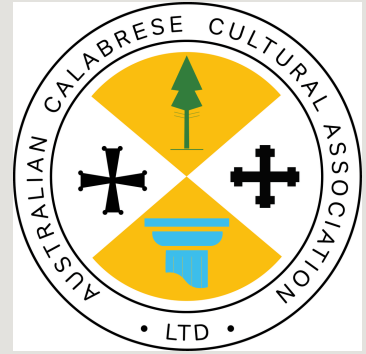


# A.C.C.A.

# Newsletter



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## November 2024 Edition 1

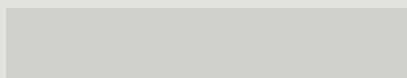
Welcome to the first edition of the Australian Calabrese Cultural Association (ACCA) Newsletter. We intend to publish the newsletter periodically in order to keep members informed of the activities of the Association.

ACCA was officially launched in October 2017 by a group of passionate Australian Calabrese who had a common vision to:

- Preserve and propagate Calabrese culture
  - Broaden relations between Calabria and Australia
  - Help project a positive image of the Calabrese in Australia and to correct the negative stereotype that is still prevalent in the media
  - Publicise the contribution made by Calabrese in Australia to the development of Australia
  - Provide our youth with heritage information about Calabrese culture
  - Arrange for a history of the Calabrese in Australia to be formally documented.
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## HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

- 2024 Calabrese of the Year
- Previous Calabrese of the Year Recipients
- Italian Festa
- Pancetta Making
- Multicultural Leader's Forum
- Forthcoming Events
- Snippets of Calabrian Culture
- The Last Word



## **Calabrese of the Year 2024**

The 2024 Calabrese of the Year Award gala dinner was held at the Park Hyatt in Melbourne on the 11th October. This was our sixth year of the Award.

**Emeritus Professor Joseph (Joe) Lo Bianco** was this year's recipient.

Over 120 people including past recipients Profs Elisabetta Barbiero and Teresa De Fazio and Liberal Opposition Leader John Pesutto joined in celebrating the achievements of Joe Lo Bianco an internationally recognised Linguistics professor and proud Calabrese.

Professor Joe Lo Bianco has advised on language, culture, and literacy education internationally, including in the Council of Europe, Sri Lanka, Ireland, and Canada, and supervises PhD research while teaching courses in language planning. His language policy work includes supporting multilingualism for the Sydney Olympic Games and advising various countries on language education, including a 20-year strategy for Irish in Ireland and a National Language Education plan for Sri Lanka.



We congratulate Prof. Lo Bianco and thank him for his support.

We are profoundly grateful to Tony Tardio, the iconic radio personality, for graciously assuming the role of MC once again. His presence and charisma greatly enhanced our event, and we are truly indebted to him for his unwavering support.

Dario Castaldo from SBS attended the Gala and we thank him for his time in interviewing the recipient. Click [here](#) to listen to Joe Lo Bianco and the Chair of ACCA interviewed at the Gala Dinner.

Calabria Sona, graciously sponsored by the Regione, provided captivating musical and dance entertainment that inspired many guests to join in the joyful celebration of the Tarantella. We thank our sponsors, "Hoyts", for the hampers that they donated and "That's Amore Cheese" for the cheese platters enjoyed on the night.

We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who attended. We are now accepting nominations for next year's award and encourage you to put forth anyone you believe is deserving of this honor.

As in previous years, the final decision will rest with the Board, and we kindly ask that no correspondence be initiated regarding the selection process. We hope that next year's event will be even bigger.

## **Previous Calabrese of the Year Recipients**

### **2019: Anna-Maria Arabia**

Melbourne-born and now Canberra resident, Ms Anna-Maria Arabia was the first recipient of the Australian Calabrese of the Year. Anna-Maria has over 20 years' experience in the science sector and is the Chief Executive of the Australian Academy of Science, an independent not for profit organisation that provides authoritative and influential scientific advice, represents Australia on key international scientific bodies, builds public awareness and understanding of science, and champions and supports excellence in Australian science.



### **2020: Antonio (Tony) Roccisano**

Tony is not only a Board Member of Real Corp Pty Ltd which is the company that owns the Victorian and NSW Professionals Real Estate offices, he is also the chairman for the Victoria Professionals Real Estate network and the President of the Club Da Vinci which is the Italian Community owned sports and function centre in Mildura.



### **2021: Dr. Teresa De Fazio**

Dr De Fazio has worked in educational leadership at various universities across Australia and has overseen a range of projects focused on multiculturalism, inclusion, equity and diversity, educational development, mentoring and leadership.

She received her Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Australia Day Honours list of 2021. She was recognized for her significant contributions to the community, particularly in the field of education and support for culturally and linguistically diverse groups.



### **2022: Professor Elisabetta Barberio**

Professor Elisabetta Barberio is the Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Dark Matter Particle Physics. She initiated the direct detection dark matter program in Australia. Professor Barberio led the construction of the first underground laboratory in the Southern Hemisphere, the Stawell Underground Physics Laboratory, which will host the first Australian dark matter detection experiment in Australia. In June, she was awarded the Knight of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic.



### **2023: Joe Avati**

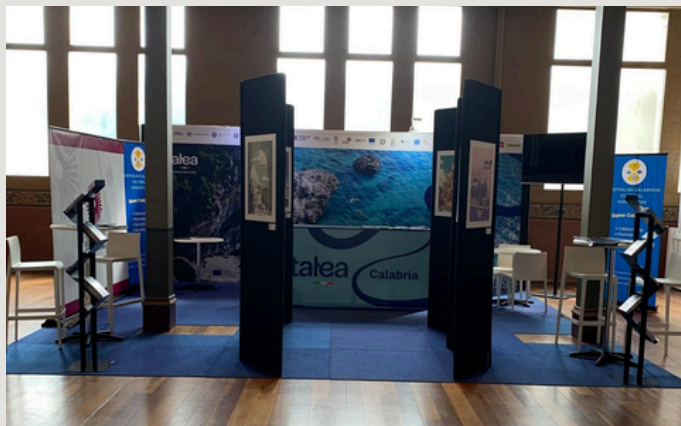
Joe Avati, the famous Australian comedian of Italian heritage, is internationally celebrated for his unique style and is considered one of the most influential comedians of his generation. He has played a pivotal role in shaping the ethnic comedy circuit worldwide. In 2024, Joe received 2 prestigious awards: The first was the Australian Comedian of the Year and then followed an award from the Italian Government in recognition for exemplary contribution to the arts globally.



## Italian Festa

ACCA was requested by the Regione to organise the Italea Calabria pavilion at the Italian Festa held at the Exhibition Building in Carlton, in collaboration with ICCI.

For those who attended the Festa, you may have noticed directors of ACCA present at the Calabrian pavilion. We thank all who joined us particularly those who signed and left messages on the expansive "Calabria Lovers" banner. Your support truly enriched the experience.



## Pancetta Making Demonstration

This year, the talented chef and musical virtuoso Gaetano Scalise, alongside the charismatic Tony Tardio, hosted a captivating Pancetta-making demonstration that was as entertaining as it was educational. The day was filled with laughter, culinary insights, and a delightful musical interlude. We hope everyone is savoring the fruits of their labour—what a delicious way to blend artistry in both food and music!



## Multicultural Leader's Forum

ACCA participated in the Multicultural Leader's forum organised by John Pesutto and the Liberal party. ACCA felt that it was important to participate in order to ensure that its views were put. ACCA asked that the Politicians consider the issue of mutual recognition that would facilitate the recognition of qualifications obtained in Italy by Italians that come to Australia. It was pleasing to see that this was supported by many other community groups who had the same view.

ACCA also recommended that greater effort should be made to entice Italians to come to Australia and participate in the cultural festival and that consideration be given to establishing immigration posts in Calabria and other cities in Europe to facilitate the immigration process.

There will be another meeting of the forum later in the year and hopefully ACCA will be able to report some positive conclusions about its concerns.

## **Forthcoming Events**

### **2025 International Conference**

ACCA is gearing up for an international conference in 2025, set against the stunning backdrop of Calabria. Keep an eye out for our upcoming notice with registration details—it promises to be a captivating and enjoyable event you won't want to miss!

### **Inciteful Webinars**

In addition, we're thrilled to announce a series of engaging webinars featuring voices from Calabria. Once the dates are confirmed, we'll send out a link to all members—stay tuned for some enriching discussions!

### **Calabrian Arts Festival**

ACCA is also planning a vibrant festival in 2025 that will spotlight young artists from Calabria, giving them the chance to shine on stage for Australian audiences. If you're passionate about celebrating Calabrian culture and want to lend a hand with the organization, we'd love to hear from you. Join us in this exciting journey as we honour and elevate the rich traditions of Calabria!

## **Snippets of Calabrian Culture**

Despite what some may think, Calabria has a rich culture the equal of any other region. Many noted writers, scientists, clerics, adventurers, philosophers and diplomats were born in Calabria.

The proof lies in the fact that Calabrian intellectuals have been recognised through the ages as evidenced by the fact that Dante Alighieri referred to noted Calabrian abbot and philosopher Giacomo de Fiore in his Divine Comedy;

***In Paradiso Canto 12 he speaks of Giacomo de Fiore or Joachim De Flora an Abbot and philosopher born in Calabria who was very influential in the Renaissance of the 12th Century. Dante wrote of him "and here beside me shines the Calabrian Abbot Joachim whose soul was given the power of prophecy" lines 139-141.***

The reference to prophecy related to Giacomo's writing.

## **The Last Word**

***One of ACCA's aspirations is to make Calabrian culture readily accessible to all who wish to explore its rich heritage.***

***As such, we warmly invite your contributions and participation in this meaningful endeavour, as together we can celebrate and share the beauty of Calabrian traditions with generations to come.***