



MerHbA

Maltese Historical Association (Aust) Inc

(Ghaqda Storika Maltija (Awstralija) Inkorporata)

No 1/2012

February Newsletter

This Month's Program:

We start this year's program with a book launch.

The book *Beloved Convict* by Lou Drofenik will be launched by Professor Maurice Cauchi, (President of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria)

This will take place at:

Venue: **Maltese Community Centre**

477 Royal Parade, Parkville

Time: 7.30pm

Date: Tuesday 21st February, 2012.

About the Author

Lou Drofenik B.Ed, M.Ed., Ph. D (La Trobe)



Lou (née Zammit) was born in Malta and lives in country Victoria. Lou has been involved in feminist research and is an ethnologist with special interest and expertise in the area of Maltese female migration. Her novel *Birds of Passage*, is the first novel to be written about Maltese women's migration to Australia. This novel is now used as a text in one of the courses at Malta University.

Her second novel, *In Search of Carmen Caruana*, which also deals with women's migration, won *Il-Premju Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb* in Malta for best fiction written by a Maltese writer in English.

Her historical novel *Of Cloves and Bitter Almonds* was awarded the North Central Literary Award in 2007.

Cast the long Shadow, is the winner of the 2010 North Central Literary Award and also won the 2011 *Premju Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb* for best fiction written by a Maltese writer in English.

Lou has just finished her fifth novel *Beloved Convict*, which is based on the life of a Maltese national sent to the penal colony of New South Wales in 1817.

Her bi-lingual writing and poetry have appeared in various publications and her short stories have been heard on national radio.

Lou is married, has four children and six grandchildren.



A Word From The President

Dear members,

On behalf of the committee, I wish you all the best for the rest of the year.

The Christmas break is over and it is time for the association to give a start to the monthly presentations. I say 'monthly' because the committee has decided to revert to a monthly presentation as it was encouraged to do so after most of the speakers who were contacted accepted our invitation. There is a possibility that we could have a break in June but presentations in all other months are now organised.

I would like to thank the committee members for the work they put in to organise the meetings and their partners who help by providing supper and doing kitchen duties. Your attendance at the meetings will encourage us to continue to invite interesting speakers to share their knowledge with us.

Frances Bonnici - President - MHA

70th Anniversary of the Award of the George Cross by King George VI to the island of Malta.



This year the Maltese Community in Victoria is going to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Award of the George Cross by King George VI to the island of Malta. The Consulate of Malta in Victoria is organising special activities and I am listing them for your information.

1. A competition with the theme 'Malta and the George Cross'. Please visit www.maltagc.net.au for further details.
2. **Sunday 15th April**- Commemoration at the Shelter of Peace –Maltese Australian Association – Mr Benny Soler
3. **Tuesday 17th April** – MHA presentation on 'The George Cross'. Mr Charles Mifsud Consul General for Malta in Victoria is the speaker.
4. **Saturday 21st April** – Cocktail party / Film Show/ Competition Awards at the Parkville Centre
5. **Friday 27th April**- Opening of Exhibition at the Melbourne Town Hall. The exhibition will be open till Sunday 29th
6. **Sunday 29th April** – Commemoration at the MCCV Monument- Ex-Servicemen Association – Mr. Emmanuel Spiteri

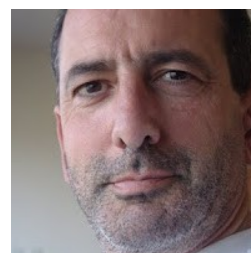
Please visit the website where other information is available and put these dates down in your diaries.



Retrospective

'The Maltese Diaspora – From Australia to America and in between'

Migration is controlled by two primary factors; a push from the home country and a pull from the host country. Malta is unique in having a very small landmass and a fluctuating economy. This "push" is sometimes matched with a "pull" from the host country where they promote and welcome an increasing skilled and English-speaking workforce. There are Maltese in every corner of the World, but most have settled in North Europe, North Africa, Australia and America. The presentation gave a historic review of migration from Malta. From the 1800 most Maltese migrating to America worked in the farmlands around New Orleans, in Louisiana. Following the first and second world war, Maltese migrants were attracted to Detroit, New York and San Francisco. The highest concentration was attracted to Detroit where the skilled workforce from the Malta Royal Dockyards found skilled work in the booming industrial heartland of America. The discussion touched upon some of the differences between Maltese in America compared with Maltese migrant to Australia. Wherever Maltese decide to reside, their identification with their culture provides support and assurance, as one of the most resilient cultures in history. A list of agencies that work with Maltese migrants in the United States was provided. A lively discussion followed where individual members of the Maltese Historical Society of Australia recalled personal experiences migrating to Australia.



Last Lecture by
Professor Mario Garrett



"Il-Karnival ta' Malta"

Carnival (Maltese: il-Karnival ta' Malta) has had an important place on the Maltese cultural calendar for just under five centuries, having been introduced to the Islands by Grand Master Piero del Ponte in 1535. It is held during the week leading up to Ash Wednesday, and typically includes masked balls, fancy dress and grotesque mask competitions, lavish late-night parties, a colourful, ticker-tape parade of allegorical floats presided over by King Carnival (Maltese: ir-Re tal-Karnival), marching bands and costumed revellers. Carnival has been celebrated in Malta since the 15th century, but it received a major boost in 1535, five years after the arrival of the Order of St John. This started taking place officially in Birgu where a number of knights played games and displayed their skills in various pageants and tournaments.

The Parata Dance

True to an age-old tradition, Carnival was ushered in by the Parata which was taken very seriously both by the knights and the people in general as it was of special significance in the history of this festival.



It was customary for some peasants and later companies of young dancers to gather early under

the balcony of the Grandmaster's Palace and wait eagerly until they received formal permission from him to told the Carnival. The most recently appointed Knight Grand Cross would obtain the necessary permission and a proclamation giving the go-ahead to Carnival was immediately read from the Palace balcony.

This was the sign for the general merriment to start, and the companies dressed as Christians and Turks performed a mock fight recalling the Great Siege of 1565. Then a girl representing Malta was carried shoulder high and taken around the streets of Valletta. Meanwhile a stone would be hung from the Castellania, or Palace of Justice (now the Ministry of Health, in Merchants Street), as a sign that justice was "suspended" for the three days of Carnival.

Today

The largest of the Carnival celebrations mainly take place in and around the capital city Valletta and Floriana, however there are several "spontaneous" carnivals in more remote villages of Malta and Gozo. The Nadur Carnival is notable for its darker and more risqué themes including cross-dressing, ghost costumes, political figures and revellers dressed up as scantily clad clergyfolk. Traditional dances include the parata, which is a lighthearted re-enactment of the 1565 victory of the Knights over the Turks, and an 18th century court dance known as il-Maltija. The parata, in these days is being held by the 1st Hamrun Scout Group.

Food eaten at the carnival includes perlini (multi-coloured, sugar-coated almonds) and the prinjolata, which is a towering assembly of sponge cake, biscuits, almonds and citrus fruits, topped with cream and pine nuts.



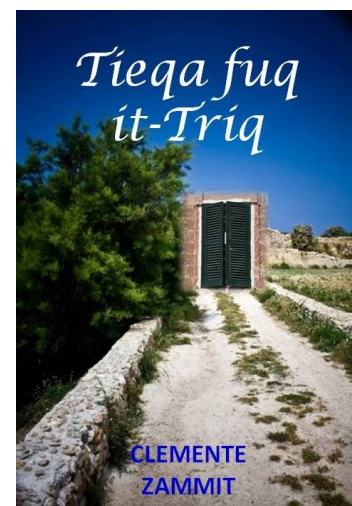
TIEQA FUQ IT-TRIQ

We are pleased to inform you that Clemente Zammit's new ebook - **TIEQA FUQ IT-TRIQ** – is now available for purchase online to be read:

- on your computer, or
- using any ebook reading devices such as Apple's iPad, Kindle, Sony Reader, Nook and Kobo.

***TIEQA FUQ IT-TRIQ** is a fiction in Maltese. It tells the tale of two young people who fall in love at first sight as they ride the waves of the Sixties in Malta, in a world that beneath the surface is more passionate than one would imagine; a world, however, still largely untainted by the complexities of modern lifestyles.*

The book breaks new ground in being the **first ever novel in Maltese to be published as an ebook**, for world-wide distribution at the nominal price of only (\$1.99 US).



Where to purchase the book?

Smashwords

<http://www.smashwords.com/books/view/115246>

(a single purchase from Smashwords gains access to all ebook reading formats, including the PDF format that is good for reading the book on computer or for home printing)

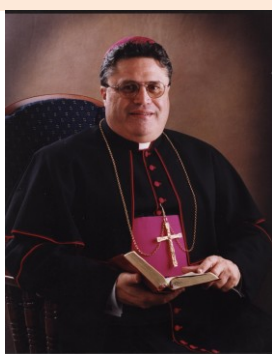
Apple's iBooks Store (for Apple's iPad)

(search for **Tieqa fuq it-Triq by Clemente Zammit** in iBooks Store on your iPad)

Diesel eBook Store

www.diesel-ebooks.com/item/SW00000115246/Zammit-clemente-Tieqa-fuq-it-Triq/1.html

You are kindly encouraged to check out Clemente's new ebook at the above sites and to consider purchasing a copy. Clemente would also be most grateful if you were to promote the book on your social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Myspace, LinkedIn, etc)



The Bishop Grech Memorial Fund

The Committee is organising a **Fund Raising Concert – Dinner**

Date/Time:	Sunday, 19 th February 2012 ~6.00pm
Venue:	Maltese Community Centre, 477 Royal Parade, Parkville
Entertainment:	Fr Rob Galea, Manwel Casha & team
Donation:	\$25 per person 3 course meal, wine & soft drinks
Reply by:	Monday 13 th February 2012

(Please detach or Copy the form below, complete and post it together with your payment, to Venue address)

Please provide a list of Names of additional persons attending with you

Name: _____ Email Address: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
Suburb: _____ Post code: _____

Money order/cheque to be made payable to the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc. –Thank You
(Please DO NOT send cash in the mail.)

Interesting Websites

Check these out:

- 1] 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 - 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.

Reminder

Memberships for 2011-2012 are now due. These remain unchanged at \$10 for singles and \$15 for couples. Please see Mario Bonnici at our next meeting or mail your cheque to:

59 Binnak Drive
Watsonia
VIC 3087.

Prospective members:

All Welcomed

Please note that you can download a membership form from our website www.mha.org.au Or

You are always welcome to attend any of our lectures and obtain a hard copy of the membership form from Mario Bonnici.

NOTICE

Message from Professor Maurice Cauchi President of MCCV

The MCCV is compiling an email list of all those who are interested in being informed directly of activities held at the Centre as well as receive the MCCV Newsletter electronically. All those interested should send an email to MCCV (admin@mccv.org.au) indicating their wish to be included.

Centre's Tel no – 93878922 for those who do not have a computer.

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