



Sprachverein Barossa e.V.

BAROSSA GERMAN LANGUAGE ASSOC. INC. – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

29th September 2025

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Welcome to the AGM of the Barossa German Language Assoc. for 2025. Thank you all for coming.

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. The team on the committee in Adelaide do a great job creating a theme, pulling the speakers together and editing and publishing the booklets.

Picnic in the Park – There was no Picnic in the Park this year due to time constraints.

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 . This is a great family event and it is so good to see the excitement build and the childrens happy faces lit by the lanterns.

Adelaide German Week – September – our contribution to AGW this year was the “Barossa Konzert” with the Tanunda Liedertafel 1850 and the Barossa Trio playing beautiful music at St. Petri Church, Nuriootpa. At the conclusion of the concert, we enjoyed Kaffee und Kuchen at the back of the church. This event was also well supported by the community with about 150 people attending. Some people booked online, however, many came and paid on the day. The question was asked of me during Kaffee und Kuchen, what are you doing next year?

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.

Stammtisch – This year a group of mainly younger German speakers have been getting together at the Weintal Hotel in Tanunda on the last Wednesday of the month to have a meal or just a drink and speak German together. This has been quite successful and they make contact with each other through Whatsapp to organize themselves.

Kinder Klub and Spielgruppe - Spielgruppe and Kinder Klub are held at the same time, 4-5.30 each Tuesday afternoon. This has been working quite well although numbers have fluctuated each week and are generally down overall, with only 4 core families attending regularly. 2 new families with very young children have joined up recently. Liz Henderson and Chris Leske have been 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. We built a scarecrow for the Vintage Festival, which was proudly displayed at the front of Liz’s home.

German language tuition – Birgit, who teaches the classes in Lyndoch, says: “Classes are running strong. There were between 6 to 8 people attending throughout the year including some beginners. Our last term this year will finish at the end of November”.

Thanks Birgit.

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 was ably put together by Gerlinde (in Tanunda) and Sarah (in Denmark). Because Gerlinde has been away for a good part of this year, John has taken over the collating of Das Blatt now. He has only been involved in one edition so far, but has some great ideas for going forward. He will continue to work with Sarah in Denmark. It is sent to our email list, online, and printed copies are sent to the local libraries and circulated at Kaffee und Kuchen. Thank you Gerlinde, Sarah and John for an excellent publication.

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. Thanks John.

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. Her poster for our Barossa Konzert in particular, was really eye-catching. Our social media presence has lifted considerably because of her excellent work. This is her report. Thank you so much Anne. As Anne said in her report, she would be very pleased if someone else who is tech savvy could take over this role, or at least help her with it.

Fundraising & Grants – We did not apply for any grants this past year. We acquitted the Equipment Grant and purchased all the items on our list. Speaker and mike, media wall, lights, flags, large esky, banners and gazebo. These items have all been used for the Lantern Walk and some for the Barossa Konzert. All items are stored at the Langmeil Centre.

Bilingual Barossa Project – As most of you would be aware, we are continuing to lobby to establish Bilingual education in the Barossa region.

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. Peter has also spoken at a Barossa Council meeting. His detailed report is attached. Thank you Peter.

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 and our brochures.

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

Government of SA – "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 throughout the year.

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.

Finally - thank you - to our excellent committee, who have all done their individual best this past year, from organizing 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 organizing the kitchen and making pretzels, Michael from The Weintal Hotel who is also a chef and made the soup and helped in the kitchen for Laterenlauf, Julianne and Dorreen for the setting up of the room, Pru Henschke organized the visuals on the night. The guys who set up the gazebo, Robert, Bobb and Matthew – and of course Elke for the Gluewein we enjoyed at the end of the Lantern Walk.

Liz Henderson, ably helped by Hayley Cooke, Hayley is the German teacher at Nuri. High, get all the lantern making equipment together and man the tables during the evening – some interesting lanterns are made by some of the children!

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. Thank you Chris for keeping the books all year and organizing Jordan to audit them. The treasurer's job is huge and Chris does a great job.

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

I now call on Don Ross to take the chair as we elect a new committee for 2025/26. Thank you Don.