



Australian Blouza Association Inc.
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The Blouza Herald



**TO ALL BLOUZA FAMILIES &
FRIENDS,
WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY &
HOLY EASTER**

MARCH 2009

****GOOD ST. HALL HAS SOLD ****

Welcome to this Easter edition of the Blouza bulletin.

It is with great pleasure that I announce that we have sold and settled on the Hall at Good Street Granville on 29 January 2009. This has eased the financial burden on the Association and we are grateful to the Arab Bank for financing us during the period where we held both properties.

The Committee will soon commence the renovations of the new Blouza Centre at Blaxcell Street. Our initial priorities will be concreting the car park and installing air conditioning. We still have a large commitment to the Arab Bank regarding this property. Your continued help and support is needed. If you have not yet contributed to the Blouza Building Fund or you would like to make a further contribution, I urge you to do so. Since we last wrote to you, we have lost valuable members of our Blouza community and committee; our thoughts and prayers are with their families during these difficult times. I thank them for their service to the Blouza community and pass on my deepest condolences. On a lighter note, members of our Blouza community recently went on a trip to Melbourne to congratulate Monsignor Fr. Joe Takchi and celebrate the first anniversary of Our Lady of Lebanon Church in Melbourne. We all had a fantastic time. On behalf of our community, I would sincerely like to thank Monsignor Takchi and his Parishioners for their generous hospitality.

The Blouza committee has held a few functions recently to support the Victorian Bushfire Victims. These functions were well attended resulting in \$7,500 for this worthwhile cause.



I look forward to seeing you and your families & friends at upcoming functions, including :

NRL Night - 24 April 2009 at the Blouza Community Centre. The Parramatta Eels will be playing the Brisbane Broncos. Come along for dinner & drinks, meet legends of the game from various teams, support Blouza and your team.

Dial Before You Dig - 29 April 2009 at the Blouza Centre. This is a **FREE** seminar (valued at \$200 per person) for people in the trade and building industries, it includes dinner, drinks and 4 CPD. Other speakers include HIA, Integral Energy, Gas Company and Workcover. You are welcome to bring along anyone interested in this seminar.

Blouza Ball - 13 June 2009 at the Blouza Centre. A formal Ball will be the major fundraiser for the year. We encourage you to book a table early as seating is limited and it will be a great night. (Please refer to the flyer in this bulletin for more details)

I would like to thank the Committee for their ongoing support and the Ladies Auxiliary who have provided catering for a number of recent functions. I would like to encourage you to also support the future functions of the Ladies Auxiliary like Mothers Day, Prayer Days and Children's Discos. Last year we attempted to revive the Blouza Youth Group, please encourage your children to be involved and attend functions as they are the future of keeping the Blouza Community alive in Australia.

New members are encouraged to join the various committees within the Association.

I wish you all a happy, Holy and safe Easter and look forward to seeing you, your family and friends at upcoming functions and events.

Raymond Wehbe, President

Registration of Births & Marriages in Lebanon

Anyone who has not registered the birth of their children or their marriage is invited to do so. This is to boost the numbers of Maronites registered in Lebanon so as to ensure Maronites keep their numbers in the government. This is vital to keep Lebanon as a Christian Country and we urge you to fill out the registration forms. Please call Raymond W Wehbe on 0418 298 836 for more information

LADIES AUXILLIARY NEWS!!!!



Blouza & Friends Showcase their Talent for Mum

Sunday 3RD May 2009 at 12.30pm in the Blouza Hall

Cost: \$20.00 Adults / \$10.00 Children over 10yrs / \$5.00 Children under 10yrs Includes: Lunch & Entertainment - Special appearance from Lulu the clown! Encourage your children to Sing a Song, Do a Dance, play an Instruments or perform for their Mothers and Grandmothers. All age groups are welcome, so don't be shy, come and try!

To register a performance phone Shirley on 0409 330 028 or Natalie on 0413 763 789

Rehearsal for performers: Friday 1ST May 2009 at 4:30pm

Bereavement Update

The Association no longer owns any funeral plots.

Any member wishing to purchase a plot should do so directly from the Catholic Office at Rookwood. A new Maronite section has recently been opened called St Charbel's. The cost of each plot is approximately \$3,950.00. If you have any questions or need any assistance with this matter, please call Joe Bachir Younis on 0425 324 150. **It is important to note that the Association is willing to assist the bereaved family at their time of need. However, this is a shared responsibility. We request and encourage family members to come forward and participate at that time.**



جديد أخبار المدافن .
إن الجمعية لم تعد تملك أي قطعة أرض لدفن الموتى.
على الراغبين في شراء قطعة أرض الاتصال مباشرة بالمكتب الكاثوليكي في روكوود .
وقد تم مؤخرا " فتح قسم جديد للموارنة أطلق عليه اسم "مار شربل" . وتبلغ كلفة كل
قطعة حوالي \$ 3,950.00 .
لمزيد من المعلومات الرجاء الاتصال بـ : دجو بشير يونس على الرقم
0425324150

TREASURER'S REPORT

Below is an Income and Expense statement for 2008. This is part of the Annual Reports which have been independently audited by Robert Bates & Co, Chartered Accountants. A full set of Accounts is available by contacting Joe B Younis

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31/12/08		
	2008	2007
INCOME		
Gross profit on bingo trading	2,098	-
Functions	38,858	35,809
Donations	-	43,928
Building Fund Collections	21,574	35,640
Interest – Term Deposit	9,400	7,223
Hall Hire	21,947	1,364
Burial Plot Income	9,950	-
Sale of ties and shirts	1,455	-
Total income	105,282	123,964
EXPENSES		
Bank charges	409	428
Borrowing costs	120	1,616
Depreciation	6,796	1,163
Donations	-	6,300
Floral Tributes & Gifts	136	200
Function expenses	15,469	13,062
Property expenses	62,215	43,165
Interest paid	197,361	169,174
Merchandise purchases	2,184	801
Printing and stationery	1,918	7,550
Subscriptions	72	-
Total expenses	286,680	243,459
Operating (loss) before income tax	(\$181,398)	(\$119,495)
	=====	=====

Property Update

The Good Street property was sold in January 2009 through the excellent efforts of Mr Jeff Younis at Blueprint (Ph: 02 9890 4005). This followed months of unsuccessful negotiations with a range of potential buyers. Settlement was successfully arranged through Mr Eddie Takchi at Takchi & Associates. .

The entire proceeds from the sale went towards reduction of the Association's debt which was running at approx. \$2.4M for most of 2008.

The Blouza Community Centre which was valued at \$1.7M in January this year is now currently supported by a loan for \$1.2M through the Arab Bank Australia.

The Association has applied for a Heritage Grant of \$75,000 to directly assist with our proposed plans to install Air Conditioning in the Blouza Centre (cost of approx. \$120,000) and upgrade to the onsite car park. The funding conditions of the Heritage Grant does not cover installation of a kitchen on the premises ... this is a project we plan to carry out once we have sufficient funds / cash flow.

If you are able to assist us with either the Air Conditioning or the excavation, concreting and landscaping of the car park area, please contact Raymond W Wehbe on 0418 298 836 or Hamid Hanna on 0419 425 607.

جديد أخبار بيت بلوزا
بعد أشهر من المفاوضات الفاشلة مع مجموعة من المشترين المحتملين ، تم بيع الملكية الموجودة
على Good Street – Granville
في كانون الثاني 2009 بعد الجهود الممتازة التي بذلها السيد جيف يونيس من شركة
Blueprint (02 9890 4005).
بنجاح من خلال السيد ايدي طقشي من خلال مكتب طقشي وشركاه للمحاماة. وقد تمت التسوية
كامل العائدات من عملية البيع تم استهلاكها للحد من الدين المستوجب على الجمعية والتي وصلت قيمته
خلال العام 2008 الى

\$2.4 Million

أما بيت بلوزا الواقع على العنوان

157 Blaxcell Street Granville

والتي بلغت قيمته خلال شهر كانون الثاني الفائت

1.7\$ Million هو الآن يستفيد من قرض عن طريق البنك العربي استراليا .

وقد تقدمت الجمعية بطلب للحصول على منحة من دائرة التراث الحكومية قدرها \$75,000 لمساعدتنا
على تحقيق الخطة المقترحة وتركيب مكيف الهواء في بيت بلوزا (كلفته حوالي \$120,000) والجدير
بالذكر أن شروط التمويل لا تشمل تركيب مطبخ جديد في المكان المذكور . هذا مشروع نخطط لإنجازه
متى توفرت لنا السيولة الكافية .

كل من يرغب بمساعدة الجمعية إن من خلال دعم تركيب المكيف ، أو الحفر أو صب الباطون أو تحسين
المنظر الطبيعي لموقف السيارات ، الرجاء الاتصال بـ : ريمون وهبه وهبه على الرقم

0418298836 أو حميد حنا 0419425607 .

Building Fund Collections

Members of the Australian Blouza Association will be visiting all Blouza homes to continue with the Building Fund collections.

While we have visited many homes to date, we ask that you be patient with us as we try to reach all households. Alternatively, please feel free to approach any

committee member at any time with your contribution.

As we have mentioned previously, our target is to collect \$1500 per household over a 5 year period (this is equivalent to \$300 per year), and many of you have already generously contributed.

We do appreciate and acknowledge that any donations made by our members is completely voluntary, including the amount you are able to contribute. However, given the long-standing desire of the community to acquire a property for use as a hall, we look forward to your generosity and support.

Payment can be made in cash, cheque payable to 'Australian Blouza Association Inc.', or credit card (except Amex). A payment plan can also be arranged. Please note that all such donations are currently **not tax**

deductible. However, please

retain your 'official' receipt of payment, should circumstances change in the near future.



جمع التبرعات المالية لبيت بلوزا

سيقوم أعضاء جمعية بلوزا الاسترالية بزيارة جميع منازل أهالي بلوزا لمواصلة جمع التبرعات لبيت بلوزا.

وبدلاً من ذلك ، يمكنك التبرع من خلال الاتصال بأي عضو من أعضاء الجمعية في أي وقت يناسبكم.

وكما ذكرنا سابقاً ، إن هدفنا هو جمع 1500 دولار للأسرة الواحدة على مدى 5 سنوات (ما يعادل 300 دولار في السنة) ، وقد تبرع العديد من أهالي بلوزا بسخاء وكرم.

نحن نقدر ونقر بأن أي تبرع من قبلكم هو عملية طوعية تماماً ، بما في ذلك المبلغ الإضافي القادر على المساهمة به. ولكن نظراً لرغبة الجمعية التي طال أمدها للحصول على ملكية خاصة واستخدامها قاعة لأهالي بلوزا ، فإننا نتطلع إلى كرمكم ودعمكم.

ويمكن الدفع نقداً ، أو بواسطة شيك يدفع له : جمعية بلوزا الاسترالية" ، Australian Blouza Association Inc

أو من خلال بطاقة الائتمان (باستثناء أميكس). credit card (except Amex).

ويمكن أيضاً تنظيم طرق أخرى للدفع.

not tax ملاحظة: أن جميع هذه التبرعات ليست قابلة للاقتطاع الضريبي في الوقت الحاضر ومع ذلك ، يرجى الإبقاء على الوصل الرسمي بالمبلغ ، في حال تغيرت الظروف في المستقبل القريب

deductible
المستقبل القريب



*The Australian Blouza Association
First Annual Ball at
The Blouza Community Centre*



Address: Cnr of Blaxcell & Redfern Sts Granville

Date: Saturday 13th June 2009

*Time: 7:00pm Cocktails
7:30pm Seating*

Dress Code: Formal

Live music & Entertainment

*Dinner & Drinks: 3 Course Meal plus Mezza
Beer, Wine & Soft drink*

*Price: \$120.00 per person
(Book Early to avoid disappointment)*

*Contacts : Raymond W Wehbe 0418 298 836 Joe D Younis 0418 272 231
Sam Hassarati 0414 500 400 or other Committee Members*

*Looking forward to seeing you at our Annual Ball.
All Proceeds will go towards the Blouza building fund.*

FUNCTIONS

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND WATCH FOR
 UPDATES & INFORMATION ON WEBSITE.....www.blouza.com...

Date	Details
Friday April 24 	PARRAMATTA RUGBY LEAGUE LEGENDS NIGHT Starts 7pm at Blouza Hall.
Wednesday April 29	DIAL BEFORE YOU DIG SEMINAR Starts 5.30pm. Worth 4 CPD points for all builders. Tell all your friends to come along to the Blouza Hall. Food provided. FREE entry!
Sunday May 3	MOTHER'S DAY TALENT SHOWCASE Starts 12.30pm at Blouza Hall. (See Ladies Auxiliary for more details) 
Wednesday June 3	STATE OF ORIGIN I BBQ: Doors open 6.00pm at Blouza Hall. Free entry! Food & drinks available for purchase.
 Saturday June 13	BLOUZA BALL/CABARET: This is a very important event at the Blouza Hall. Don't miss out!
Friday July 3	FAMILY DISCO Starts 7pm at Blouza Hall.
Friday, July 10	MEN'S CHARITY NIGHT: Doors open 7.00pm at the Blouza Hall. All you can eat and drink for only \$50! Contact Joe Younis on 0418 272 231.
Friday, October 30	BLOUZA CHARITY GOLF DAY: Breakfast from 7.00am. Gun-shot tee-off at 7.40am. \$75 per person. Woodville Golf Course. Contact Joe Younis on 0418 272 231. 
Saturday November 7 	BATTLE OF THE BANDS Blouza Community Centre at 7pm sharp Requesting any Blouza boys in a band to contact John Younis 0411 074 660
Saturday 28 November	ST SABA MASS 6pm Our Lady of Lebanon Church 
Sunday December 20 	ST SABA CHRISTMAS PICNIC Auburn Community Picnic Grounds Killeen Street Auburn From 10.30 am



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- *Stormwater Main Laying*
- *Rainwater Tank Installation*
- *Stormwater Pit Construction*
- *Peg Outs*
- *Stormwater Box Culvert Construction*
- *Civil Engineering Design*

Raymond Roumanous
0410 441 441

Raymond Bechara
0412 224 992