



# NEWPORT NEWS

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

March 2013

Lydia Cole—Editor

Vol. 3 Issue 4

## *The President's Message*

**D**ear Fellow Members & Friends

2013 is a significant year for the Association, as we look forward to celebrate the 40th Anniversary since the foundation of our Association. We have come a long way since the humble beginning at the residence of our dear friends Nick and Iris Caruana in Percy Street, Newport. Little did we know then, that 40 years later the Association will be as active and successful as it is to-day. One could write a book about the experiences, achievements and disappointments we encountered during this time. But the Association soldiered on because all of us believed in the good cause we were working for, in helping members of the Maltese Community.

So, the 5th October 2013, is the day to keep in mind as we celebrate 40 years in a special way, with a Gala Dinner Dance.

If one looks at this year's combined program of events, you will account for 10 events which will require musical entertainment. The Association together with the Seniors have engaged the following music providers to entertain us;- D.J. Dominic; D.J. Tony; Moody Blue Duo and D.J. John.

All four are well known among the Maltese Community and beyond and I'm sure we

will not be disappointed.

The petition organised by the Maltese Community Council of Victoria to present to SBS radio as a protest against the severe cuts in Maltese language Programs gathered over 3,000 signatures. No doubt, members of our Association and the Seniors played a significant role in gathering so many signatures. So, well done everyone. Lets hope that SBS Management will reconsider their decision and take into account the needs of our Community.

Attending the monthly meeting (March) of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, I am pleased to inform you that the music problem we are facing at the moment at the Maltese Centre in Parkville will be resolved within the next few weeks.

So, once again we will be able to hold certain functions at the centre. This is our centre, its what we, the Maltese Community have work hard to have, so be proud of our achievement and enjoy the benefits that the centre have to offer.

As most of you know by now, Joe Ellul has relinquished his Secretary portfolio with the Seniors Group. On behalf of all the members of the Group I like to say thank you Joe for a job well done during your time as Secretary. However, Joe remains an Executive Committee Member with the Association, so his services to Newport are not totally lost.

Finally, those of you who have not as yet got a copy of the Combined Program of Events, I advice you to get one, this way you know what

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is happening next and be able to book early so you will not miss out on any activity.

Until next time,  
Sahha u Awguri.

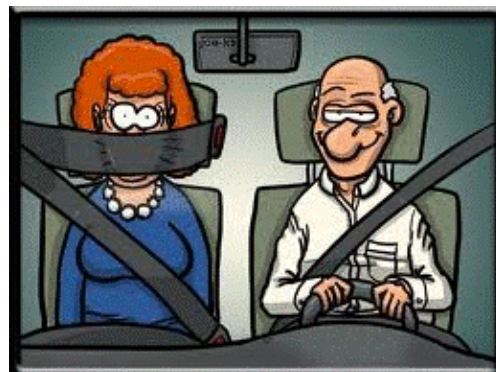
George Saliba  
President & Seniors Co-Ordinator

### A Little Poem



I have a little Sat-Nav  
It sits there in my car  
A Sat-Nav is a driver's friend  
It tells you where you are  
I have a little Sat-Nav  
I've had it all my life  
It's better than the normal ones  
My Sat-Nav is my wife  
It gives me full instructions  
Especially how to drive  
"It's thirty miles an hour", it  
says  
"You're doing thirty five"  
It tells me when to stop and start  
And when to use the brake  
And tells me that it's never ever  
Safe to overtake  
It tells me when a light is red

And when it goes to green  
It seems to know instinctively  
Just when to intervene  
It lists the vehicles just in front  
And all those to the rear  
And taking this into account  
It specifies my gear.  
I'm sure no other driver  
Has so helpful an device  
For when we leave and lock the  
car  
It still gives its advice  
It fills me up with counselling  
Each journey's pretty fraught  
So why don't I exchange it  
And get a quieter sort?  
Ah well, you see, it cleans the  
house,  
Makes sure I'm properly fed,  
It washes all my shirts and things  
And - keeps me warm in bed!  
Despite all these advantages  
And my tendency to scoff,  
I do wish that once in a while  
I could turn the damned thing  
off.



## NEW YEAR'S EVE 2012

**H**eld at the Lakeside Banquet and Convention Centre, this is always a big hit with our members. As you can see from the pictures everybody was prepared for a good evening of fun and according to our feed-back they were not disappointed, the night was a huge success.

As for the venue, Lakeside leaves nothing to be desired, the hall, food, drinks and service were all excellent.

As for the entertainment we know what to expect from Moods Music but alas, this was the last time that Mario Sammut played his music for us, so, our President George Saliba, on behalf of the committee, presented Mario (pictured right) with a gift of appreciation for his ongoing service to our Association. Once again, **Thank You Mario**.

We were pleased to have celebrating with us the Consul General for Malta in Victoria Mr Charles Mifsud, and Mrs Anna Mifsud and the Vice-President of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Mr Victor Borg and Ms Bridgette Petty.

And of course the raffle. We congratulate the winners of our raffle. Quite a few people went home with a nice gift.

Our next function will be the Comedy Fun Luncheon on the 21st of April at the Maltese Community Centre- Parkville. Keep this date open for some fun and laughter and don't forget to book with Olga Ellul on 9744 6096.

## Fancy Dress Dinner Dance

Carnival, or Carnivale, (from which our Fancy Dress Dinner Dance is derived) is a festive season which occurs immediately before Lent; the main events are usually during February. Carnival typically involves a public celebration or parade combining some elements of a circus, mask and public street party. People often dress up or masquerade during the celebrations, which mark an overturning of daily life.

Hundred and hundreds of years ago, the followers



of the Catholic religion in Italy started the tradition of holding a wild costume festival right before the first day of Lent. Because Catholics are not supposed to eat meat during Lent, they called their festival, *carnelevale* — which means “to put away the meat.” As time passed, carnivals in Italy became quite famous; and in fact the practice spread to France, Spain, and all the Catholic countries in Europe. Then as the French, Spanish, and Portuguese began to take control of the Americas and other parts of the world, they brought with them their tradition of celebrating carnival.

And so we too celebrated Carnival with our Fancy Dress Dinner Dance. We had lots of people participating in nice fancy costumes. It was a fun night with everyone joining in. The venue is nice, the food and the service were very good.

For the first time we were entertained by DJ Dominic. We had very good feedback on this. Thank you Dominic, well done.

Encouragement Awards were won by: The Gents: Oliver Camilleri, Joe Gallinaro and Maurice Spiteri. The ladies: Matilda Borg, Irena and Miriam Cunningham.

Hope to see you all again at our next function

**Lydia Cole**  
**P.R.O.**

# Seniors' Corner

by Gwen Busuttil  
Seniors' Committee Member

## Newport seniors' Group Break Up Held at Melrose on Wednesday 12th December

The culmination of a fantastic year for all our Senior Group Members is always celebrated at our Break Up.

Everyone looked lovely, just that little bit of extra effort always shows! People tell us, and we all know that Newport Seniors' Group is the best!

Mario alias Moods Music was all ready to entertain us, Melrose staff were all ready to feast us, and neither one of them disappointed us. The music was entertaining, whether you chose to dance or just listen, and the meal was superb.

George thanked everyone for coming, for their continued support throughout the year, thanked all the committee for their commitment to the group and also thanked Ray Buttigieg for helping with the Bingo, Frank D'Amato for helping keeping the urn filled for our tea and coffee. He also thanked Anne Caruana and Beatrice D'Amato for helping out in the canteen.

Special thanks also to Stan Azzopardi.

Then came time for the presentation of trophies, and the recipients were as follows:

### Men's Carpet Bocci Competition 2012

#### Winners

R. Saliba  
J. Debono  
A. Borg

#### Runners Up

F. D'Amato  
F. Farrugia  
R. Spiteri

### Ladies Carpet Bocci Competition 2012

L. Howick  
R. Rossi  
J. Willet

M. Cefai  
G. Azzopardi  
V. Fiteni

#### Men's Single

**Winner:** Rennie Busuttil

**Runner Up:** Victor Casa

#### Ladies Single

**Winner:** Olga Ellul

**Runner Up:** Gaeta  
Azzopardi

Congratulation to you all, it was fun playing, and fun to watch.

It was time for Santa and his merry helpers, and as we all came along some on crutches, some with walking sticks, we entertained the crowd with Stan Azzopardi's help on the guitar to some Christmassy tunes (We have to take singing lessons)' Time for hampers to be handed out to all our members, and we know that you all enjoy receiving it as much as we enjoy preparing it for all of you.

Even non-members who joined us on the night did not go home empty handed.

More dancing, more eating, and thirteen lucky people won prizes in our raffle. Some prizes for the raffle were donated, and we thank you.

Sadly the night came to a close, as everyone exchanged Christmas greetings knowing that it would be quite a few weeks before we will be meeting again.

As I'm writing this I am thinking how lucky we all are. I have just finalized the financial report for the year, and not much was left over from all that was raised last year that did not go back to all the members.

## BALLARAT 24TH February 2013

It was a lovely Sunday morning when we set off to Ballarat, stopping on the way for morning tea, and continuing on to Ballarat where we had a stop for lunch in the city. Being a country town all of the shops were closed other than places to eat, so there was nobody late getting back to the coach. A scenic tour around Lake Wendouree, when all those that were on the last trip up there commented how nice the Lake was, not dry like it was the last time.

Our stop was the Botanical Gardens. How lovely it all looked, the flowers were all in bloom, along one of the main walks there were benches under the shade of the big trees, which were most welcomed.

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The busts of all our former Prime Ministers were along one of the avenues, some we could remember during our time, and others allocated to history. The Conservatory housed some beautiful plants, for those that love Geraniums, there was every colour imaginable. Of course Ballarat was also getting ready for the Begonia Festival.

As a bonus for us, it was also the day when the Pipe Bands had their competitions. All the guys dressed in their kilts, showed off their talents. (No, it was not windy) altogether a very enjoyable afternoon.

Ross, our Coach Captain stopped us at Daylesford on the way back, it was quite a laugh when one of our group emptied her bottle of water, so she would refill it from the 'spring'.... However this proved to be undesirable to drink. The extra stop we had in Bacchus Marsh was very enjoyable, especially when we went strawberry picking. They should have weighed us before and after, not just the container. They were delicious!

Contented we headed back home, after a lovely day out, not forgetting the jokes along the way.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**



**The Newport Maltese Association would like to thank the Victorian Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship for the grant of \$500 to be used for the Fancy Dress Dance held on 17th February 2013**

## **EDITORIAL REPORT**

### **Seniors Group AGM**

**The Annual General Meeting of the Newport Maltese Association Seniors Group was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> February at the Maltese Community Centre, Parkville.**

**Before the commencement of the meeting all members present (143) were served a light lunch consisting of mixed sandwiches, party pies and sausage rolls.**

**The Co Ordinator, George Saliba, started the meeting by thanking all the members for attending and for their continued support and help during the year.**

**Reporting on all that's been happening, George informed everyone, how pleased the Seniors Committee Members were for yet another successful year. Again, this was made possible because of the big attendance by the members to the weekly gatherings and to all the functions**

**After the financial report was read by Gwen Busuttil, it was clear to all, that financially, the Group was in a stable situation and this can only help by improving things around us.**

**George, then praised the Committee for their continued dedication and never ending work to keep the Seniors on top. Finally, George pledged all those present, that the Committee will keep working as a team to serve you the members in the best possible way.**



New Year's Eve Ball 2012 photos by Vince Camilleri





## New Year's Eve Ball 2013 on the stroke of Midnight





**Below: Newport Maltese Association and Seniors Group Committees at the Fancy Dress Dance**



**Below: The Ladies parading in costumes**







**NEWPORT MALTESE ASSOCIATION**  
**FUNCTION DATES FOR 2013**

<b>SUN APRIL 21st</b>	<b>COMEDY FUN LUNCH</b>	<b>M.C.C.V. PARKVILLE</b>
<b>SAT OCTOBER 5th</b>	<b>ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER</b>	<b>MELROSE</b>
<b>SUN OCTOBER 13th</b>	<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b>	<b>M.C.C.V. PARKVILLE</b>
<b>SUN OCTOBER 26th</b>	<b>GET TOGETHER EVENING</b>	<b>MELROSE</b>

**FOR BOOKING PLEASE CONTACT OLGA ELLUL ON 9744 6096**

**NEXT FEW FUNCTIONS FOR THE**  
**SENIORS GROUP -FOR 2013**

<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>14th MARCH</b>	<b>BBQ-BRIMBANK</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>28th APRIL</b>	<b>MOTHER'S DAY DINNER-MELROSE</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>16th MAY</b>	<b>LUNCHEON-TBA</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>8th JUNE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY FUN NIGHT-MCCV</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>28th JULY</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS IN JULY-DINNER- MELROSE</b>

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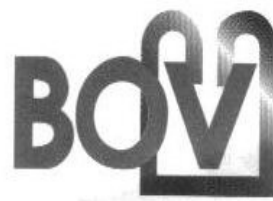





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## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**PLEASE BE ADVISED  
THAT BECAUSE OF UN-  
FORSEEN CIRCUM-  
STANCES, THE ANNUAL  
DINNER DANCE OF THE  
MALTESE NEWPORT AS-  
SOCIATION WHICH WAS  
TO BE HELD ON THE  
6TH JULY 2013 AT THE  
LAKESIDE BANQUET &  
CONVENTION CENTRE  
HAS REGRETABLY BEEN  
CANCELLED**



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