



NEWPORT NEWS

SPECIAL EDITION

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

OCTOBER 2013

Lydia Cole—Editor

Vol. 3 Issue 6

The President's Message

Dear Fellow Members & Friends

If you remember, in the last edition of Newport News I informed you, about putting down on paper the history of our Association. Since then, I have completed a short history which will be a feature at the Migration Museum in Malta.

And as we are celebrating 40 years, since we laid down the foundation of our Association, I feel it would be of interest to you the members, who, at present hail from every corner of Melbourne to know more about the history of our Association.

So therefore in this special edition of Newport News I have asked Lydia Cole, the editor, to include a copy of the short history. It will give you the members a broader idea of our achievements, our involvement with the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, our fund raising efforts over the years, our contributions, names of members who served on the committee during the past 40 years, etc, etc.

You will also be interested to know that the committee members who were holidaying in Malta were all invited to attend a function at the Malta Migration Museum for an informative evening. On behalf of the Association, the Social Secretary, Olga Ellul addressed the gathering and spoke

about the aims of the Association in particular, how we raise and distribute our funds.

They were very impressed with the organisation and the way the Museum is being set up. One particular item already on display is the Touch Screen Display Computer which our Association sponsored. On the front of it, is a plaque with the words:-

*Donated by
Newport Maltese Association Incorporated
Melbourne Australia
2013.*

The Museum is located in the building that houses the Emigrants' Commission at the entrance of the Upper Barrakka Gardens in Valletta.

So, dear members, once again I urge you all to make it a point of visiting the Museum when you are holidaying in Malta and be able to see things for yourselves. Tell your children, grand children and their children when visiting Malta to go there to read and learn about, and be proud of their forefathers' successful migration to this great land of Australia

We must not allow our story of success after our struggles to be forgotten by our forthcoming generations

*Until next time,
Sahha u Awguri.*

*George Saliba
President & Seniors Co-Ordinator*

History of the **Newport Maltese Association Inc.** **Melbourne, Australia.** **2013**

By George Michael Saliba OAM. (President)

The foundation of Newport Maltese Association was laid down in 1973. It was a humble beginning at the residence of our dear friends Nick and Iris Caruana of Newport, a western suburb of Melbourne Australia.

By far the largest number of Maltese families that migrated to Melbourne Australia in the 1950s and 1960s chose to settle in the western suburbs. Many of them went to live in the Newport area. In the late 60s and early 70s, a good number of them used to meet at the Sacred Heart church after Sunday Mass.

Before long, it became very clear that the need was there for them to get together and organize social gatherings and functions. These events would enable the Maltese in the area to entertain themselves and to compensate for the lack of social opportunities that then existed within the boundaries of Newport. At the same time these social events will enable them to help each other in getting accustomed to the new life in the adopted country, Australia.

Fr Victor Shields of the Missionary Society of St. Paul was at the time attached to the parish, serving the large Maltese community that had settled in Newport and the surrounding area. In his wisdom, he too saw the need for an organisation to cater for the Maltese community.

First committee formed

In November 1973, Fr. Shields called on a number of prominent Maltese settlers to form a committee. The first committee under the name of ***Sacred Heart Maltese Committee of Newport*** was formed consisting of George Michael Saliba OAM (President), Vince Calleja OAM (Vice-President), Emmanuel Pace (Secretary), Fr. Victor shields

(Treasurer), Nick Caruana (Public Relations Officer), and Edwin Baldacchino, Joe Deguara, Romeo Caruana, Lino Portelli, Joe Debono.

Most of the Founding Committee Members had very little experience in dealing with the establishment and running an organization, but all were eager, full of energy and possessed great determination to do what they could to help their fellow countrymen.

The newly formed committee started to meet regularly and the first task was to formulate a constitution that respected the needs and wishes of its local community.

On the 15th March 1974 the Association organised the first social activity, a Dinner Dance. With over 400 people attending, it was a huge success and provided the sort of encouragement that the Committee Members needed.

Very quickly the project gathered momentum and the committee started organising Outings, Picnics, Dances, Coach Trips, Bingo Sessions, Interstate Trips, Theatre nights, Stage Plays, Overseas Holidays and Barbecues.

The Association went from strength to strength, gaining support from the wider Maltese Community for its popular Social Functions.

These activities increased the Committee's workload considerably and more people were required to share the burden. This resulted in the formation in 1975 of a Ladies Sub-Committee, consisting of Mrs Lillian Calleja OAM, Mrs Lena Saliba, Mrs Mary Deguara, Mrs Terri Camilleri, Mrs Stella Caruana, Mrs Rose Pace, Mrs Josephine Portelli, Mrs Iris Caruana, Mrs Inez Debono and Mrs Mary Baldacchino.

The Ladies Sub-Committee members also gave their share in other ways. Some of them held office on the main Committee. Mrs Mary Deguara, for instance, spent several years as Secretary, Mrs Lillian Calleja for many years as Social Secretary, Mrs Lena Saliba as Assistant Treasurer and Mrs Rose Pace as Assistant Secretary.

Over the years, the Committee Members who retired were replaced by new faces, such as, Mr. Vince Camilleri (current Secretary), Mr Joe Cole

(current Treasurer), Mrs Olga Ellul (current Social Secretary), Mrs Lydia Cole (current Public Relations Officer), Mrs Gwen Busuttil (current Assistant Secretary), Mr Joe Ellul, Mr Maurice Spiteri, Mrs Carmen Casa, Mrs Miriam Cunningham, Mrs Carmen Spiteri, and Mr Andrew Gatt. Others, who have also served on the Committee, include Mr Joe Sacco, Mr Victor Vassallo, Mr Victor Casa, Mr Raymond Buttigieg, Mr James Cunningham, Mrs Tessie Buttigieg, Mr John Camilleri, Mr Charles Vassallo, Mr Charles Tabone, Mr John Pace and Mrs Marylyn Pace.

MCCV Affiliation and Fund Raising Efforts

In 1977, the Association received an invitation to affiliate with the Maltese Community Council of Victoria to help raise funds for a much needed Maltese Community Centre to be built in Parkville in the state of Victoria.

The Association responded positively and affiliated with the Council and is proud of the fact that, when the official launch of the Maltese Centre Building Fund campaign was inaugurated, the Association was the first one to donate a cheque for \$500 towards the building fund.

From the very start, the Association was at the forefront of the fund-raising efforts and it became a driving force for the establishment of the Centre located at Parkville.

In 1978, The Association sponsored Miss Anna Vassallo in the first ever "Miss Maltese Community of Victoria Quest, raising over \$10,000 towards the "Maltese Centre Building Fund"

Fund-raising for the Maltese Community Centre was now a top priority for the Association. The Ladies Sub-Committee contributed with outstanding results towards this, generating new ideas for raising money, such as cake stalls, soft toy making, raffles, knitted jumpers, football scarves and ravioli nights.

By November 1984 the Association donated over \$100,000 for the building project.

Change of name

In 1986, the Association changed its name to *Newport Maltese Association*. This change of name was now more appropriate in representing its members, which by now were hailing from every corner of the state of Victoria.

Also, at the annual general meeting of the Association in the same year, changes were made to the rules in the Association's constitution to channel the funds not only to the Maltese Community Council of Victoria and the Missionary Society of St. Paul, but also to other worthwhile organizations such as the Dar tal-Providenza (Malta) and the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal (Melbourne).

The Newport Maltese Association has also contributed to the Maltese community in several other ways. Members of the Association's Committee have held positions on various Committees of the MCCV. George Saliba, held office as Vice-President of the MCCV for 16 solid years. George has been closely associated with organizing the Maltese Cultural Festival for a number of years. Vince Calleja has similarly held office of Vice-President for several years and he also held office as Social Secretary of the MCCV.

This contribution to the MCCV was well recognised in the editorial in Maltese in the MCCV's newspaper "*Il-Maltija*" (March 1991). Mr Charles Camilleri, editor, wrote (translated in English):

The Newport Maltese Association is made up of a group of busy people that one cannot but admire. This Association under the wise leadership of George Saliba has been federated with the Maltese Community Council of Victoria for many years and we can safely say that it is not one of those that are members in name. Not only because this association participates vigorously in all the Council's activities; nor because its President, George Saliba, is also the Council's Vice-President; but also because this Association obviously has one of its main aims to be one

of the most solid pillars of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria.

Record fund-raising effort

In 1990, the Association exceeded itself when it created a magnificent record. By sponsoring Miss Tania Vassallo in the Quest, the Association raised \$24,144 which is the highest amount raised by any Maltese Association in a one year period for the Maltese Community Centre building project.

By 1994, the Association's regular participation in the MCCV Annual Ball and the success of the entrants in the Beauty Quest competition together with other fund-raising activities, the Association have raised over \$300,000. Such impressive records have helped to ensure the successful establishment of the Maltese Community Centre.

The Association has proved to be indispensable in helping the MCCV to achieve its goal in building the Community Centre at Parkville. It sponsored more winners than any other organization when the "Miss Maltese Community Quest" was being held to raise funds for the Centre.

The Association also funded other MCCV projects, including the refurbishing of the library (the biggest Maltese Library in the southern hemisphere) and the provision of other items, such as, overhead projectors, air-conditioners, a kitchen bar and bingo electronic boards.

Latest developments

Elections for the Association executive committee members are held every second year, but George Saliba was to remain President for 22 consecutive years (1973-1994) with Vince Calleja as the Vice-President over the same period. These two gentlemen were always elected unopposed, even though nominations were sought every time. Everybody seemed satisfied with their leadership of the Association.

In 1994 George Saliba relinquished his post

as President because he believed that others, like Vince Calleja who had shared in the leadership for so many years should be given a chance. The two leaders then exchanged roles and remained in their offices until 2010, when Vince Calleja did not seek re-election for the Presidency and George Saliba was re-elected President, unopposed.

Seniors Group formed

In 2001, an important development for the Association was the creation of the Seniors Group. A Sub-Committee was formed under the name of ***Newport Maltese Association Seniors Group***. The establishment of the Seniors Group gave the Association the opportunity to give back something in return to its now ageing members as a token of respect and appreciation for their generous support along the way.

The Seniors Group meets socially on a weekly basis at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville. The Sub-Committee organise social events for the members, providing bingo, carpet bowls, billiards and providing light refreshments for all those present. Day outings are organised to various parts of the state of Victoria with a longer one in November, which is normally interstate.

In 2013 the Association celebrated its 40 years since its establishment. For its members they have been years of enjoying nothing better than helping in any way they could to create a better world for members of the Maltese community living in Australia, residents at Dar tal-Providenza in Malta and patients at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne.

These great achievements of the members have been made possible by living the motto on the Association's banner, which reads: *United We Stay*.

George Michael Saliba OAM.
President

Committee members at the Migration Museum in Malta near the Touch Screen Display Computer sponsored by the Newport Maltese Association



40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

As we all know by now that on the 5th October the Newport Maltese Association celebrated our 40th Anniversary with a Gala Dinner Dance held at Melrose Reception. For this reason this Newsletter is mainly dedicated to this special occasion. The night was extremely successful and everyone had a ball. The menu was especially selected and the hall was beautifully decorated.

On this special night, Life Membership Certificates were issued to the committee members for continuous service to the Association during the past ten years.

A small token was handed to everyone by the ladies of the committee. Towards the end of the function a toast with Champaign and cutting of a 40th celebration cake was made and the Newport Innu was played with everybody joining in. It was a terrific night.

Lydia Cole

P.R.O.









Below: A beautiful cake donated by Mr Tony Borg of Borg's Cakes in Altona



NEWPORT MALTESE ASSOCIATION **FUNCTION DATES FOR 2013/14**

SUN 13th OTOBER	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	M.C.C.V.
SUN 1st DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP DINNER	MELROSE RECEPTION
TUE 31st DECEMBER	NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL	LAKSIDE RECEPTION
SUNDAY 23rd FEB	CARNIVAL DANCE	MELROSE RECEPTION

NEXT FEW FUNCTIONS FOR THE **SENIORS GROUP FOR 2013/14**

S AT 26th OCTOBER	FUN NIGHT	MCCV
LATE OCT TO EARLY NOV	TRIP TO TASMANIA	
WED 11th DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP DINNER	MELROSE RECEPTION
WED 22nd JANUARY	RESUME GATHERINGS	MCCV
WED 12th FEBRUARY	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	MCCV

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

I would like to congratulate the Coordinator and the Committee Members of the Seniors Group for a very enjoyable night which was held at the Melrose Reception Centre on Sunday 28th July.

The food was excellent and John the DJ added to the atmosphere with his choice of music.

A very special celebration was the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Vince and Lillian Calleja. What a milestone. Congratulations were relayed from all those attending.

Below is a picture of the happy couple.



Congratulations Vince and Lillian

Lydia Cole
P.R.O.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Newport Maltese Association would like to thank the Victorian Multicultural Commission for awarding us the Senior Citizens Organisational Support Grant.

The President and committee members of the Newport Maltese Association would like to THANK all members and friends who attended the 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner Dance. Thank you for your support and we hope you all had a good time.

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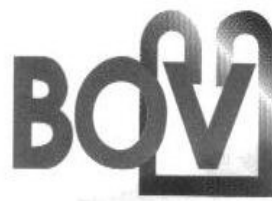
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