



# MerHbA

**Maltese Historical Association (Aust) Inc**  
(Għaqda Storika Maltija (Awstralija) Inkorporata)

No 7/2012

AUGUST Newsletter

## MALTESE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION LANGUAGE IMMERSION MORNING 11<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2012



Students arriving at MCCV Parkville

### L.I.M. STUDENTS ARRIVAL

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August, the committee of the Maltese Historical Association held its eighth Language Immersion Morning at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville starting at 9:00am until 12:30pm. The thirty four students accompanied by three teachers were picked up by a hired coach from Taylors Lakes Secondary College, where they learn Maltese every Saturday. As soon as the students arrived at the Centre, they were greeted by the President of the MHA, Frances Bonnici. Soon after, the students were divided into two groups - primary and secondary levels.

### MALTESE COOKING

The secondary students had a 'hands on' activity to start off the morning. Mrs Marija Cilia, a committee member of the MHA shared her culinary expertise by demonstrating to the students the way Maltese 'Imqaret' are made. Marija brought all the equipment – rolling pins, pasta machines to roll out the dough, bowls etc. and all ingredients. After discussing some health and safety issues with the young people, she then demonstrated how to prepare the dough and the filling. The students were all eyes and ears and carefully watched Marija as she explained the techniques when rolling out the pastry and an easy way to pipe the filling on to the dough. All students had a go at making their 'imqaret' or date slices. They were allowed into the Centre's kitchen to watch the frying process and how to be aware of all safety measures when frying food. The students then had to fill in a worksheet, in Maltese, all related with the activity they had participated in. Most important of all they got to eat the imqaret while still nice and warm. The activity was conducted all in the Maltese language.



Marija Cilia instructing student

## POSTERS PRESENTATION

The second activity for the young adults was organised by the teachers themselves. During previous Saturdays, at school, the students were shown U-Tube snippets describing different historical sites in Malta e.g. Mdina; Mosta Dome etc. The students were then divided into five groups; each group had to design a poster about one of the sites using pictures and writing information about the site. Each group presented their project to the rest of the class at the end of the session.



Student preparing poster project



Student presenting poster project

## GAĦAN

The primary aged group had different activities planned for them. The first activity was the children's perception of the popular Maltese fictional character "Gaħan". The students were familiar with the character as the teacher had read them several stories about "Gaħan" at school. After the teacher discussed with the students the sometimes exaggerated physical features of this humorous imaginary character, some fitting descriptive words in Maltese were written on the white board for the students' benefit. Then on an A3 sheet and working in pairs, the students were asked to draw how they imagined "Gaħan" would have looked. With the help of word lists in Maltese and English, and with the volunteers helping with spelling and grammatical structures, the students were encouraged to write a few sentences about this popular imaginary character. The result of this activity was amazing in the way students perceived "Gaħan" – all very different; with unique and very colourful characteristics.



Mrs. Bonnici & students

## DANCING

The 'Movement to Music' was the second activity organised by the teacher. This was held in the hall where the students listened to the music and watched the dancing to the song. The students had great fun imitating the dancers and moving to the rhythm of Maltese music.



Students participating in dancing session



read along so that they practise their reading skills. After that, the fun part started. The students, supported by the volunteers, were asked to make a doll out of several strings of coloured wool. Using pipe cleaners, they gave the doll a head, a bodice and legs. Then they were allowed to use their imagination to dress-up the dolls.



Students dancing

## GĦANDI PUPA

The third activity was organised and presented by Frances. After a short introduction about the "Gugarelli" and what toys the children play with, Frances introduced the popular Maltese poem "Għandi Pupa". She encouraged the students to



Mrs. Maria Catania & students

## **MORNING TEA & DEPARTURE**

Again, the sight of children and students having fun while learning our language and familiarising themselves with our culture, makes the planning and organisation so very worthwhile. As now has become the practice, the students were provided with Morning Tea as well as free transport to and from the Maltese Centre.



Some students enjoying morning tea

I would like to thank the MHA Committee members and their spouses who donated their time, the teachers who organised activities and supervised the students, the MCCV's Executive Committee who always provide the pastizzi as well as free use of the Maltese Centre. I would also like to thank Edwidge Borg, the Vice-President of the Federation of Maltese Language Schools for her input during the morning.



Students returning to the bus for the trip back home.

Frances Bonnici  
MHA President

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2011  
TUESDAY 7.30pm,**

The Annual General Meeting of The Maltese Historical Association (Aust.) Inc will be held at :

**Maltese Community  
Centre,  
477 Royal Parade,  
Parkville**

### **Interesting Websites**

#### ***Check these out:***

- 1] [www.malteseabroad.org](http://www.malteseabroad.org) - the website of the Federation of Maltese Living Abroad, formed following the Convention of Maltese Living Abroad held in Malta in 2010.
- 2] <http://www.maltain360.com/#110001632> - this Heritage Malta website takes you on a virtual tour of a number of historically significant sites (courtesy of Joe Borg).
- 3] [www.maltagc.net.au](http://www.maltagc.net.au) - This website dedicated to the people of the Maltese Islands to whom the British monarch, King George VI, awarded the George Cross seventy years ago on 15 April 1942.
- 4] <http://www.maltain360.com/#110001632> - this Heritage Malta website takes you on a virtual tour of a number of historically significant sites (courtesy of Joe Borg).
- 5] <http://www.maltamigration.com> - The aim of the Malta Migration Museum website is to collect information relating to issues of interest to migrants and migration. It will continue to grow to provide the most comprehensive collection of such information.
- 6] [www.mha.org.au](http://www.mha.org.au). The official Maltese Historical Association website to be launched this month
- 7] <http://www.maltahistory.info> - This site is dedicated to the fascinating history of the islands of **Malta, Gozo** and **Comino**. It provides a lawyer's perspective of the history of Malta describing the conditions of the Maltese people throughout the ages

## COMMEMORATIVE COIN ISSUE

The Central Bank of Malta has issued a medal featuring the portrait of Grand Master Jean Parisot de La Valette on the obverse side and the façade of St. John's Co-Cathedral on the reverse side in May 2012.



Baptist", works of art by the Calabrian artist Mattia Preti, fine Flemish tapestries and Giuseppe



Jean Parisot de La Valette was born in 1494 and joined the Order of St. John of Jerusalem when he was 20. He came from a noble and ancient Provençal family and his ancestors were Knights who had fought in the Crusades with St. Louis. He joined the Order as a Knight of the "Langue" of Provence and was proclaimed Grand Master on 21 August 1557. On 18 May 1565, 138 galleys under the command of Piali' Pasha, and carrying a landing force of 40,000 men commanded by Mustapha Pasha, appeared off the coasts of Malta. This was the beginning of the Great Siege of 1565. Almost four months later, on 8 September, the defeated Turkish armada left these shores. The heroic Grand Master died on 21 August 1568. He was buried in the church of Our Lady of Victories where the foundation stone of Valletta, Malta's capital city, had been laid in 1566 by La Valette himself.

St. John's Co-Cathedral, a gem featuring Baroque architecture, was built between 1572 and 1577 as the conventual church for the Order of the Knights Hospitaller of St. John. The Co-Cathedral is still an important shrine and place of worship to this day. It was designed by the celebrated Maltese military architect Gerolamo Cassar, with a nave 53 metres long and 15 metres wide. It houses Caravaggio's 1608 masterpiece "The Beheading of Saint John the

Mazzuoli's main altar sculpture, amongst others. The decorative interior of the church is a work of art in itself. The nave is flanked by eight chapels, one for each *Langue* of the Order, while the entire floor is covered with over 200 marble tombstones commemorating some of the most illustrious Knights of the Order. The crypt houses the tomb of the Grand Master Jean Parisot de La Valette after it was transferred from the Church of Our Lady of Victories following the completion of St. John's Co-Cathedral. The medal, available in Similar, an alloy of copper and zinc, is being sold in a presentation pack which includes a DVD on Malta.

*Orders can be placed on the appropriate forms: MCDC 1 – for Collectors/General Public, MCDC 2 – for dealers, which can be downloaded from the Bank's website (under the section Currency, Collector Coins) or collected from the Bank's MCDC Counter at Castille Place, Valletta. The completed form is to be submitted by the relevant closing date as indicated on the form itself, either:*  
*by email to: [mcdc@centralbankmalta.org](mailto:mcdc@centralbankmalta.org)*  
*or by post to: Malta Coins Distribution Centre  
Central Bank of Malta, Pjazza Kastilja, Valletta,  
VLT 1060, MALTA.*

Orders by email without an application form, by fax or by phone will not be accepted.

## GENERAL NOTICE

1. MHA membership fees for 2012/2013 are now due. Please see Mario Bonnici at the next event or mail cheque to The Treasurer 59 Binnak Drive, Watsonia, Vic 3087. These fees are important to the MHA as membership fees are our main source of funds. Donations are accepted as well.
2. The MHA is organising a group for the 11:00 am guided session of Napoleon: Revolution to Empire on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August. The excursion's viability depends on numbers. The cost for entry and guide is \$33. If you would like to join us please ring Lewis Zammit ASAP on 0438 091 147.
3. The Home Visits Group of Volunteers of the MCCV requires both male and female volunteers to visit elderly Maltese. This group is also making up a list of those people who would wish to be visited at home by members of this group. Please ring the centre on 9387 8922 for more information.

### Prospective members:

All Welcome

You are always welcome to attend any of our lectures and obtain a hard copy of the membership form from Mario Bonnici. Or go to our website [www.mha.org.au](http://www.mha.org.au) & download application form.

## BANK OF VALLETTA PLC

### Australia Representative Office:

16 Watt Street Sunshine Vic 3020  
Tel 9311 3222 Fax 9311 3216



Open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9.00am to 1.00pm  
and 2.00pm to 5.00pm

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## WANTED

The Maltese Historical Association is looking for sponsors from within and outside the Maltese Community. The role of a sponsor is to offer some financial assistance in support of our activities. In return the Sponsor will be given an advertising space in our Newsletter and given mention at all our events throughout the year. It is a worthwhile cause in helping the MHA to continue the good work within the Maltese Community. For more details about the MHA please e-mail Frances Bonnici (President) at [[mfbonnici@bigpond.com](mailto:mfbonnici@bigpond.com)]

*Thanking you in advance.*

For the latest Maltese Historical Association News  
& other information go to [www.mha.org.au](http://www.mha.org.au)



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## Exhibition coming to Gozo, in October 2012.

Martin Bonnici will be having an exhibition in October in the Maltese Islands in Gozo. All proceeds of this exhibition will be donated to the Malta Community Chest Fund (less the Gallery Fees)

To raise as much for the Community Chest Fund, Martin will be pricing his work to sell. Each image will be 16 x 24 inches and priced at 250 Euro.

This exhibition will be held at the Art e Gallery, Victoria, Gozo, Malta



[www.artegozo.com](http://www.artegozo.com)

[www.martinbonniciphotography.com/](http://www.martinbonniciphotography.com/)