



# NEWPORT NEWS

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

September 2015

Lydia Cole—Editor

Vol. 3 Issue 14

## *The President's Message*

Dear Fellow Members & Friends,

On Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> October this year, the Association will be holding the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting. This is the only meeting during the year where the Executive Committee Members and the Financial Members of the Association sit down together and reminisce all that took place over the past financial year. Therefore, myself together with my fellow Committee Members, are urging all the members to attend this meeting which will be held at the Maltese Community Centre, Parkville, starting at 2.00pm.

Like always, at the conclusion of the meeting light refreshments will be provided, so for this purpose, it would be appreciated if you register your name with the Social Secretary, Carmen Casa.

The A.G.M. will be followed a week later (Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October) by the **Annual Dinner Dance**.

Once again I urge you all to be part of this important event in our social calendar, because it signifies our existence over the years and all that we have achieved together since that humble beginning in Newport 42 years ago.

Most of you will be aware about the Media Release issued on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015, where by SBS Radio announced that a reduction of two hours of

Maltese Radio Programs will be discontinued from the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria and New South Wales immediately took action against this by preparing a joint petition which was forwarded to SBS management.

With respect to the above, I feel very proud about the way you the members supported this submission by registering your names on the petition, not only that, some of you even approached family members and friend to put their names down.

Regardless of what the outcome will be, you should all be congratulated for doing your part in the best possible way.

At present the Secretary, Vince Camilleri is going through the process of applying for grants from the Multi Cultural Commission for the next four years. If successful, the grants will be allocated to cover some of the expenses of the Carnival Dance and New Years Eve Dance, which means your donation towards these activities will be subsidised.

The Association Seniors Group which meet at the Maltese Community Centre, Parkville every Wednesday recently had a visit by Mr Frank Scicluna OAM, author of a new book "Malta and the ANZACS – Nurse of the Mediterranean"

Mr Scicluna who is the Honorary Consul for Malta in South Australia spoke briefly about his book which commemorates one of Malta's greatest highpoints in Maltese History.

It was interesting to note how many of our members, because of their love and interest in Maltese

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*History and Culture purchased a copy of the book.*

*With the summer days in Malta coming to an end, we are beginning to witness the return of some of our members back to Australia. Naturally we welcome all of them back with open arms and look forward to have their company once again at our functions.*

*I like to finish my report with this inspirational quotation :- Help me to be Cheerful when things go wrong; Persevering when things are difficult; and serene when things are irritating.*

*God Bless,*

*Until next time*

*George Saliba OAM*

*President & Seniors Co-Ordinator*

### **Pokies Weekender 4/5 July**

I can't remember any other weekend away organised by the Association or the Seniors Group when the weather was freezing cold as this time. Mind you, cold yes, but clear nice days. The only thing the cold weather prevented us from doing is:- usually when we reach our accommodation and settle in, we have time to get out on the grounds of the motel and have a chat with a cup of tea or coffee in hand. But not this time, we all stayed in our rooms enjoying the warmth of the heating system.

Nevertheless, it was a good weekend from other aspects :- good clean accommodation, a hearty Sunday morning cooked breakfast and reasonable lunches and dinner.

The one thing that never ever fails on these weekenders is the amount of cakes, biscuits, pudina and sweets that we consume thanks to the members who go through the trouble of baking or purchase for all on the bus to enjoy.

Naturally, as we visited the clubs, most of us tried our hands on the poker machines to try and win the ultimate jackpot----- HA-HA-HA.

But as the saying goes, "money is not everything" and as long as one does things in moderation its fun. What I am particularly pleased with on these trips, is the way we all enjoy each other company and the

co-operation of everyone.

**George Saliba OAM**

**President & Seniors Co-Ordinator**

### **Newport Maltese Association**

#### **Comedy Luncheon**

**9<sup>th</sup> August 2015**

Held at the MCCV in Parkville, the afternoon started with lunch, entrée and main meal, desert came later.

This was a very special afternoon with some very important *guests* taking part.

First we had Harry Belafonte and Liza Minelli performing the song "There's a hole in the bucket".

Next we had the **Class of 69**. This was a somewhat unruly class which gave the teacher a hard time and got him all confused at times.

Two special guests were Nick Caruana who sang some very well liked Maltese songs and also Charlie Vassallo with his rendition of "Torna Sorrento" The acknowledgments for these two were enormous. We even had a puppet show.

The highlight of the afternoon was the "Le Girls" straight from Las Vegas dancing to the tune of "We are Family". The roar of laughter and clapping brought the hall down . If it was any louder we would have been in trouble.

Although this was spontaneous it turned out to be a fantastic afternoon and a lot of people went home with a smile on their face.

Many, many thanks go to Stan Azzopardi for assisting with the music throughout the afternoon We also have to thank the Committee for their determination to make this work and thank you to all those who attended, for your ongoing support.

**Lydia Cole**

**P.R.O.**

**ALL PHOTOS ARE FROM THE COMEDY LUNCHEON**

# Seniors' Corner

## CHRISTMAS IN JULY

This year's function at the Melrose reception was held on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> July. When the committee were planning for this function little did they know that the weather was going to comply. The day was one of the coldest winter days this year. It was more like a Christmas day in Europe cold, wet and dull. A few of the committee members and members had to rearrange their hairdos; the only two that were ok were Victor and I as no wind could change our hair styles. As soon as the committee arrived, preparations started to decorate the hall. Tinsel, wall Santa's and even a blow up Santa. (Mind you the blow up Santa must have had a few too many as by the end of the night he was leaning on the wall).

Following the president's welcome, the dancing commenced which continued through the evening except for the meal breaks. Once again Melrose presented us with an excellent three course meal, served piping hot. I must not forget the continuous flow of wine, juice and soft drinks. Enough to sink a battleship.

Needless to say everyone was enjoying themselves, and when the time arrived to sing the Newport Anthem we realised that we did not have the backup music, therefore the committee decided to soldier on and sing it irrespectively. The members also joined in and after a slow start we had everyone singing. The raffle followed and the last song played before goodbyes were shared around and everyone went home after a great evening.

**Joe Ellul**

**Vice President**

## SENIOR'S FATHERS DAY LUNCHEON. 30<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2015.

Thank goodness we had a function to go to straight after just coming back from Malta, dying to see everyone, and this was it, and it was just wonderful to get so many "welcome back" I was unaware that I was to do a write up on this.

The sound of people talking amongst friends is the first thing that you notice at all of our functions, we just love enjoying each other's company. George Saliba opened his speech by acknowledging and paying tribute to all the fathers in attendance, to all those no longer with us. All those present here today were presented with a bottle of red wine.

Melrose had another winner, with the lovely tables in preparation for the feast to follow. A mixture of pastas which was enough for a main, speaking for myself, followed with chicken or beef, which both looked delicious, fresh fruit, cassata or pannacotta with berries. (Do they know that I need to shed a few kilos?)

Our D.J. John kept everyone entertained and dancing to the lovely melodies that are favourites with the group. Our thanks go to Stan Azzopardi who did firstly, and very fitting, his rendition of 'Oh My Papa' and other songs on his guitar. The crowd loved every minute of it. Stan is a truly professional artist.

Time for the raffle, and sure enough the chant went up, when Lina Saliba had the first ticket drawn. George told everyone, this is how you say it.... U hallilin, u ta Newport HALLILIN. We were lucky as Rennie's tickets won him 2 bottles of wine.

Thank you all for attending, we are proud to say we belong to the Newport Seniors' Group. You are the best.

**Gwen Busuttill,**  
**Senior Committee Member**











**NEWPORT MALTESE ASSOCIATION**  
**FUNCTION DATES FOR 2015**

<b>SUN OCTOBER 4th</b>	<b>AGM</b>	<b>MCCV</b>
<b>SUN OCTOBER 11th</b>	<b>ANNUAL DINNER DANCE</b>	<b>MELROSE RECEPTION</b>
<b>SUN NOVEMBER 29th</b>	<b>BREAK-UP</b>	<b>MELROSE RECEPTION</b>
<b>THURS DEC 31st</b>	<b>NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE DINNER DANCE</b>	<b>EMERALD RECEPTION</b>

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

**NEXT FEW FUNCTIONS FOR THE**  
**SENIORS GROUP FOR 2015**

<b>SAT/SUN</b>	<b>26/27th SEPT</b>	<b>POKIES W/END</b>
	<b>18th to 28th October</b>	<b>Pacific Island Cruise</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>16th DECEMBER</b>	<b>BREAK-UP MELROSE RECEPTION</b>

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

*A little old lady went to buy cat food. She picked up three cans, but was told by the clerk, "I'm sorry, but we can't sell this to you without proof you have a cat. Too many seniors are buying cat foot to eat. Management wants proof that you are buying this for your cat." So the lady went home, brought in her cat and was sold the cat food. . . . The next day, she tried to buy two cans of dog food and was again told she couldn't buy them without proof. So the lady went home, brought in her dog and was sold the dog food. . . . One day later, she brought in a box with a hole in the lid and asked the cashier to stick her finger in the hole. The cashier said, "No you might have a snake in there" The lady assured her that there was nothing in the box that would harm her. So the cashier put her finger into the box, quickly pulled it out and exclaimed, "That smells like crap." . . . The lady replied, "It is, I want to buy two rolls of toilet paper."*

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Last year I replaced all the windows in my house with those expensive, double-pane, energy-efficient kind.

Today, I got a call from the contractor who installed them. He complained that the work had been completed a year ago and I still hadn't paid for them.

Helloooo...? Just because I'm blonde doesn't mean that I am automatically stupid. So, I told him just what his fast-talking sales guy told me last year... that these windows would pay for themselves in a year.

Hellooooo? It's been a year, so they're paid for, I told him.

There was only silence at the other end of the line, so I finally hung up.

He never called back.

I bet he felt like an idiot.

## Annual General Meeting

The Committee of the Newport Maltese Association would like to remind our members that the Annual General Meeting will be held on the 4th October 2015 at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville starting at 2.00pm.

For Catering purposes, those of you with the intention to attend please contact Carmen Casa on 9436 8196

Light refreshments will be served after the meeting.

## Newport Maltese Association Annual Dinner Dance

Celebrating the 42nd Anniversary

Come and join us on this special occasion which will be held on Sunday 11th October 2015 at Melrose Reception Centre, Cnr. Melrose & Carrick Drive, Tullamarine.

Four Course Dinner, Wine, Beer and soft drinks all included.  
Do not miss out.

Book early with Carmen Casa on 9436 8196

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**ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

George Saliba	President	9391 6081
Joe Ellul	Vice-President	9744 6096
Vince Camilleri	Secretary	9314 3177
Joe Cole	Treasurer	8742 1142
Lydia Cole	P.R.O.	8742 1142
Carmen Casa	Social Secretary	9436 8196
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	9436 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	????
Rennie Busuttil	Committee Member	9333 3693
Arthur Galea	Committee Member	0439 830 454
Anne Caruana	Committee Member	0419 382 704

***New Year's Eve Dinner Dance******Will be held at******The Emerald******213-215 Settlement Road, Thomastown******Pre-Dinner Drinks, Five course meal******plus wine, beer and soft drinks******Book Early. Don't miss out.******Come and join us in the fun and celebrate the******New Year 2016 for only \$90 per head******Bookings with Carmen Casa on 9436 8196***