



NEWPORT NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Newport Maltese Association Inc.
C/- 477 Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria 3052

March 2012

Lydia Cole—Editor

Vol. 2 Issue 25

The President's Message

Dear Fellow Members & Friends,
Welcome to our first Newsletter for the year 2012. We have come a long way since we produced the very first "Association News Letter."

It was December 1999 when the Association officially launched "Volume1, Issue1" of the "Newport News" which consisted of an A4 sheet paper, folded in two. Presently, it consist of 12 pages full of general information, Social Activities reports, photos and ads dealing mainly, with all that's happening with the Association and the Seniors.

This issue (Volume 2, Issue 25) represents the 50th edition, and I like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the Editor, Lydia Cole and all those who over the years submitted write-ups and other general information to keep us informed and are of interest to us. If feasible, we hope that, in the near future we will be able to print the Newsletter (photos) in colour for you to enjoy even more.

So far, this year has been one of mixed happenings with its fair share of ups and downs.

Early in the year, we were all shattered to hear about the passing away of Charles Fiteni, a most loveable character by all those who knew him. Charles, who regularly attended the Seniors Group gathering on Wednesdays was always very helpful especially around the billiard table and always carried a smile on his face. He will be genuinely missed by all, may He rest in peace.

From the entertainment point of view, we started the year with a big bang, when we presented to you all the way from Malta, two of the most versatile and popular Maltese singers "Renato and Georgina".

Recently, the Seniors Group held the Annual General Meeting and Committee Election. My congratulations to all the incumbent Committee Members who were re-elected and to Mr Rennie Busuttill who was elected to fill the vacant position on the Committee.

This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the George Cross Award to Malta. An organizing Committee is set up to make arrangements for the commemoration of the award. There are several activities which will take place between 15th April and 29th April. You will find all details of the events on website address: www.maltagc.net.au.

The "Award" to Malta represents a very important chapter in the history of our beloved Island, so I urge you all to attend the activities.

The Federation of Maltese Living Abroad recently held the committee election for 2012-2013. On your behalf, I like to congratulate Prof. Maurice Cauchi who was re elected President, Mr Manuel Cilia, a member of our Association who was elected Treasurer and Dr. Edwin Borg Manche, Committee Member.

Finally, as we approach Holy Week, commemorating the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, on behalf of the Association and Seniors Committees I wish you all and your family a very happy and safe Easter.

Until next time, Sahha.

George Saliba
President & Seniors Co Ordinator

Christmas Break Up Association

December, the month in which we celebrate Christmas and as this is a special day for us all we start preparing for the occasion, buying present (which is a great headache) and amongst other things thinking of what to cook on this special day. Most of us spend some time with the family at some stage of the day and we all try to make this a pleasant and enjoyable time as best we could.

Well on the 3rd December the Newport Maltese Association held their Christmas Break-Up for their members at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville.

Needless to say the hall was packed to the rafters and there was not a lot of dancing floor left after setting the tables, but did that matter, I think not, everyone got up to dance and every inch of the floor was used, the passage way and the foyer made up for the lack of space in the hall.

The food was provided by St. Albans Catering which was very tasty and everyone seemed to enjoy it.

For the raffle (surprise, surprise) we had quite a few gifts to choose from, a food hamper, a leg of ham, another hamper donated by Mr and Mrs Pace, \$100 voucher from Mrs Gia Portelli and anonymously donated were a BBQ, two bottles of wine and a crystal vase. Our congratulations to the winners.

Special thanks to Moods Music (Mario Sammut) who gives us a selection of music we all love to dance to, George (The President) who is the best Master of Ceremony in the land, you the members for your continuous support and all my fellow Committee members who work hard and do their utmost for these functions to be successful.

New Year' Eve 2011

My goodness how time flies, it seems not that long ago that I was writing the report for the New Year's Eve 2010. One year older, I hope that we are at least a little bit wiser.

As usual, the hall, the food and the service at the Lakeside Banquet and Convention Centre were

excellent.

This year our entertainment was supplied by **Tony Dee and Marcia Rae Revival** (picture below). Their music revolved around popular songs from the 50's and 60's, songs from our younger days (is this a giveaway?) and to top it all for a special performance, none other than our very own **Stan Azzopardi**. Thank you Stan (Your blood is worth bottling). They each presented us with their own style of music which was very entertaining.

As midnight was approaching, the committee distributed hats, whistles, streamers and poppers to everyone and we all gathered on the dance floor waiting for the strike of midnight. As Big Ben struck twelve, the hall erupted with the noise of "Happy New Year" and whistles and poppers, and greetings to each other. This no doubt, was the highlight of the night. It did not stop there, the dancing continued till the end of the night, stopping to hug and wish Happy New Year to those you have missed previously.

So we start another year with the hope of staying healthy and having the strength to cope with all our adversities.

Our thanks go to the Lakeside Banquet and Convention Centre, our sponsors, our members and their friends for their support and their ability to blend in as one large happy family and it goes without saying the Committee members for their never ending effort to make each function a success, and to the lucky winners of the raffle, Congratulations.

Lydia Cole
P.R.O



Renato and Georgina

WHAT.....A.....NIGHT!!!

On the 28th January 2012 at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville the Association held a special function with Renato and Georgina Abela as the main attraction. Two very popular singers in Malta.

When this was first offered to us it was a bit of a gamble as the Committee did not know how well our members would respond, but we decided to give it a go and we are glad we took the decision to go with it because our members did not let us down.

After dinner, which the Committee had prepared, George ran a brief history on Renato and Georgina to the members. Most of the people were already familiarized with them.

With Mario Sammut (Moods Music) doing the back-up music Renato came on first, he sang a medley of songs where after that he introduced Georgina who sang mostly Maltese songs, some of which were written by her husband Tony.

They both sang solo and as a duet which triggered many standing ovations, but the most popular was when the duo sang Ave Maria, that was something else. As we sang the "Innu ta Newport" Renato wanted a copy of it.

Our feedback was all positive, many, many people said they had a great night, which made all the hard work by the committee worthwhile.

The raffle (of course) was won by: Georgina Dalli, Victor Privitera, Mary Cardona, Mary Sacco, Rose Vella and Rose Pace.

Special thanks go to Reno Grima for giving us this opportunity, Mario for his music, you the members for your continued support and of course to the Committee members for without their effort and determination none of this would be possible. So thank you one and all.

Lydia Cole
P.R.O.



Carnival Dance

3rd March 2012

Thirty eight ladies and eighteen gentlemen were dressed in costumes, Compared to last year, we had 3 ladies more and 2 less gentlemen in costume, still we **congratulate and thank you for a very good effort.**

When everyone was seated, Julius Ceaser (pictured opposite) unrolled his parchment, read his decree and proclaimed to everyone to enjoy the night and have fun.

The atmosphere was remarkable, humorous and entertaining and the dance floor was packed all the way through till the end of the night, but this is not anything unusual. I hope that the visitors from Interstate and from Overseas had a good time.

Of course, it goes without saying that our DJ (Mario Sammut) plays a big part in keeping us on our feet even when our feet are tired and sore, still we keep on going. Thank you Mario, you're the best.

The food, two meats, rice, veggies and roast potatoes, plus apple pie and ice-cream for desert, was prepared by St. Albans Catering.

Encouragement Awards were drawn and presented to three gentlemen and three ladies. The lucky winners were: The Gents: **Mrs Doubtfire** (Louise Camilleri), **Sultan** (Oliver Camilleri) and **Hawaiian** (Joe Ellul) and the ladies were: **Spanish Lady** (Alice Buttigieg), **Bollywood Princess** (Trish Judah) and **Pirate of Pensanze** (Iris Perigin).

Then came the raffle, the winners were: Lena Saliba, Rose Pace, Christine Leech (visiting from Scotland) Carmen Meilak, Dominic Sacco, Rose Galea and Louisa Scicluna. **Congratulations to you all.**

Lydia Cole
P.R.O.



Acknowledgement



The Newport Maltese Association would like to thank the Victorian Multicultural Affairs & Citizenship for the grant of \$300 to be used for the Fancy Dress Dance held on 3rd March 2012.

Below: The Ladies and the gents in costume at the Carnival Dance on 3rd March 2011



Seniors' Corner

SENIORS' CHRISTMAS BREAK UP **14th December 2011**

Typed the heading, and stared at it for a long time, I'm not normally lost for words or inspiration, however this year has been very testing for me, thank God that we have been involved with such a wonderful group of people who have become an extended family to us. It is sad that there will be no club day for the next five weeks or so, but happy to know that when you are reading this we will be once again meeting weekly.

Melrose was the venue for the Break Up. No shortage of room, around the tables, or on the dance floor. Everyone there ready to party, and that we all did, for a successful night you need good friends, favourite music, and good food. We had it all.

Our weekly meetings are well attended, and as committee members we appreciate the help we receive regularly from those that help out. George acknowledged these on the night with a token of appreciation. Again a BIG THANK YOU.

After our main meal it was time for the Committee to entertain, so into the change room and out came Santa and his Merry Maids and Gentlemen, all those that could remember last year the Maidens were in wheel chairs etc. we will not make fun like that again.

Hope you all enjoyed the Choir! Not quite Carols by Candlelight standard, but we try. Thank you Stan Azzopardi our Musical Director and guitar player. We even got an encore!

Just like Santa's Helpers the guys gave out the hampers to all members, and they now have the distribution down pat. Well done fellas.

Raffle winners were Miriam Camilleri, Agnes Sacco,

Maryanne Bugeja, Marlene Cutajar, Effie Sacco, Dennis Carbone, George Laferla. Thank you all for supporting the raffle, it enables us to put on nights like this with minimum outlay from you.

Special thanks to Mario Sammut for another enjoyable musical selection, and most especially to my fellow Committee Members who give of their time so unselfishly, George for doing my job while away, and also to Joe Ellul who has doing a fantastic job of doing the write ups.

Happy New Year everyone, here is hoping that 2012 will be filled with good cheer for all of us, and most especially Good Health and Happiness.

Gwen Busuttil
Seniors Committee Member

Sorrento One Day Outing **Thursday 16th February**

When I retired I thought to myself that now I would be able to sleep in every morning. Little did I know that once one is committed to the Newport Seniors Group Committee, sleeping is not in the constitution.

Going out on day trips reminded me of my younger years when we used to go to the Xaghlatal-Kappilan. Do you remember those days??

Preparations galore, what to wear, what food to take, what time the coach is leaving and a million other things.

Well really nothing has changed or if it did, very little. We still leave early. Some members prepare a lot of food. While others take the easy way out and buy their lunch.

We departed from the Maltese Centre at about 8 am and we had barely been in the coach for half an hour before Victor started distributing sweets and Cakes. Would you believe me if I said that Victor does his utmost to keep very quiet? I thought you would not.

After stopping for morning tea we finally
Contd next page

arrived at Sorrento. Channel 7 was ready to film the members in the great race to secure a table in the shade. Once settled the pilgrimage to the fish and chips shop started and poor guy, he did not know what hit him.

With lunch out of the way some opted to sit and talk, others played Bocci while others went for a walk.

Three thirty came fast and we were back on the coach for our return journey. The trip started very quietly until George reminded the members of the forthcoming Comedy Luncheon and he asked Vince Calleja to give a sample of the jokes for the day. One joke led to another and to support Vince, Paul Schembri said a few jokes as well. A few tears of laughter were shed, whilst others shirked with joy. One think I know is the Coach Company was not happy as some of the seats were wet. Say no more.

Finally another memorable day came to an end and with it the good weather as the heavens opened its doors and rain came down in bucket loads.

Joe Ellul
Secretary

SENIORS BBQ PICNIC

Brimbank Park Thursday 15th March

Melbourne is known for the unpredictable weather, and the forecast was not the best, so we hoped and prayed that it would clear up. 8.30a.m. all crew was on deck, armed with BBQ utensils, bowls, bread, salads, onions, meat and sausages. We had faith in all of you to be brave and not let us down. It was such a beautiful sight to see the cars driving down, we felt like cheering as you all made your way down to the BBQ area.

We sure have some great cooks amongst us. Well done guys, even my husband has improved out of sight. The onions, sausages and the meat were mostly cooked on the portable BBQ. We must remember to bring something to put fires out next year.

Everyone settled in, Thermos at the ready for a nice cuppa, and the latest jokes were shared, although some were warned to keep these for our Comedy Luncheon coming up. Anybody would think that we have not seen our friends for months, instead of only just yesterday. After lunch, some chose to play Bocci, some played cards, even the grandchildren enjoyed themselves. Another successful event! A much relieved George thanked everyone for coming.

Gwen Busuttil (Seniors' Committee Member)

P.S. Don't tell anyone, but some left the area close to 6p.m.

Below and Next Page: Photos from the Seniors Christmas Break Up





Above: Photos from the Newport Maltese Seniors Group Christmas Break-Up 2011 at the Melrose Reception

Comedy Luncheon:

Come and join us on the 15TH APRIL for an afternoon of fun and laughter.

It will be held at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville, starting at 12 noon till 5pm.

Entertainment: *With the participation of Stan Azzopardi and comedy by Vince Calleja, Joe Ellul and Paul Schembri.*

Do not miss out. Seats are limited so book early with Lillian Calleja on 8390 2920



"Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled"

Let not your soul be sad
Easter is a time of joy
When all hearts should be glad.

Glad to know that Jesus Christ
Made it possible for men
To have their sins forgiven
And, like Him, to live again.

So at this joyous season
May the wondrous Easter Story
Renew our Faith so we may be
Partakers of "His Glory!"
~ Helen Steiner Rice ~

PINK CURTAINS

A Blonde goes to K-Mart to buy curtains. She says to the salesman, 'I would like to buy a pair of pink curtains.'

The salesman assures her that they have a large selection of pink curtains. He shows her several patterns but the blonde seems to be having a hard time choosing.

Finally she selects a lovely pink floral print. The salesman then asks what size curtains she needs. The blonde promptly replies, 'Seventeen inches.'

'Seventeen inches ?' asked the salesman. 'That sounds very small, what room are they for ?'

The blonde says, 'They aren't for a room, they are for my new computer monitor.'

The surprised salesman replies, 'But Miss, computers do not need curtains !'

The blonde says, 'Hellllloooooo mine has Windooooows.....'

NEWPORT MALTESE ASSOCIATION
FUNCTION DATES FOR 2012

SUN APRIL 15th	COMEDY LUNCH	M.C.C.V.
SUN JUNE 17th	DAY OUTING/POKIES	
SAT JULY 7th	ANNUAL DINNER DANCE	LAKESIDE RECEPTION
SUN OCTOBER 14th	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	M.C.C.V.
SAT OCTOBER 27th	GET TOGETHER	M.C.C.V.
SAT DECEMBER 1st	CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP	M.C.C.V.
MON DECEMBER 31st	NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL	LAKESIDE RECEPTION

NEXT FEW FUNCTIONS FOR THE
SENIORS GROUP FOR 2012

SUNDAY	29th April	MOTHER'S DAY DINNER-MELROSE
THURSDAY	17th MAY	LUNCHEON-TBA
SATURDAY	9th JUNE	ACTIVITY FUN NIGHT/SING ALONG
SATURDAY	28th JULY	CHRISTMAS IN JULY-DINNER
SATURDAY	25th AUGUST	FATHER'S DAY FUNCTION

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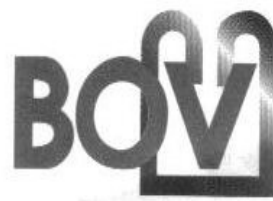
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