



NEWPORT NEWS

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

December 2014

Lydia Cole—Editor

Vol. 3 Issue 11

*The President,
Executive Committee
& Committee Members
Of the
Seniors Group*



*Wish all our members and their families
A Blessed Christmas
&
A Happy New Year 2015*

The President's Message

Dear Fellow Members & Friends,

On the 12th October 2014, the Association held the Annual General Meeting and the election of the Committee Members who will govern the Association for the next two years.

Mrs Carmen Casa was elected the new Social Secretary.

Mrs Olga Ellul, who for the past 2 years did a fantastic job of the portfolio (Social Secretary) decided to relinquish herself from the position to concentrate more on family matters. But, I'm happy to say that Olga will continue to remain as a member of the Committee.

For future activities of the Association, Carmen Casa can be contacted on 94368196.

At the last election of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, the following members of the Newport Association and the Seniors Group were elected to the Maltese Community Council Executive Body:-

Mr Joseph Stafrace – Vice President

Mrs Antoinette Camilleri – Assistant Secretary

Mrs Rita Pullicino Assistant Treasurer.

We warmly congratulate them and I'm sure they will perform their duties to the fullest.

For a while now, the ladies Committee Members of the Seniors Group have been working non stop every "Wednesday gathering" in the kitchen preparing lunches, cooking pastizzi and qassatat, tea and coffee etc. etc.

And to ease the pressure on the ladies, I am happy to inform you that the Seniors Committee

have co-opted Mrs Anne Caruana to the Committee. Anne, who lately has been helping the ladies in the kitchen, I'm sure, will fit in nicely.

At the "Association Christmas Get Together" function, Mr Joe Stafrace, the Vice President of the MCCV on behalf of the Association, presented Mrs Miriam Cunningham with a "Life Membership Certificate" which reads:-

"With deep appreciation to Miriam Cunningham in recognition of your continuous outstanding service to the Newport Maltese Association Inc, during the past ten years. Your contribution made a world of difference"

Miriam was first elected as a Member of the Association in October, 2004..

If you remember, in the last edition of our newsletter (September) I informed you of the suggestion we put forward to the MCCV to acquire a defibrillator. You'll be happy to know that the MCCV have now purchased a defibrillator (an electronic device designed to save lives). It will be installed at the Maltese Centre at Parkville. Arrangements are being made to train people how to use the device when the necessity is there.

With the year soon coming to an end, I am duty bound to firstly, on behalf of my fellow committee members of the Association and the Seniors Group say a big thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your co operation, friendship and never ending support, and for making 2014 another successful year.

So therefore, from all of us to all of you and your families, have a wonderful & blessed Christmas ,and may 2015 bring along, all your hearts desire and may the Almighty shower us with good health.

Until next time, Sahha.

George M Saliba.

President & Seniors Co ordinator.

Newport Maltese Association Annual General Meeting

On the 12th October the Newport Maltese Association held their Annual General Meeting at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville. After the meeting, a bi-annual election for a new committee was held. The result is:

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| President: | Mr. George Saliba |
| Vic-President: | Mr. Vince Calleja |
| Secretary: | Mr. Vince Camilleri |
| Treasurer: | Mr. Joe Cole |
| Social Secretary: | Mrs. Carmen Casa |
| Public Relations Officer: | Mrs. Lydia Cole |
| Assistant Secretary: | Mrs. Gwen Busuttil |
| Assistant Treasurer: | Mrs. Lena Saliba |
| Committee Members: | Mrs. Miriam Cunningham |
| | Mrs. Carmen Spiteri |
| | Mrs. Olga Ellul |
| | Mr. Maurice Spiteri |
| | Mr. Victor Casa |
| | Mr. Rennie Busuttil |

All members were elected unopposed.

Light refreshment was served after the meeting.

Below : Photos from the Annual Dinner Dance



Newport Maltese Association **Annual Dinner Dance** **26th October 2014**

Celebrating the 41st year since the Newport Maltese Association's commencement of the club.

Forty-one years is a long time and through the hard work by the different committee members over the years, and with appreciation of the support of you the members we are still going strong.

It was a terrific night, the food and the service at Melrose Reception was excellent, as always, and thanks to D.J. John the dance floor was choc-a-block all the time, (except when the food was being served).

And when it was time for the raffle a few committee members were drawn as winners, yours truly was one of them, and the chanting began....."Oh hallelin u ta Newport hallelin." All in good fun of course.

It's very satisfying to see everyone enjoying themselves and we had very good feedback.

Lydia Cole P.R.O.

Below and right, pictures from the Annual Dinner Dance



Seniors' Corner

by Gwen Busuttil
Senior Committee Member

POKIE WEEK-END

13th -14th September

Early morning start for all of fifty five seniors. The Coach Captain Kevin was right on time, overnight baggage was placed in the hold, and many passed on snacks for along the way to Victor Casa, much to his delight, for no sooner had we hit the Hume Highway he was already handing out lollies. May I say thank you to all those who have taken the time to bake for this occasion. There are so many good cooks amongst us.

We were on our way, bingo is always on the agenda, and this helps to bring in a few laughs while making the trip up there shorter. Our first stop for lunch is Mulwala, although we were filled with hope, the machines were not very obliging. After leaving Mulwala, we headed off to Albury, along the way the coach was full of laughter as Vince Calleja kept us entertained with some colourful jokes. Everyone loved them, and the microphone was working beautifully, as the ones on the back were laughing too.

Burvale Motor Inn was our destination for the night. May I just say what a comfortable room everyone had, fluffy white towels, clean crisp white sheets, comfortable beds, and not a sign of any orange, mission brown, gold, or avocado green anywhere.

After a short rest, we were back on the coach, heading to the S.S. & A for our dinner and more entertaining ourselves on the Pokies. We went

there full of faith and hope, and came out looking for charity. In the morning, breakfast ran very smoothly too. Two ladies in charge of the cooked breakfasts, cereals, tea and coffee, were a help yourself affair, and a gentleman went around with hot toast. All this service was with a smile, and before you knew it, we were all on the coach again. Mass at St. Mary's in Corowa was a special event with First Holy Communion being celebrated this Sunday. It is one of the most beautiful churches in the country, and it was jam packed this morning for the children.

Corowa Country Club was our next stop, for some more of the same, many took advantage of a exhibition which was taking place nearby of all kinds of trucks. Those who were interested loved it. After a very nice lunch, some enjoyed the sunshine streaming into the bar area enjoying a drink, while some headed for some more of the same. Soon it was time to board the coach heading for home.

The jokes continued, some free raffles, more to eat, then it came to an end. Thank you all for making our events so enjoyable. You are the best.

PERTH TRIP

We are all used to getting up early being Wednesday, but today was even earlier! George told everyone to be at the airport at 7a.m. and everyone was there. Thank you, you are the best.

Once on the Qantas flight everyone had time to settle in. Although, 8.35am when we left, it was still 10a.m. when we arrived because of the time difference East to West. Coach picked us up, and Graham our coach captain introduced himself. Pleased he said, that we all spoke English, most of his trips are with Asian speaking groups, and unlike us.....very quiet! I thought is he going to be sorry he said that!

Sightseeing around Perth, with places of interest pointed out, and landmarks around the city itself, allowed us to get our bearings, as we were dropped off in the city for lunch and a wander, before we made our way to the hotel to check in. All was quiet after that, I guess that everyone caught up on some sleep, before getting together to go out for tea. Nobody was keen on going anywhere after that, remember that the three hour time difference kicks in at our age.

As I have done at other times I have asked a select few to put their own spin, and day two was written by Joe Camilleri.

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Thursday 30th October – Second day of our trip-by Joe Camilleri

Today we went around Perth, population approximately 1.8m. Good commentary by driver. Perth is a small beautiful city, very clean, surrounded with lots of gardens. Good free public transport around the city. We visited the famous Kings Park, big beautiful park, and magnificent views of the Swan River and surrounds. Within the park is a War memorial and various Bush walks.

Next off to Fremantle, travelled along the Swan river part of the way, passed some of the most expensive homes (according to the driver worth 6.7 M+). In Freeo, stopped at Monument Hill and viewed the harbour. There, we took the group photo.

Then we went onto the Maritime/Emigration museum, very interesting. There was so much history of boats and emigrants of various nations that settled in Fremantle as fishermen with their families. We saw the Australia II yacht that won the America's Cup and the Trophy. There was some Maltese memorabilia of the early settlers including a sign in Maltese for New arrivals. Outside the Museum there is a statue of children that came on their own from Malta brought over by the Government and looked after by various institutions.



At the base of the statue there is a placard that reads: "This memorial is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and The Western Australia Government and dedicated to the boys and girls who left their Homeland to have an unknown future in Western Australia. Hardships were endured and benefits were derived."

Later we went for lunch on the pier at Ceserio's, which was an old establishment run by an Italian family. Fabulous seafood meals, then spent the afternoon around the city and it's famous "Cappuccino Strip" so we had to stop for a coffee, then back on the bus and on our way to Perth. It was a very interesting Day. Back at the hotel we had a good dinner and an early night for an early rise tomorrow.

Day 3: Friday 31st was written by Matilda and Charlie Borg.

Early bird start, with a very nice buffet breakfast, all you can eat, and boy did we eat. At 8a.m we left the hotel for Margaret River. Passing Bunbury, where he had a brief stop, we continued on to Busselton. This, we were told has the longest jetty, you can walk it, but there is a special train that travels along to take you to the underwater observatory. 60 steps took you down to the ocean floor to see fish of all species in their own environment. An octopus attached itself to the window, and it was so interesting, you felt that you were in another

world. The beach itself was so beautiful, how nice is the colour of the Blue Lagoon in Malta, you could compare this to that, shallow and very inviting, and went on for miles with the lovely silvery white sand. The perfect spot to enjoy the scenery and have lunch was the Goose Restaurant and Café, right on the beach, and the food was delicious. On the way to Margaret River, we stopped at one of the top winery in the region, Voyager. The gardens outside were just magnificent, forget about the wine, it was lovely seeing all the beautiful roses. There was a row of six arches covered with roses, and we did find out that the roses are planted in vineyards to attract bees that would otherwise go on the vines. The Chocolate Factory was a hit with everyone, plenty of samples, and we all bought to take back home. It was a pretty full day, and really ready for a nice rest that night.

Day 4: Leaving our hotel at 8.30a.m on to Augusta Lighthouse which is on the most south westerly tip of Australia. Standing 56 meters above sea level, and is standing at the point where the Indian and the Southern Oceans meet. It was blowing a gale, so quite a few of us chose to stay on board. A short drive to see the Waterwheel, this was quite interesting. Built out of wood, and had supplied the lighthouse with fresh water. This has now calcified and only trickles of water flows. On our way we stopped at a lovely bakery... It was the best in the area, because it was the one and only. But, it did live up to its' reputation. Onwards to meet our guide to tour the Mammoth Caves. I got as far as the entrance, which was just awesome! Cant' tell you much more, as my legs gave way. After everyone boarded the coach we made our way back to Margaret River for lunch, for me it was a rest, as I did not want to spoil the rest of the holiday. With help from Rennie and Frances made it across the road to the Settlers' Tavern for a lovely night.

Day 5: Its' a long drive back to Perth. Check out Mary Bonnici's write up on the Gourmet Food Stop, as well as some more winery stops. You could not help but notice the lovely wild flowers along the highway, and the Peppermint Trees that

are everywhere to be seen around Margaret River and Bunbury. A stop at the Dolphin Discovery Centre was really interesting to everyone. Fish feeding in tanks, watching a documentary on the larger ones, or playing with your imagination as you walked on water. Lunch was by the sea at Bunbury. By the time we went back to our hotel in Perth, we really needed a rest.

Write-Up by Mary Bonnici

While on our trip to Perth we went down to Margaret River, where we visited the chocolate factory the aroma Wow! when you walked in, then to be able to help yourself to free tasting of chocolate buddies [white, milk, & dark chocolate] this place is a chocoholic and a child's delight. With a great variety to choose from it was very difficult to choose. Also there is a viewing widow where you can see the products being made, the product that

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day was fudge. Tea & coffee was also available with a variety of different cakes & slices. We also visited a place called Providore, this is a gourmet cooks delight, with a variety of different Jams, chutneys, preserves & sauces to try [& olive oil infused with garlic amazing taste]. As well there was also free wine tasting which many enjoyed. Also while in the west we went through a town called Cowaramup this town had many black and white statues of cows in different poses scattered all around. Graham our bus driver said they were jersey cows but this is incorrect the black & white cows are Friesians. Jersey cows are a fawn colour [growing up on a farm with parents who had jersey cows I know what they look like.]

Every day on the bus Seniors men's jokers group were very entertaining, and even though I could not understand except for an occasional word I enjoyed their interaction with one another.

Day 6: Today we had time for a sleep in. So we had breakfast at leisure. Graham picked us up at 10.30 to take us to Barrack Street Jetty for a lunch cruise along the Swan River. Everyone enjoyed this, especially the lovely lunch. The cruise went all the way to Fremantle, where some disembarked and some came on for the trip back to Perth. Today was such a relaxing day, till dinner time we were free to do our own thing, whether hitting the shops or just taking it easy.

Day 7: Free and easy day for everyone, nothing planned, just do your own thing. After breakfast, Lina, George, Antoinette, Rennie and I headed to the Perth Mint. I thought that it was only coins that we were going to see there, however, there was a lot more. Argyle Diamonds on offer there for the wealthy, plus beautiful Pearls. After leaving the Mint we walked leisurely towards the shops. A stop for coffee at the City Square admiring the dancing waters there. A photo shot not to be missed. We noticed many ladies wearing hats, and remembered that it was Melbourne Cup Day today. Everyone had a horse in the Sweep, except for Victor Casa and I, whose horse had been scratched, so we wanted to watch the race. A Dick Smith shop had umpteen televisions there, but only a small one showing the race. No winners here.

As it was our last night there, many of us chose to go to Perth Crown. It was packed. Apparently it was where everyone in Perth went to celebrate Melbourne Cup. Many were wearing hats and dressed to the nines. The bars were certainly very busy.

A good night sleep, then get ready to meet Graham to take us to the airport for the flight back home.

Below: Photos from the Annual Dinner Dance



More photos from the Annual Dinner Dance



NEWPORT MALTESE ASSOCIATION
FUNCTION DATES FOR 2014/2015

WED DECEMBER 31ST NEW YEAR'S EVE THE EMERALD
DANCE

SUNDAY MARCH 8TH CARNIVAL DANCE MELROSE

SUNDAY MARCH 29TH NEWPORT DAY OUT

SUNDAY JUNE 7TH NEWPORT DAY OUT

JULY 4TH & 5TH WEEKEND TRIP

For booking please contact Carmen Casa on 9436 8196

NEXT FEW FUNCTIONS FOR THE
SENIORS GROUP FOR 2015

WED JAN 21ST RESUME WEDNESDAY GATHERINGS

WED FEB 18TH SENIORS AGM MCCV

THURS FEB 26TH SENIORS DAY TRIP

THURS MAR 19TH SENIORS BBQ

For booking please contact Carmen Casa on 9436 8196

New Year's Eve Dinner Dance

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Bookings with Carmen Casa on 9436 8196

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
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| Vince Calleja | Vice-President | 8390 2920 |
| Vince Camilleri | Secretary | 9314 3177 |
| Joe Cole | Treasurer | 8742 1142 |
| Carmen Casa | Social Secretary | 9346 8196 |
| Lydia Cole | Public Relations Officer | 8742 1142 |
| 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 |
| Olga Ellul | Committee Member | 9744 6096 |
| Victor Casa | Committee Member | 9346 8196 |
| Rennie Busuttil | Committee Member | 9333 3693 |

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 | 9398 4018 |
| Rennie Busuttil | Committee Member | 9333 3693 |
| Arthur Galea | Committee Member | 0439 830 454 |
| Anne Caruana | Committee Member | 0419 382 704 |

BELOW:NEWPORT MALTESE ASSOCIATION SENIORS GROUP ON THE TRIP TO PERTH

Photo supplied by Matilda Borg



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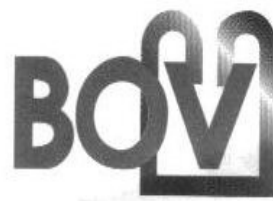
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