



# NEWPORT NEWS

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

December 2015

Lydia Cole—Editor

Vol. 3 Issue 15

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



*Wish all our members and their families  
A Blessed Christmas  
&  
A Happy New Year 2016*

## *The President's Message*

*Dear Fellow Members & Friends,*

*This issue of our "Newport News" is the last one for the year 2015. I trust that you are all happy to receive a copy of every issue and were satisfied with the presentation and contents. We'll endeavour to continue and produce the newsletter to your satisfaction. Of course there's always room for improvements, and we welcome any suggestion that might help us to improve and make the newsletter more to your liking.*

*Copies of the "Combined Programme of Events 2016" are now available. Make sure you obtain a copy, so you'll keep yourself totally informed of what is happening item by item. The copies are designed to fit into your purse or wallet.*

*2016 is election year for the Seniors Group Committee. The election will be held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February. In this issue of our newsletter is a "nomination form". Any member of the Seniors Group who has been financial for the past twelve months, has got the right to nominate for any position on the Committee.*

*As Co Ordinator of the Group, I have asked the incumbents (present committee members) of their intentions and I am pleased to inform you that, we are all prepared to accept nominations for another term in office.*

*If a situation arise, were more than one member are nominated for a position, then voting by you the members will have to take place, so I urge you all to attend on this day.*

*Its not long now before we say goodbye to 2015, so therefore I like to take this opportunity to say, first and foremost a very big thankyou to all our members who played a big part in all that we have done and achieved in 2015.*

*To my fellow Committee Members on the board of the Association and the Seniors Group---my*

*heartfelt thanks for your commitment and dedication right through the year resulting in one success after the other—you're simply the best.*

*Finally, God's willing, we will be looking forward to have your company at the "Emerald Reception Centre" so together we will farewell 2015 and welcome a new year in our lives-2016.*

*On closing, may I on behalf of my fellow Committee Members of the Association and the Seniors Group, wish you all and your families a -*

*VERY HAPPY & SAFE CHRISTMAS*

*and a*

*NEW YEAR 2016 FULL OF HAPPINESS,*

*PROSPERITY*

*and most important*

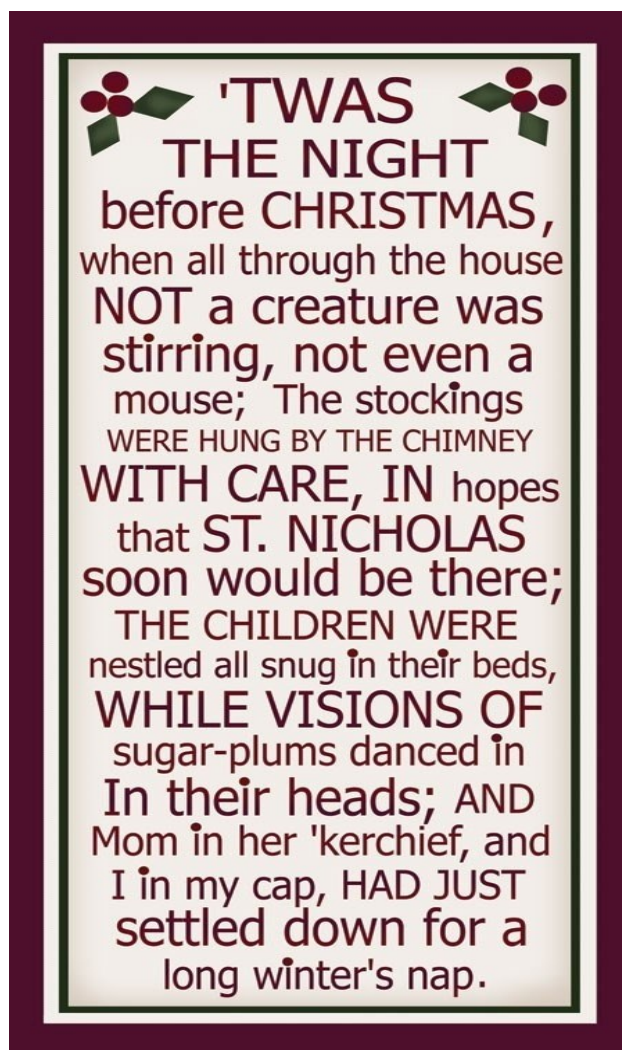
*GOOD HEALTH.*

*God Bless,*

*Until next time*

*George Saliba OAM*

*President & Seniors Co-Ordinator*



## **Newport Maltese Association** **Annual General Meeting**

**O**n Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2015, the Newport Maltese Association held the Annual General Meeting at the Maltese Community Centre at Parkville.

140 members of the Association, attended the meeting chaired by the President, George Saliba OAM. George opened the meeting with a prayer and then thanked all those present for attending.

Minutes of the previous AGM were read by the Secretary, Vince Camilleri who at the end of the meeting retired from the Committee, after many years serving the Association,

During his speech the President said "that after 42 years, the general feeling amongst us is that, as an Association we remain as strong as ever and I can only attribute the success we've enjoyed over the years to team work:- Leadership that includes and utilizes all the talent that each and everyone of the people responsible, including you the members".

The financial report was read by the Vice-President, Joe Ellul in lieu of the Treasurer Joe Cole who was suffering from a sore throat.

At the conclusion of the meeting, everyone enjoyed some refreshments with a cup of tea or coffee.



### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**The Newport Maltese Association would like to thank the Victorian Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship for the grant of \$1600 towards the Annual Dinner Dance held on 10th October 2015**

## **Annual Dinner Dance**

On the 10th of October we celebrated the 42nd Anniversary of the Newport Maltese Association at the Melrose Reception Centre.

The food and the service was excellent as always and the DJ Tony is getting to know what sort of music we like. Plus the awesome attitude that the members have in these functions, which is to enjoy themselves, makes for a great night.

We are pleased to say that two very special guests joined us on the night, **Mr, Victor Grech, the Consul General for the Republic of Malta in Victoria** and **Mr. George Portelli, Chief Representative for the Bank Of Valletta in Australasia.**

A special presentation was made to Vince Camilleri on his retirement as Secretary from the Association.

In the many years that Vince has held the position as Secretary he did an excellent job. He thanked everyone and said that although he has resigned from the committee, he will still be attending the functions and will keep in touch.

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

## **REMINDER**

**To all those members who have not yet paid their subscription for the Newport Maltese Association, for 2016, we would like to remind you that payment is now well over due.**



# Seniors' Corner

by Gwen Busuttil  
Committee Member

## **SENIORS' GROUP POKIE WEEKEND** **26<sup>TH</sup> AND 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER.**

Nice and early on Saturday morning we met the Coach Captain over at the depot. We made our way over to Parkville, where everyone was on time. By 7.30a.m. we were on our way to Mulwala. Many passed on to Victor containers to take care of, of course Victor peeked inside to have a look, and put them in the order of distribution. Just entered the Hume Highway, and Victor got his tongs ready to start giving out snacks.... Immediately Rennie states it would be lovely with a cuppa. On hearing this, our coach captain stopped the bus, he had visions of thermoses out, and spills everywhere, a thorough mess! He was not aware of our humour. After he calmed down, we were on our way again. This did not stop Victor at doing his best to make sure we did not go wanting. On reaching Mulwala, lunch was ready for us, a bit of a play, then on our way to Albury. We needed a

bit of a rest by then, after the early start, and the long drive, we needed it. We're not spring chickens anymore (speaking for myself). The Motel was lovely, nice clean bed, fluffy towels and in a nice setting.

Rested and refreshed, we made our way to the S.S.&A club. Once again dinner was waiting, and after dinner, a semi-final AFL match was on. We arrived back at the Motel to see the outcome. It never ceases to amaze me, how much noise can be made, when it's not even your team playing!

A good night sleep, and a beautiful breakfast, ready for the day ahead. The day turned out beautiful, and we attended Mass at St. Patrick's. There is something about Mass held in Country towns. The friendliness of the people, the caring that comes through, and all those who attended had one comment to make, how special it was.

The next stop was more of the same, the setting was lovely, and after lunch some opted to go for a walk, others were exercising their elbows, and some were happy pressing a few more buttons, till it was time to get on the Coach for our way home.

From our feedback, from 53 who attended, they all had a good time, thanks to the many who baked, Vince Calleja for sharing some of his jokes, and to all of you for supporting us.



## **Member's Corner.**

A few weeks ago, I was having a conversation with Lewis Rossi at our weekly gathering at the centre, and Lewis produced a copy of the “Times of Malta” dated – Tuesday, July 21, 2015. In the Newspaper, was an article concerning his brother Antoine and sister-in-law Anne. Reading through the article, I found it very interesting, so much so that, with Lewis permission I summarized the article and decided to share it with you, so here it is.

### **THE LAST OF THE PLOTTERS.**

World War II left an indelible mark on countless Maltese who experienced terrible suffering as they came under heavy enemy bombardment.

But for Anne Rossi 92, the war turned out to be a highly interesting period in her life because it enabled her to put her talents to good use – helping defend the island against the attackers from the air.

In the early 1940s, Ms Rossi worked as a Plotter at the Lascaris War Rooms, the underground secret complex located more than 120 metres below the Upper Barrakka Gardens, it served as Britain's war headquarters in Malta.

Being interviewed by Kim Dalli of the “Times of Malta”, Ms Rossi said “my job brought me in contact with many high-ranking officers as did my father.

Ms Rossi's father, Ernest Mallia, was the only Maltese Squadron Leader and was honored with an OBE by King George VI himself in 1944.

Ms Rossi who turned 93 last August, is one of the last-if not the last-surviving Maltese who charted the enemy's progress through the skies.

Wearing headphones, Ms Rossi would be fed information on approaching aircraft, which she would then plot on the plotting table which consisted of a large map of Sicily, Malta and the surrounding Mediterranean. She would place counters on the map, each of which indicated the height and number of aircraft reported.

Overseeing the operations from the gallery above would be the controller and his team, who would be in radio contact with the pilots and would direct them to the best possible position to intercept the enemy. By working at the war rooms, Ms Rossi was blessed not to suffer as much hunger as other Maltese.

Ms Rossi enjoyed her job so much that she was rather disappointed when, upon engagement to a Maltese Army Officer, Antoine Rossi, in 1944, her father instructed her to give up the job.

Ms Rossi met her husband at the British Institute in Valletta. Her then husband to be, caught the eye of her friend, who asked to be introduced to who she thought was a British officer. Mr Rossi would spend time with her and her friends – before Ms Rossi realised that he was wooing her.

“There were around four girls who fancied him – I don't blame them, he was always in uniform.” Ms Rossi said. “One time I was at the theatre with a friend. In the interval, I turned and I found him sitting beside me. “From where did you materialise?” I asked him. He said that he had followed me. He asked me to tell my friend that he was my cousin so that he could accompany home. And one thing led to another and we chatted the evening away

**Contd on next page**



### Photos from Association AGM



### Contd from page 5

Tragically, Mr Rossi passed away in 1963 at the age of 45 from injuries sustained when the \*Regent Cinema in Valletta was bombed during a screening in 1942. He had not yet met Ms Rossi then.

The building collapsed on the audience, most of whom were servicemen enjoying their Sunday leave, killing over 100 people. Mr Rossi was fished out of the rubble in his torn uniform, with a dead man beneath him who had suffocated from the dust.

However, he sustained irreversible damage to his nervous system, which ultimately led to his death several years later, leaving Ms Rossi a widow with four children.

\*This is for the oldies :- Screening at the Regent Cinema at the time it was bombed was the film “The North-West Mounted Police “ starring Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald.

**George M Saliba OAM.**



**Anne Rossi at the time of the interview**



**The plotting table as it stands to-day at the restored Lascaris War Rooms in Valletta**



## **South Pacific 10 day Cruise 2015**

### **Newport seniors' Group**

**By Gwen Busuttil**

Happy to be doing the write up for this, we were not going, Rennie knows I get sea-sick!

After a lot of convincing, we booked, and can I just say, it was very enjoyable, and am looking forward to be doing some more cruising. Instead of just reading my comments thought you might like to read what others have thought of it.....

#### **Stella and Joe Vassallo:**

Having been there before, they really enjoyed the company, they fact that so many of our group went.

#### **Mary and Joe Abdilla:**

We enjoyed every minute of it, and ready for another one.

#### **Tina and John Farrugia:**

We really enjoyed everything, our highlight were the Cascade Falls in Port Vila, also enjoyed the nightly entertainment at the Princess Theatre.

#### **Lody and Charlie Howick:**

It was so relaxing, we were well looked after by the crew, also enjoyed all the entertainment.

#### **Frances and Oliver Camilleri:**

Great holiday could go again tomorrow.

#### **Marylene Zammit:**

In one word F A N T A S T I C.

#### **Paul and Rose Galea:**

We loved the nightly entertainment at the Princess Theatre.

#### **Miriam and James Cunningham:**

They loved the entertainment, especially prior to dinner on Deck 5. This consisted of a lady playing the violin, and her partner on the piano... this resulted in beautiful music, and we all know what James and Miriam do when they hear music. DANCE. Did not catch up with everyone, but the feedback was all the same. For us as Committee, it was so enjoyable, everyone doing their own thing. Food was there any time you wanted it. Dinner at the restaurants always was 'Silver Service'. Whether you wanted to relax by the pool, or catch a movie, go for high tea in the afternoon, or bury yourself in a good book.... The choice was yours.

My sister, Antoinette loves Line Dancing; it was there for her too. Carmen Casa and Car-

men Spiteri got into the choir, and gave us all their rendition of songs from Sound of Music on the last night.

Rennie played Bocci together with Joyce Saliba, Victor Casa, Maurice Spiteri, not sure who else joined in. When I watched Joyce and Rennie were the winners.

**Andrew Gatt:** All in all it was a good outcome as all enjoyed the break and it was nice to hear them saying hope we do this again.



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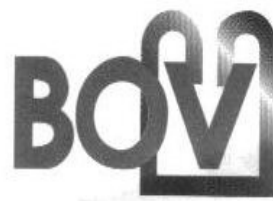
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**E:admin@altonadentureclinic.com.au**

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## **Bank of Valletta**

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**NEWPORT MALTESE ASSOCIATION**  
**FUNCTION DATES FOR 2015/2016**

<b>Thursday Dec 31st</b>	<b>New Year's Eve Dinner Dance</b>	<b>Emerald Reception</b>
<b>Sunday 13th March</b>	<b>Assoc Carnival Dinner Dance</b>	<b>Melrose Reception</b>
<b>Sat/Sun 16th-17th April</b>	<b>Assoc Week-end Trip</b>	
<b>Sunday 5th June</b>	<b>Assoc Comedy Fun Luncheon</b>	<b>Parkville</b>

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

**NEXT FEW FUNCTIONS FOR THE**  
**SENIORS GROUP FOR 2016**

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>20th January 2016</b>	<b>Resume Meetings</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>18th February</b>	<b>Seniors Day Trip</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>24th February</b>	<b>Seniors AGM</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>17th March</b>	<b>Seniors BBQ-Brimbank</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>23rd April</b>	<b>Seniors Fun Night Parkville</b>

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



## NEWPORT MALTESE ASSOCIATION INC. SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM 2016

YOUR NAME: (Please Print) .....

ADDRESS: .....

Signature: .....

I wish to nominate .....

For the position of .....

In the **Newport Maltese Association Inc. Seniors Group Executive Committee**

Seconded by: (Please Print) .....

Signature .....

Has this member agreed to be nominated? YES NO (please circle)

Signature of nominated member .....

**Nominations for Executive Committee positions close at noon on Wednesday 10th February 2016**

**The Election for the Executive Positions will take place at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on Wednesday 24th February at 2.00pm at the Maltese Community Centre 477 Royal Parade, Parkville.**

**Please return this form to:**

**The Secretary  
Mr. Andrew Gatt  
Newport Maltese Association Senior Citizens Group  
C/- 477 Royal Parade  
Parkville, Vic. 3052**

PHOTOCOPY IF NEEDED

**ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

George Saliba	President	9391 6081
Joe Ellul	Vice-President	9744 6096
Gwen Busuttil	Secretary	9333 3693
Joe Cole	Treasurer	8742 1142
Lydia Cole	P.R.O.	8742 1142
Carmen Casa	Social Secretary	9436 8196
Olga Ellul	Assistant Secretary	9744 6096
Lena Saliba	Assistant Treasure	9391 6081
Miriam Cunningham	Committee Member	9338 0851
Maurice Spiteri	Committee Member	9469 2067
Carmen Spiteri	Committee Member	9469 2067
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******Your last chance to book. 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***



## Photos from the Association Annual Dinner Dance

