



# NEWPORT NEWS

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

September 2014

Lydia Cole—Editor

Vol. 3 Issue 10

## *The President's Message*

*Dear Fellow Members & Friends*

*In this issue of our Newport News, I am pleased to report to you on a number of issues, which the Executive Committee of the Association has been discussing at their monthly meeting. So here I go.*

*At the meeting of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2014, our Association put forward a suggestion that, the MCCV, install a “**DEFIBRILLATOR**” at the Maltese Community Centre, as this has proven to have saved lives. For those of you who are not familiar with a Defibrillator, it is a portable electronic device designed, so that anyone, anywhere, any time can save a life.*

*Sudden Cardiac Arrest (heart attack) often strikes without a warning. There's little time to react and no time to think, so therefore we believe that it's important to have one on hand. I am happy to say that, that the resolution was unanimously accepted and Prof. Maurice Cauchi, President of the MCCV, will be making appropriate enquiries on the matter.*

*One of the aims of the Association is to raise funds for charitable organisations. One such organisation is “**Beyond Blue**”. In Australia, it is estimated that 3 million people are living with anxiety*

*or depression. That's a very alarming figure, which can affect any one of us, young and old during our life.*

***Beyond Blue**, above all things, is trying to help and achieve an Australian Community that understands depression and anxiety and empowers all Australians at any life stage to seek help.*

*On your behalf, and in **honour** of the late **Alex Spiteri**, the Association donated the sum of \$500.00 to the above organisation.*

*At this year's Annual General Meeting of the Association (12<sup>th</sup> October) we will also be conducting the election for the Committee who will govern for the term 2014-2016.*

*As members of the Association I urge you all to attend the meeting to get a clear picture of what we stand for and where we're heading. This as always, will be followed by light refreshments for all those in attendance.*

*On the 26<sup>th</sup> October of this year, the Association will be holding its **41<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner Dance at Melrose Receptions** in Tullamarine. This occasion is very special to us, because it represents the number of years we've been in existence. Over the years, a number of Maltese Associations have come and gone, but thanks to you the members for your support, to all the committee members past and present for their involvement, together we managed to keep our association above water all these years. I trust, we will be honoured with your presence once again to celebrate our 41<sup>st</sup> year since our foundation.*

*Continued on next page*

*Continued from page 1*

*As it happens, the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, this year will also be conducting an election for the Executive Members to lead the Community for the next 2 years. This will take place at the Annual General Meeting of the Council on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 7-00 pm. Our Association, being affiliated with the Council will be having a representative to take part in the voting as directed by the Committee of the Association. ,Until next time, Sahha.*

**George M Saliba.**

**President & Seniors Co Ordinator.**



**The Newport Maltese Association would like to thank the Victorian Multicultural Commission for the grant of \$500 to be used for the Annual Dinner Dance which will be held on Sunday 26th October 2014.**



## **Tribute to Alex Spiteri**

**"Alex Spiteri's kindness, generosity and ability to make others smile have always defined him"**

This is part of an article about Alex by one of the local papers in Sunbury.

Alex is the grandson of Joe and Olga Ellul and Maurice and Carmen Spiteri, four of our committee members. Alex was proud to be Maltese and loved the Maltese community centre and come school holidays, many times he asked his nanna if she was going to the "centru" (as Alex used to call it) on Wednesday to pick him up to go with her.

There were many visits to the "centru" on Friday Bingo nights and he used to look forward to draw the raffle during tea break. His last visit to the Maltese Community Centre was on Wednesday after Easter of this year where he spent most of his time watching the men playing billiards.

Alex lost his battle to depression on the 4th July 2014.. He was just 16 years old.

**Rest in Peace Sweet Alex**

## **Bus Trip to Mulwala**

On Sunday the 22nd of June , 48 members were very, very brave to get up early on a very cold morning to go over the border on a bus trip. Everyone was early at the Maltese Centre except for a couple who, although they live only 5 minutes away , arrived at the Maltese centre at 7.28 am just 2 minutes before the time that the bus was due to leave !

On the way we picked a few shivering people huddled together near the lighting shop and another group from across Kmart who asked if we prepared a hot drink for them as they were so cold. After a short prayer by our president the goodies started coming out. Then the bingo tickets came out. When everyone was settled the bingo started. One of our callers had a problem with gas and every time he saw the number 4 he could not help it and let one out!!!! Even during the bingo the goodies came out and thanks to Maryanne and Graeme Armstrong we had some lamingtons. Half way through bingo we stopped for morning tea where we had a hot cuppa with biscuits provided by the bus driver. After a half hour stop we continued our journey to Mulwala Services Club.. There we all had fun with the pokies and a very nice 2 course lunch.

We left Mulwala at about 2.30pm. Shortly after our departure from the club came a silence in the bus and most of the 48 members on the bus were snoring their head off !!!! Then it was time for afternoon tea and once again the driver provided us with another cuppa and biscuits but nothing beats the famous imqaret made by Arthur and Mary Galea. Like always many were asking for their recipe and hopefully it will be on our newsletter. Our journey continued and after a couple of stops for those members that did not come to the Maltese centre, we arrived back about 6.00pm. As always with these trips there were some winners and some losers.

**Olgas Ellul**  
**Social Secretary**

**And by popular demand the recipe for:**

## **Date Slices (Imqaret)**

We have to thank **Mary and Arthur Galea** for taking the time to write this recipe for us. I believe these slices were a big hit on the bus trip and everyone was asking for the recipe, so here it is:

### **For the Filling:**

200 grams dates  
grated rind of one lemon  
grated rind of one mandarin  
1 tablespoon orange flower water  
Grated rind of one orange  
1 tablespoon Anisette  
1/2 teaspoon spice

### **Method:**

Mix all the ingredients together and cook on slow heat until it all combined. Take off heat and let cool.

Roll out the pastry in long strips and place some of the date mixture in the middle and cover with more pastry. Cut in pieces on an angle. Press the ends firmly. Brush with egg wash and bake in oven 170-180 degrees centigrade till golden.

### **For the Pastry:**

225 gms/8 ozs/2cups plain (all purpose) flour  
65 gms/2 1/2 ozs/1/3 cup caster sugar  
90 gms/3 1/2 ozs/1/2 cup butter, diced  
1 egg  
5ml/1 teaspoon grated lemon rind

### **To make the Pastry:**

Place the flour and sugar in a food processor and with the motor running at full speed, slowly add the butter until fully worked into the mixture. Keep the motor running while you add the egg and lemon rind. The mixture should form a dough that just holds together.

Transfer the dough to a sheet of plastic wrap cover with another sheet and flatten into a round. Chill the pastry while you make the filling.

# Seniors' Corner

by Gwen Busuttil  
Seniors Committee Member

## CHRISTMAS IN JULY Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2014

Leave it to the Irish to come up with such an idea, I believe I might have written about this once before, however in Australia it has now taken off. In July, they even have sales now, and in stores you will often find Christmas decorations. Supermarkets had Christmas puddings and Mince Pies in July.... Anything to make a quid, as the saying goes. Every second year we are in Malta in July, and it doesn't happen there. The fact that our Christmas is celebrated during a hot summer's day, the Irish who thought of it, must have had fantasies of having a nice roast with all the trimmings, puddings etc., with the fire burning at the same time.

Melrose was the venue for 191 Newport Seniors on the night, George opened the night by telling everyone there some sad news about fellow committee members, who were not with us on the night due to tragic circumstances within their families, everyone joined in saying a prayer. Our thoughts were with them, as we are all parents and grandparents.

Domenic provided the music for us on the night, and pretty soon the dance floor was full, as usual the food was plentiful and excellent, together with the service from the waiters, who were ready to replace that empty bottle with a smile. Birthdays, Anniversaries were acknowledged, and thank you to everyone who donated towards the raffle, winners having a lovely selection of gifts to select from.

P.S. Talking of raffles, I would like to share a bugbear of mine, I know how much time and raffle tickets are wasted putting nine tickets in an envelope for \$5, and the same result can be achieved by having one ticket only for \$5. The waste will be

eliminated, and the procedure would run more efficiently. (like a pizza, cut in four or eight, it's still one pizza). Please tell George if you agree with me as well!

## FATHER'S DAY DINNER Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2014.

As I am writing this it is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> of September, so actually Father's Day was yesterday, and during the night, when I could not sleep, I was thinking of how precious fathers are in this era. They are highly involved in the bringing up of the children and grandchildren. Not just providers, as many of our fathers were when we were growing up. Families are more involved nowadays with sports, birthday parties, etc. Speaking from experience we spent Saturday morning attending a basketball game for our youngest grandchild, taking the family to McDonalds for breakfast, then off to watch two other grandchildren play tennis. Thank goodness football is finished for this year, but a football Guernsey signed by Rennie's favourite player framed, softened the loss of the night before. Presented to him from our four sons. (a photo of Rennie's beaming face I thought is not appropriate to insert in my write up.

Anyway back to Melrose, we had 193 members attending, with glasses of champagne filled and ladies upstanding, George toasted all the fathers present. (That champagne was lovely, I don't usually drink, but I did indulge in a second glass, so the rest of the night was pretty blurry, thank goodness I brought my flat shoes). I do remember going around with Andrew to hand tickets out to all the male members. And three names were called, each receiving a bottle of whisky as a door prize. John was in charge of the music for the night, and from the feedback received his choice of music was well received. Two of our guest who joined us on the night also provided us with some professional Rock 'n Roll, boy they were good! Thank you Michelle and Eddie. Ah! To be young again. Melrose must employ some great chefs.

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## Photos from the Seniors' Christmas in July function at the Melrose Reception on 6th July





## Christmas in July continued



**Pictures from the Seniors' Father's Day Function held on 31st August 2014**





**Pictures from the Seniors' Father's Day Function continued**



## Pictures from Fathers' Day continued



Continued from page 4

After two entrees, when it comes to the main meal, there is not much room for more, and that's why many of the plates have so much waste. Raffle was well supported, and with men in mind, mostly were from Dan Murphy. Celebrate. Thank

you also to Jacinta Portelli who donated a \$100 voucher from Mega Charm. First ticket drawn, the hubby had no say, wife was very excited with the prize.

Thank you to all those who joined us on the night, a good time was had by all.



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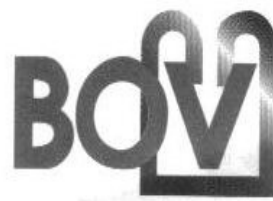
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**NEWPORT MALTESE ASSOCIATION**  
**FUNCTION DATES FOR 2014**

<b>SUN OTOBER 12th</b>	<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b>	<b>M.C.C.V.</b>
<b>SUN OCTOBER 26th</b>	<b>ANNUAL DINNER DANCE</b>	<b>MELROSE RECEPTION</b>
<b>SUN NOVEMBER 30th</b>	<b>NEWPORT BREAK-UP</b>	<b>MELROSE RECEPTION</b>
<b>WED DECEMBER 31ST</b>	<b>NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE</b>	<b>THE EMERALD</b>

**For booking please contact Olga Ellul on 9744 6096**

**FUNCTIONS FOR THE**  
**SENIORS GROUP FOR 2014**

<b>OCT-NOV</b>	<b>INTERSTATE TRIP</b>	<b>PERTH</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 17th</b>	<b>SENIORS BREAK-UP</b>

**For booking please contact Carmen Casa on 9436 8196**



## Whilst holidaying in Malta, some of our members had the privilege of meeting the President of Malta, Marie Louise Coleiro Preca



### Are Cats Clever

Sent by Carmen Spiteri

A man hated his wife's cat so much that he decided to get rid of it by driving it twenty blocks from home and dumping it. But as he got back home he saw the cat wandering up the driveway. So he drove the cat forty blocks away and dumped it. But when he arrived back home there was the cat waiting for him at the front door. In desperation, he drove the cat fifty miles out into the country and dumped it in the middle of the wood.

Four hours later his wife got a phone call at home. "Darling" said her husband "Is that cat there?" "Yes" said the wife, "Why" "Just put him on the line will you? I need directions".

### Did You Know?

Sent to me by Gwen Busuttil

Your shoes are the first thing people subconsciously notice about you. **Wear nice shoes.**

If you sit for more than 11 hours a day, there's a 50% chance you'll die within the next 3 years.

There are at least 6 people in the world who look exactly like you. There's a 9% chance that you'll meet one of them in your lifetime.

Sleeping without a pillow reduces back pain and keeps your spine stronger.

A person's height is determined by their father, and their weight is determined by their mother.

### ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

George Saliba	President	9391 6081
Vince Calleja	Vice-President	8390 2920
Vince Camilleri	Secretary	9314 3177
Joe Cole	Treasurer	8742 1142
Lydia Cole	P.R.O.	8742 1142
Olga Ellul	Social Secretary	9744 6096
Gwen Busuttil	Assistant Secretary	9333 3693
Lena Saliba	Assistant Treasure	9391 6081
Miriam Cunningham	Committee Member	9338 0851
Maurice Spiteri	Committee Member	9469 2067
Carmen Spiteri	Committee Member	9469 2067
Joe Ellul	Committee Member	9744 6096
Carmen Casa	Committee Member	9346 8196
Andrew Gatt	Committee Member	0416 777 807

### SENIORS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

George Saliba	Coordinator	9391 6081
Andrew Gatt	Secretary	0416 777 807
Gwen Busuttil	Cashier	9333 3693
Carmen Casa	Function Organiser	9436 8196
Victor Casa	Committee Member	9436 8196
Mary Cefai	Committee Member	9391 8832
Lena Saliba	Committee Member	9391 6081
Miriam Cunningham	Committee member	9338 0851
Carmen Spiteri	Committee Member	9469 2067
Maurice Spiteri	Committee Member	9469 2067
Miriam Camilleri	Committee Member	???
Rennie Busuttil	Committee Member	9333 3693
Arthur Galea	Committee Member	0439 830 454

## *New Year's Eve Dinner Dance*

*Will be held at*

### *The Emerald*

*213-215 Settlement Road, Thomastown*

*Four course meal plus wine, beer and soft drinks*

*Don't miss out,*

*Come and join us in the fun and celebrate the*

*New Year 2015*

*Bookings with Olga Ellul on 9744 6096*