



Sprachverein Barossa e.V.

BAROSSA GERMAN LANGUAGE ASSOC. INC. – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

28th OCTOBER 2024

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thank you so much for taking the time to come to the Annual General Meeting of the Barossa German Language Assoc. Inc. for 2024.

We acknowledge the Peramangk, Ngaduri and Kurna peoples as the traditional custodians of the land upon which we meet. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

I will now present reports on our activities for the past year.

The BGLA Committee, who meet each month after Kaffee und Kuchen has worked extremely hard again this year, and we have brought together a variety of different events and programmes .

These include:

History Day in May – a very successful day with interesting speakers. Our Caterer Malcolm Filsell supplied an excellent meal again this year, the event was well organized and registrations went through smoothly thanks to Chris Leske.

Picnic in the Park at Coulthard Park in Nuriootpa- an event to get the younger members to mix with and meet some of the older people in the BGLA. This was also held in May.

Lantern Walk – August – a big event – well supported by the community and held in the Nuriootpa Football Clubrooms, with the walk taking place on the oval. A lot of work went into the preparation and the committee and helpers did a really wonderful job on the day to make it all happen .

Adelaide German Week – September – our contribution to AGW was the “Barossa Deutsch Konzert” with the Kegelstatt Ensemble in the Langmeil Church. This was a wonderful day filled with beautiful music, some with a Barossa connection, and we ended the afternoon with wine and cheese platters. This event was also well supported by the community.

Kaffee und Kuchen – These afternoons are held from February to November and the speakers have been very varied and interesting. We have had talks on history, family connections , the wine industry and usually finish the year with a Christmas event. We have

had delicious luncheons and of course the mandatory Kaffee und Kuchen to finish off each afternoon.

Kinder Klub and Spielgruppe - Spielgruppe and Kinder Klub are held at the same time, 4-5.30 each Tuesday afternoon, as some families have children in both groups and had been finding it difficult to come to both. This has been working quite well although numbers have fluctuated each week and are generally down overall, with only 4 core families attending regularly. Liz Henderson and Chris Leske have been my helpers again this year and we three "OMAS" enjoy our time with the younger people. This gives younger families a chance to speak German with the children and also connect and speak German amongst themselves over a cup of coffee or tea.

Activities carried out throughout the year have included: cooking, arts and crafts, stories, card games, games outside to allow running around, matching games and generally just playing, interacting and hearing German spoken in a natural way.

German language tuition for Adults – Birgit, who holds the Adult German classes, has sent in the following report: "The German classes are going well with the same group of people since the beginning of the year. I have five participants with a good pre-knowledge of German. Classes are running over 8 weeks per school term. They are held in the Lyndoch Library.

By the end of this term, I will discuss with the group if there is interest to run the program next year again in the same format.

Over the year, I did receive some inquiries but no further enrolments. I am not sure if it has to do with the classes running Saturday afternoons. We can trial offering a class during the week next year. " Thank you Birgit for your hard work to keep the classes going, and we look forward to them continuing into the future.

Singkreis - The group meet to enjoy coffee, cake and singing old German folk songs. We have had some members unable to come each month because of illness, but we all still try to meet up and have fun and keep the songs alive.

Communication & Publicity – Das Blatt – this is ably put together by Gerlinde (in Tanunda) and Sarah (in Denmark). Thank you to Gerlinde and Sarah for their great work in getting this quarterly Newsletter together. It is sent to our email list, online, and printed copies are sent to the local libraries and circulated at Kaffee und Kuchen.

We have been getting more articles printed in the local press this year. John has done a sterling job to get copy to the papers to meet their deadlines and has been creative in putting in information, which they would not normally print for free. We get coverage in The Leader, The Bunyip and Hills Courier.

Steffi has spoken on local radio and 5EBI FM where Dieter's German Programme- "Die Deutsch Stimme" regularly advertises our Kaffee und Kuchen events and Adelaide German Week.

Anne, our Social Media person puts posts on our website, Facebook and emails to our BGLA members. Anne through her business "Ausdruck Digital" has also created posters for

advertising events. Our social media presence has lifted considerably because of her excellent work. (Report attached).

Fundraising – As mentioned in the beginning of my report, the BGLA have been successful in winning two government grants – one will help us to purchase equipment needed to run the BGLA successfully, eg. A large esky, lights, a new speaker and radio mike plus other items. The second grant was to help us hold our Barossa Deutsch Konzert and paid for the artists. We have received donations from the Co-op to help offset costs with Kaffee und Kuchen. Our events such as the Lanternenlauf generated funds and the donations kindly made at Kaffee und Kuchen help us pay for the hire of the Langmeil Centre, Insurance and support the running of Kinder Klub and Spielgruppe.

Bilingual Barossa Project – As most of you would be aware, we are continuing to lobby to establish a Bilingual German school in the Barossa region. Peter Mickan has put together a report, which is attached.

Angaston Primary School, Nuriootpa Primary School and Good Shepherd Lutheran School have reached out to the BGLA for support during the year and Chris Leske and I have enjoyed visiting the schools and engaging with the German language classes.

Barossa Cultural Precinct & Study Centre Proposal – This Project has gained momentum this year. Peter Mickan has been lobbying and engaging with government, local business and churches to move this project forward. His detailed report is attached.

Sponsors - A big thank you to the people who have supported the BGLA this year –

Ashton Hurn - Member for Schubert for her support, and her office who print Das Blatt, our brochures and the documents before you today.

Langmeil Centre – We use the facilities here for a minimal charge and have everything we need at our fingertips.

Government of SA – “Celebrate together” Grant – Barossa Deutsch Konzert

“Equipment Grant” to purchase equipment for use by the BGLA

Langmeil Wines – For their generous donation of wines for use as gifts for our speakers and for use at our Barossa Deutsch Konzert.

Barossa Co-op for donations we use to purchase goods for Kaffee und Kuchen.

Ausdruck Digital, which is Anne’s business, who do all our media and publishing.

The Nuriootpa Rovers Football Club, who kindly allowed us to use their facilities for our Lantern Walk this year, and have said we are welcome back again next year.

Finally - thank you - to our excellent committee, who have all done their individual best this past year, from organising speakers, lobbying government and local business, handling all our funds, getting information out there to the members and general public through the papers, newsletter and on social media and helping set up and pull down each event and supporting in the kitchen. We have had ongoing help from Ev Leske setting up the room and

audio equipment, Bobb and Joerg in pulling down at the end of each event. Our catering team, Elke, Steffi Goers, Gudrun, Chris M., Rosanne, Chris L. and Liz Henderson all work tirelessly in the background making sure Kaffee und Kuchen runs smoothly. Chris Leske and Liz Henderson come each Tuesday and make Kinder Klub work. We have had wonderful support from some of our younger people for the Laternenlauf – namely Dieter organising the kitchen and making pretzels, Julianne for organising the setting up of the room, Pru Henschke organised the visuals on the night and “Team Peter, John & Bobb” who set up all the lights and pulled it all down at the end of the night – I am truly blessed to have such great people to call on. Many people also bring along something for the Kaffee Tisch each month which is much appreciated. Thank you all, without you nothing would happen, together we have fun, and make it work.

Thank you all for your support over the past year.

Steffi Traeger

I will now like to ask Chris Leske to present the Treasurer’s Report.

Peter Mickan will briefly speak about the Bilingual Programme and Cultural & Study Precinct.

Barossa German Language Association - **AGM 2024 Communication report**

Anne McKenzie, 28th October 2024

Website:

From May to August, our website (<https://barossagerman.com.au>) was temporarily locked due to technical issues, which were resolved in August. Since then, Anne has updated and maintained the site, ensuring it runs smoothly. We post regular updates (approx. 3 per month), including event details for Kaffee und Kuchen, guest speakers, Das Blatt publications, Adelaide German Week announcements, German class updates, and John's event summaries. All pages were recently refreshed.

Next steps: We plan to install Google Analytics to monitor website traffic and performance.

Email Newsletter:

We use the email program Mailchimp to send a monthly newsletter to 221 subscribers (+12 from previous year), sharing updates on events and news.

The engagement is high with good open rates and hardly any unsubscribes. A new pop-up sign-up form has been added to our website to grow our newsletter list.

Facebook:

In July, our original Facebook page was unexpectedly removed, along with all posts and over 600 followers. In response:

- New **Facebook Group: Barossadeutsch** was created in July as a community space for discussions, family history sharing, recipes, book exchanges, and more. We hope that in the coming year, more people will use this platform to discuss all things Barossadeutsch!
- New **Official Facebook Page:** Launched in October, this page will exclusively share official updates from the BGLA. Be sure to like and follow us here:

<https://www.facebook.com/barossagermanlanguage>

How you can help: Our Facebook reach depends on engagement! To help us grow, interact with our posts by liking, sharing, commenting, or reacting with hearts. Writing a 5-star review also boosts visibility.

Thank you for your continued support of the Barossa German Language Association!