di una società che sta riuscendo a coniugare il proprio glorioso passato con un presente difficile, ma dalle promettenti speranze.

Grazie a tutti coloro che attraverso i propri sforzi rendono possibile questa storia di successo lunga 85 anni. In virtù di tutto quanto sopra, non mi sorprende che il Club, nonostante la veneranda età, riesca oggi a guardare con molta fiducia al futuro.

Il Console
David Balloni

MESSAGE FROM THE CONSUL OF ITALY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Dear friends of the Italian Club,
On the occasion of my last message in this very special bulletin, please allow me to share my views on the current situation and the future of the Club.

Over the last four years, the Club has faced numerous challenges due to profound changes in the structure of our community and more generally of the social fabric of our societies. New interests, new tastes, new technologies have caused a shift in demand and consequently, the massive challenge to attract the new generations and respond properly to their needs.

This constitutes a huge problem. Nevertheless, the Club is overcoming this massive challenge keeping high the involvement and participation of the traditional membership on the one hand and attracting young generations of Italians and friends of Italy through a diversified calendar of activities on the other.

In this very moment, in my view the Club has an opportunity not to be missed. It can constitute a bridge between different generations of Italians. It can display what Italy traditionally means here in Australia and at the same time showcase a new and interesting aspect of Italy,

made of Italian professionals, entrepreneurs and 2.0 companies of which technology level has few competitors on the global stage. The Italy of today is successfully combining its glorious past with a promising future!

May I extend my gratitude to the Club and in particular all those that have given their active contribution to this success story over these decades. Thanks to them, despite its age the Club can still look to the future with confidence.

The Consul
David Balloni

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Dear Members

With the 2019 darts season drawing to a close, I'd like to take this opportunity to express how proud I am of all the players who have been involved this year. Out of our 3 teams, 2 played finals whilst the other unfortunately missed out by 1 game. Our Division 1 team will be playing in the grand

final on the 19th of September, we wish them the best of luck.

The past year was enjoyable as always, with many laughs and great times had by everyone. I'd like to say congratulations to Charlie Lioni and Norm Anderson, who won the division 1 doubles tournament back in May, a great achievement against some very talented opposition.

On behalf of the WAIC darts club, I'd like to thank the WA Italian Club for the ongoing support that has been provided this season. A special thank you also to the bar staff for the excellent service which they provide every Thursday night. The Club has become popular

with the other teams in the Competition, largely in part to its unique charm, and of course our wonderful antipasto platters that are served for supper once the game has ended!

With the addition of 5 new players this year, we were able to expand and introduce an extra team. Given the injection of extra players we have seen over the past two years the Darts Club is travelling very well – with the highest number of players in quite a number of years. The committee is striving to keep the momentum going and will actively continue to improve and attract new players. Thank you to all members and sponsors for your support of the Darts Club this year.

Special thanks and appreciation to the committee members on a great year. I'd also like to acknowledge the work that Ross Costanzo, who is the Secretary and Delegate, and Tony Martini as the recorder put in to ensure that we are compliant with all the rules of the Association.

As always, we welcome new members and encourage people of all ages to come and play darts with us. Feel free to contact myself if you would like more information.

Thank you.

Ross Stagno

Darts Club President

REMEMBERING MARIO PANAIÀ



- Came onto the Committee as Vice President under Pasquale Italiano in 2002.
- Elected President and served from 2003-2006.
- He realised that the Club was old, run down and in need of renovation so he instituted a series of innovative changes that changed the face of the Club. Firstly, he initiated a Gala Ball which was highly successful and raised in excess of \$20,000 for projects to give new life to the Club. The Main bar among other areas was renovated.
- He listened to what members wanted from the Club and looked outward to Businesses and some non-members for assistance and donations. This proved very successful in terms of help with the renovation but also resulted in many new and valued members. Existing members were very generous as well when they saw and felt a new enthusiasm beginning to take shape.
- He helped organise the WAIC Community Fairs which were popular and took place in the car park of the Club.

- He initiated a Members Benefit scheme to give members reductions in goods and services.
- He was passionate about the sporting bodies within the Club, but he loved the Pool Club where he was President for 2 years.

We at the Club feel an enormous loss for Mario and offer his family our deepest condolences.

[illegible]





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**Premier of Western Australia
MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER**

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate all staff and members of the WA Italian Club on the 85th anniversary of this iconic community organisation.

For the past 85 years, the WA Italian Club has catered for social functions, dinners, dances, games, entertainment and community gatherings.

Few clubs can boast such a long and active period of service to their communities. The WA Italian Club has not been just a gathering place, but an institution that has helped meet the social needs of the thousands who have passed through its doors.

Importantly, it has fostered friendships, nurtured community involvement and supported new arrivals in finding their feet and building their lives in Western Australia. It has also been a welcoming social venue for the wider community culturally diverse society.

The Western Australian Government celebrates our cultural diversity as one of our greatest strengths and recognises the extensive contributions of the Italian community to the establishment and development of this State.

I wish all staff, officers and members of the WA Italian Club a very happy anniversary and many decades of successful community service to come.

**Mark McGowan MLA
PREMIER**



**Hon Liza Harvey MLA
Leader of the Opposition**

It is with great pleasure that we celebrate the 85th anniversary of one of Perth's great multicultural institutions, the WA Italian Club.

There would be fewer associations in WA with such a rich, proud history, and its standing in Western Australia reflects the extraordinary contribution the Italian community has made to this wonderful State in which we live.

The fact that it is the oldest Italian club in the world that was actually built and owned by Italian migrants speaks volumes of the enduring legacy of your much-loved and admired community. It is a legacy that all Australians of Italian heritage should be rightfully proud.

The fact that the Italian Club is also now heavily involved in a range of charities such as the Breast Cancer Research Centre and MND Care Cure Support, along with a wide range of business networking activities and various sporting events has only added to the club's excellent reputation in our wider West Australian community.

Please accept my very best wishes for your celebrations. You have much to be proud of.

**Liza Harvey MLA
Leader of the Opposition**

Ladies Let's Catch-up

Following on from the ever popular "Let's Catch Up" held on the 1st Wednesday of every month (excluding January) in the Sports bar, the ladies of the WAIC teamed up with the Breast Cancer Research Centre (BCRC) to launch "Ladies Let's Catch Up" in February 2019 to help support a very worthy cause. This culminated with the very successful WAIC & BCRC Inaugural Gala Ball held on Saturday 10th August 2019. Below are some of the photos of the various "Ladies Let's Catch Up" from dinner at 1934 Ristorante, to Tapas and Cocktails upstairs at Empire Function Centre and finally the Gala Ball held on Saturday 10th August. What a fun-filled fundraiser with \$15,000 raised on the night. Prof. Arlene Chan AM was in attendance and gave an inspiring speech, and our event Ambassador

Steph Audino showcased an amazing runway show. Our next "Ladies Let's Catch" is on 1st November. Follow us on Facebook to keep up with the latest details of what is coming up next at all our "Let's Catch Up" get togethers.



Let's Catch-up

Our ever popular Let's Catch Up continues on the first Wednesday of every month (excluding January). We have had the presence West Coast Eagles Players, Perth Glory Players and Members of the Delianuova Community (making the most delicious "Zippole") join us.

So grab your friends and family and come down to the Club for that "Let's Catch Up" that you always are meaning to do.



85 YEARS OF THE WA ITALIAN CLUB



From its humble beginnings in a rented property in Aberdeen Street, the Club has undergone many changes. In September 1934 an association was formed to provide a place of social activities for the small Italian population in Perth. The aims and visions for a Club expressed by the members in these early days, have remained the same. They were and are to provide cultural, social and sporting activities for its members. The association also voted to select a committee. The founding members were Dr Giaccone, President, Florindo Marchioro, Amadeo Re, Secretary, Pietro Sertorio, Mario Nobili and Tobia Mevio.

These men plus enthusiastic families quickly arranged to raise funds to build a meeting place. Debenture Loans, Picnics, Dances, donations from businesses, voluntary work by members and a subsidy from the Italian Government were so successful that by 1937, the "Casa d'Italia" in Fitzgerald Street was completed. The grand opening was celebrated with a Ball and commemorative medals and flags were distributed.



However, the members did not have long to enjoy the fruits of their hard work, for with the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, Italians were regarded as aliens and the enemy. The Casa d'Italia was shut down, Minute Book and Membership Roll confiscated and the premises were given to a Scouts Group for the remainder of the War. Many Italians were also interned.

After the war, in 1947, the Club retained a lawyer to reclaim what was theirs from the Federal Government, and was returned to its members. In 1950 the Club applied for and received a Liquor Licence. At this time membership was still quite low, so the new President Jim del Piano began a big membership drive. This was boosted by the arrival to Australia of the new migrants from war torn Italy, mainly young men hoping for a better life. Very soon a Soccer team was organised as well as more social events. The Club proved to be a great source for finding work, meeting attractive girls at the dances, playing sport and being with other Italians.

Such was the increase in membership, that by 1954, another building was erected next the original Club to house the increasing sporting teams and social events. By the early sixties it was further apparent, that even this new building was inadequate, so plans were underway for yet more extensions, this time another larger construction. Under the Presidency of G.G. Merizzi (1965-1969), the Club acquired its present architectural shape and in September 1968, the official opening was held of the new Club premises.

The Presidents and Committees over the next few years had to oversee many different functions within



the Club and to accommodate the needs of the ever increasing membership numbers. Sports Committees oversaw the rise and successes of Azzurri Soccer Club, Women's Netball, Tennis, Football, Rugby, Cycling and Gun Club, Pool and Darts. Social Committees, including the Ladies Committee, oversaw the many Dances, Balls and fund raising events as well as welcoming visiting dignitaries from home and abroad. Cultural Committees oversaw the assistance of the Italians in the wider community with health care, transport and aged care facilities. Events to help raise funds for this care and support included the very popular beauty pageants and baby competitions. Italian Classes for members' children were introduced as was English Classes for members. Group Travel was introduced whereby members had special fares to return to Italy to see relatives or introduce their children to Italian culture. It was at this time that the Club counted a membership of more than 7000. Because of this large voting potential, over the years, politicians and dignitaries from all parties, Local, State and Federal have visited the Club and enjoyed the hospitality, debates and good cheers.

The eighties saw a trend emerge. The Club was so large that either it could not cater for members needs or did not move fast enough to accommodate these

needs, regional groupings, sporting clubs and other branches of Club work began to disassociate themselves from the Club and form associations of their own. Added to this, the post war migrants by this time had Australian born children of their own and had effectively integrated into Australian society. These children did not need the support of a Club in the same way as their parents had and importantly language was no longer a problem. These reasons and an aging membership meant a decline of membership numbers to this day.

The WA Italian Club can still be relevant today, 85 years after its birth. We can and must adapt and change to suit the needs of our members. The Committee and senior members of the Club are actively identifying what changes will be necessary so that the Club in which form it eventually evolves, will be relevant and able to celebrate its centennial. What is necessary is that the Club must provide activities relevant to our Italo-Italian members and to actively promote the WA Italian Club as the heart of the Italian Community in Western Australia. We must also be open, active and relevant in the wider community, and willing to share our culture and outlook with all who have an interest in the Italian way of life.

HEAR MY STORY

As part of the celebration of 85th Anniversary year, a group of members were asked to be involved in the recording of their memories of the Club to keep for historical records.

This project was put together by Daniel McKeig of Purslowe and Chipper Funerals, generous Club sponsor, and Marty Braine of Hear My Story. Marty was instrumental in arranging recording times and editing the finished product. The interviews were conducted over several months and a function was

held in 1934 Ristorante in April this year to launch this initiative. With a full house, participating members and their friends listened to the entire production amid many laughs and enjoyment. Each participant was also given a copy of the recordings. All present agreed it was a wonderful day of memories shared and remembered and worthy of being included in the Club's historical records.

Please view our facebook page to see all photos and video of the day. <https://www.facebook.com/waitalianclub/>



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LUNCH WITH THE PREMIER, HON. MARK MCGOWAN MLA

On Friday 26 July 2019, we hosted one of our marquee events for 2019, when the Premier of Western Australia, the Hon. Mark McGowan MLA was guest speaker at a luncheon attended by 300 members and friends of the WA Italian Club.

Prior to the Premier attending to the luncheon upstairs he visited our Members Bar downstairs and engaged

with our members who were very appreciative of his visit.

The event was very well received and the Premier also unveiled the WA Italian Club's 85th Anniversary Plaque together with our President Mr Sal Vallenga.





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Board Member Pat Luca's Annual Rottneest Boat Trip, has been become a favourite amongst our club sponsors and members who attend and participate in the fundraising endeavours. It is a fun way to raise an enormous amount of money for various charities and the Club. Thanks to Pat and all those who attended.







Hailing from Sorrento in Perth, Elena Perroni is quickly garnering attention in the United States and abroad as a soprano in the competitive world of Opera. Elena is the daughter of long time Club members Phillip and Angelina Perroni. Phillip was also Club Secretary for a number of years.



Ms Perroni is a 2018 graduate of the world renowned Curtis Institute of Music. She is the first Australian vocalist to be accepted under vigorous admission criteria that makes selection

extremely competitive. The Institute has the lowest acceptance rate of any College or University (4%), making it the most selective institutions of higher education in the United States.

Ms Perroni made her professional opera debut with Opera Philadelphia singing the role of Doris Parker, at the legendary Apollo Theatre in New York City. She reprised the role at English National Opera in 2017. Elena debuted in Perth in the role as Mimi in La Boheme with the West Australian Opera in 2017 and this season returned to the West Australian Opera to make her role debut as Violetta in La Traviata.

While at the Curtis Institute, Elena performed some of the most well-known roles in Opera, from composers Donizetti, Massenet, Stravinsky, Mozart, and Puccini. She has also performed the leading roles of Mimi in La Boheme and Gilda in Rigoletto at the Chautauqua Music Festival.

As well as quickly attracting attention as a leading lady on the opera stage, Ms Perroni is also making a name for herself in the concert hall. In 2017, she made her debut with the internationally acclaimed Philadelphia Orchestra singing selections from Dvorak in concert. She appeared again with the Philadelphia Orchestra in the role of Tatyana to sing selections of Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin in 2018 and will return in 2019 with the Philadelphia Orchestra to perform Berlioz. She has performed Mimi with the Quad Cities Symphony Orchestra and this season sang as Maria in West Side Story with the Reno Philharmonic.

In 2018 Ms Perroni was placed third in the Gerda Lissner Vocal Competition and is also a New York City regional winner of Loren L. Zachary competition. Ms Perroni was also a Philadelphia regional winner of the International Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competition.

Upon graduating from the Curtis Institute of Music, she was awarded the Festscholarship for most promising vocalist. Ms Perroni has since been asked back to sing at the 2019 Curtis Gala concert alongside the acclaimed Eric Owens and Danielle Orlando.

We at the Club wish Elena continued success in her career in her rise to be an internationally acclaimed soprano and will follow her progress. Her parents Phillip and Angelina are justly proud of her achievements.

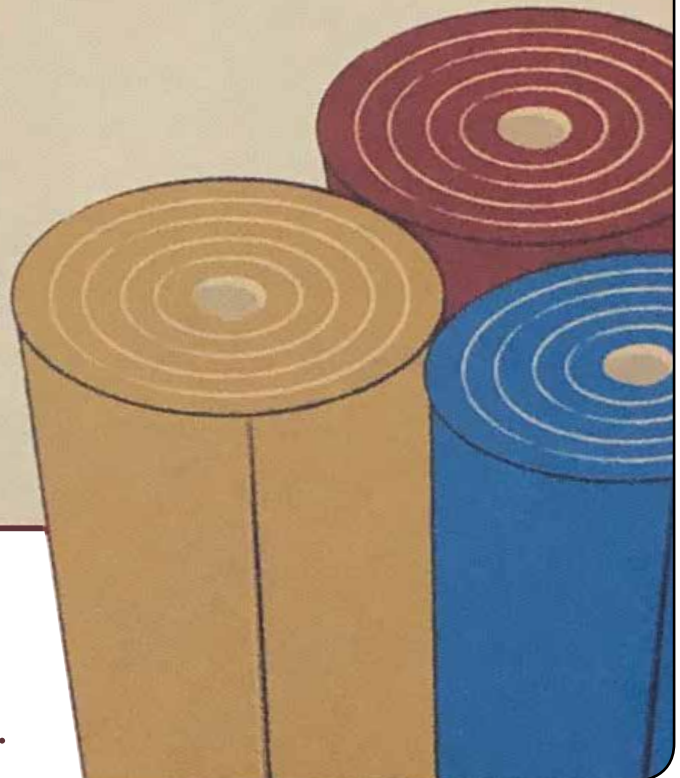


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