

NEWPORT NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the
Newport Maltese Association and Seniors Group Inc.
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March 2023

Andrew Gatt —Editor

Vol. 8 Issue 1



Dear Members and Friends.

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2023, hopefully this year will be a better one than last year. I wish and hope that this message will find you in good Health and Spirit.

Due to renovations at the Maltese Centre at Parkville we deferred our weekly meetings by three weeks. I was positive that all the members were looking forward to the 8th of February and I was not wrong. The members were there early to give them the opportunity to catch up.

Next came the Annual BBQ at Brimbank Park. What a glorious day, we could not wish for better weather. The committee members were there early as we were short staffed and started setting up and preparing tables to ensure that everything was ready before the members started arriving.

The Carnival Dinner Dance was held at the Melrose Reception on the 5th March, needless to say it was a great success. The Carrick Room lit up with all the Happy Faces and greetings as members met each other. Some of them had not seen each other for a few months. Our DJ Thomas made sure that with his music he kept the members on the dance floor. I am positive that this event will be on members minds for a few months to come.

The Carnival Dance and BBQ were well supported by you the members, we must be doing something right, don't you agree. Well, the next major event is the Mother's Day Luncheon at Ferraro's Reception, we had to do this change as Melrose will be changing hands and we had to find an alternative instead of cancelling the luncheon. Hope to see you there.

Finally, on behalf of all the committee, I wish you all a Happy Easter.

Joe Ellul
President

THE VICTORIA LINES

Most of us would have heard about “The great wall of China” which was built over centuries by China`s Emperors to protect their territory.

Well, I`m sure you will be interested to know, that **Malta** has its own “Great Wall” of course on a much smaller scale than that of China. Its name: - **The Victoria Lines.**

Below I have written a summary of the history of the lines, so here I go.

Originally known as the **North West Front** consisting of line of fortifications that spans 12 kilometers along the width of Malta, dividing the north of the Island from the more heavily populated south.

Built by the British Military between 1875 and 1885, during the administration of his Excellency General Sir Arthur Lyon Freemantle, the lines were named to commemorate the jubilee of Queen Victoria.

The line cut across MALTA FROM THE EAST TO THE WEST. It was designed to present a physical barrier to **invading forces** landing in the **north of Malta**, with intention of attacking the harbor installation, so vital for the maintenance of the British Fleet. (during that time the British Fleet occupied both harbors on the island) Military Exercises staged in May 1900, revealed that the Victoria Lines were of dubious defensive and by 1907 they were abandoned altogether. But when World War Two started, a Nazi invasion seemed likely, so the lines were rehabilitated, and new ground posts built along the lines. Fortunately, the line was never tested.

To- day large parts of the fortification walls have collapsed, although some parts in the countryside remain intact and in general the Victoria Lines have fallen into obscurity. (what a pity).

In 1996, the Government of Malta submitted the Victoria Lines to UNESCO, for consideration as a World Heritage Site and in 2019 the Malta Tourism Authority proposed that trails along the Lines will become Malta`s inaugural national walkway.

George Michael Saliba OAM



Newport BBQ 23rd February 2023.

The day began with all the committee meeting at Brimbank Park at 8.30 sharp. Then out came a 10 kilo bag of onions which the girls peeled and sliced and finally cooked by the boys. While the onions and sausages were cooking the girls prepared the salad. In the meantime the members were arriving and trying to find a comfortable place under the trees to escape the sun. The weather was a bit on the hot side but that didn't stop the 140 members all spread around the gazebo which was packed with the early birds that were there by 9.00am. The boys took care of all the cooking on the BBQ's, all tree of them, sweltering under the sun. From time to time we would go and give them a snack of cheese and biscuits or a glass of wine. By 12.00 o'clock everything was ready and Joe started calling a group at a time to get the meat, sausages salad and of course nice continental bread. Wine and drinks were also available for everyone. Of course, the deserts were being passed around among members and friends. After all this, those who had more energy decided to play Bocci. As for me I sat down on a comfortable chair with a glass of wine to rest, after running around from one bbq to another giving the boys trays to put the cooked meat and sausages. It was a fantastic day, great to see members catching up with one another and relaxed.



These are difficult times and the attached links may help if in need REACH OUT.

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus/maltese>

<https://mccv.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2020/06/Getting-tested-for-COVID-19-Maltese.pdf>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/language/maltese/coronavirus-updates>

Ingredients

Pastry

- 500g plain flour
- 227g cold butter, grated
- 150g caster sugar
- Zest of 1 large lemon
- 2 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 2 medium egg yolks
- 60ml water

Other Ingredients

- 2 tbsp milk of choice, to brush the pastry
- 400g white chocolate, chopped
- 2 tbsp flavorless oil
- Food coloring gels for the white chocolate
- Food coloring powders for the speckles (optional)
- 1/2 tsp vodka to mix with the powders (optional)

TRADITIONAL MALTESE FIGOLLI



Instructions

Preparing the Pastry and Filling

1. In a large bowl, combine flour with the grated butter with your hands or a pastry blender. Add the rest of the ingredients and mix well until smooth.
2. Transfer the pastry to a flat surface and divide in half. Wrap each half in cling film and refrigerate for at least 1 hour. One half will be the base and the other half the surface.

To make the filling, whisk the ground almonds with the sugar. Pour in the egg whites and almond extract (optional) to form a sturdy paste. Wrap in cling film and refrigerate along with the pastry.

Assembling and Baking

1. Prepare a baking sheet with a double layer of parchment paper. Preheat oven to 200°C / 392°F.
2. Roll out one half of the pastry on a floured surface to 0.5cm / 0.2" thickness. Use your cutter to cut out the shapes and transfer to the prepared sheet, at least 2cm / 0.8" apart.
3. Roll out the almond paste filling and use the same cutter as the pastry. Press the sides of the cut filling inward to make it smaller. Place on top of the pastry shapes in the baking sheet. Brush the edges of the pastry (around the filling) with milk.
4. Roll out the second half of the pastry and cut out the shapes. Transfer the pastry on top of the filling to make the surface. Press the edges to glue it down to the base that has been brushed with milk. Brush the surface with a very light layer of milk. Bake for 18-20 minutes and take out before they start to get golden. Transfer to a cooling rack and let cool.

Decorating

1. Melt the white chocolate (or chocolate of preference) until smooth. Stir in 2 tbsp of flavorless oil (for shine and texture).
 2. (Optional) Add the food colour gel to the divided chocolate. (You can use a drop of lilac to reduce the yellow tones from the white one.)
 3. Place a baking sheet underneath the cooling rack. Pour the white chocolate over the figolli. You can reuse the white chocolate that drips into the baking sheet.
 4. Let the chocolate dry completely (ideally do not refrigerate).
 5. (Optional) Mix some purple food coloring powder with 1/2 a tsp of vodka to make the speckles. Use a brush and your fingers to speckle.
- Enjoy!

Notes

Store in a cool dry place wrapped in cling film for up to a month.

My cutter size: 8cm by 6cm / 3.25" by 2.5". If you are using a bigger cutter, simply bake for a few more minutes.

Keep an eye on them and take them out of the oven before they start to get golden.

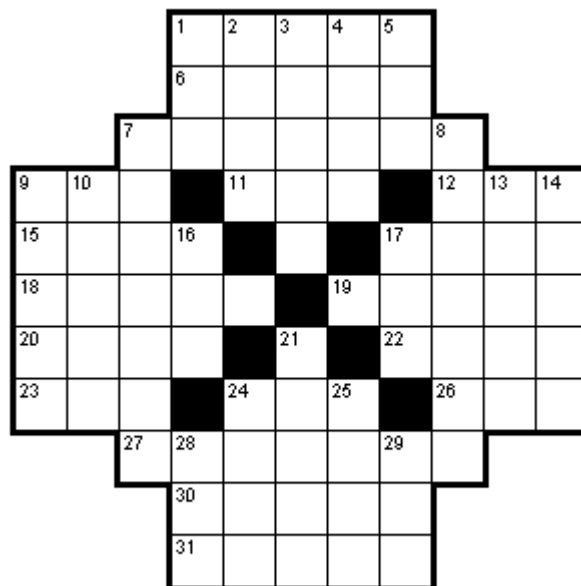
For gluten free figolli, simply use GF flour and add 1/4 tsp xanthan gum.

Across

1. Wetland (5)
6. Smell (5)
7. Paradigm (7)
9. Hit lightly (3)
11. Canine (3)
12. Insane (3)
15. Dull pain (4)
17. Withered (4)
18. Motionless (5)
19. Danger (5)
20. Item of footwear (4)
22. Compass direction (4)
23. Epoch (3)
24. Taxi (3)
26. Pasture (3)
27. Large feline (7)
30. Lariat (5)
31. Group of ships under the same ownership (5)

Down

1. Chart (3)
2. Desiccated (4)
3. Rotating mechanism (5)
4. Mixture of smoke and fog (4)
5. Amateur radio operator (3)
7. Moral (7)
8. Gem (7)
9. Out of fashion (5)
10. Performer (5)
13. Originate (5)
14. Greek letter (5)
16. Moose (3)
17. Witness (3)
21. Oversight (5)
24. Fossil fuel (4)
25. Hub of operations (4)
28. Mischievous fairy (3)
29. Decay (3)



Who invented the Easter egg?

In 1873 J.S. Fry & Sons of England introduced the first chocolate Easter egg in Britain. Manufacturing their first Easter egg in 1875, Cadbury created the modern chocolate Easter egg after developing a pure cocoa butter that could be moulded into smooth shapes.



Portelli Funeral Services



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MANAGING DIRECTOR

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Australian Government



THE VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFT STRATEGY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The President and Executive Committee of Newport Maltese Association & Seniors Group Inc. wish to thank the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Victorian Multicultural Commission for their continued support of our Club.

CARNIVAL DANCE 5th March 2023

Well how time flies, another Carnival Dinner Dance has come around, and it was a great fun night.

As our President Joe Ellul pointed out, the clubs aim is to carry on the Tradition of Carnival which we are all familiar with through our childhood in Malta. And that's why we also hand out "Perlini" as was the old tradition (which was to throw them off the floats, ouch).

The only disappointment is that not many people seem to come in fancy dress which, is a lot of fun for those that do. And I must say that we had some great costumes and one couple who stood out were the beekeeper and the bee.

The function was attended by some 250 members and most of those were on the dance floor for most of the night. The Music was supplied by DJ Thomas and his selection was a favourite with everyone, you only had to look at all the happy faces on the floor.

The food was delicious and well served by the Staff at Melrose and our raffle was very popular and had some great gifts.

Here's to another great fun year for our membership.

Antonia Scicluna.



13 Crazy Facts About Australia That Will Make You Love This Country!

If you visit one new beach in Australia every day, it will take over 27 years to see them all.

Each year, Brisbane hosts the world championships of cockroach racing.

Australia is the only continent in the world without an active volcano.

Australia has three times more sheep than people.

The largest Greek population in the world beside Athens in Greece can be found in Melbourne Victoria. An Australian man once tried to sell New Zealand on eBay.

The [Australian Alps](#) receive more snowfall than Switzerland. Maybe it's time to change that Euro Trip idea?



Most of Australia's exotic flora and fauna cannot be found anywhere else in the world. A selfie with cuddly marsupials like koalas, quokkas, wombats and kangaroos are only possible in Australia. Though I would suggest a wide berth to dangerous (usually venomous) animals like the blue ring octopus, the stone fish and funnel web spider.

[Australia](#) was the second country in the world to give women the right to vote in 1902.

Per capita, Australians spend more money on gambling than any other nation, with over 80 percent of Australian adults engage in gambling of some kind. Also, 20 percent of the world's poker machines are found in Australia.

Did you know that Canberra was selected as the capital because [Sydney](#) and Melbourne could not stop arguing which city should be the capital?

Australia is home to the longest fence in the world. Originally built to keep dingos away from fertile land, the fence is now 5,614 km long.

There are 60 designated wine regions in Australia, producing approximately 1.35 trillion bottles of wine every year.

And just because I found this too funny to miss:

There have been instances of wallabies getting high after breaking into opium crops, then running around and making what look like crop circles similar to the science fiction thriller, Signs. Crazy, isn't it?





This program is a collaboration between
National Archives of Australia and the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc.

Image: NAA: A12111, 1/1968/13/14



Simon Froude, Director-General
National Archives of Australia

In conjunction with the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc.

invites you to a special event in celebration of the

75th anniversary of the Malta-Australia Migration Agreement

Proceedings will include special guest

His Excellency
Mr. Mario Farrugia Borg
High Commissioner for Malta

And a keynote address by
Maltese–Australian historian
Dr Barry York OAM

Open day with display of
Maltese-Australian records and research workshops

Saturday 6 May 2023
10am to 3:30pm
entertainment from 9:30am
Victorian Archives Centre
99 Shiel Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051



Newport Maltese Association and Senior Group Inc

Program of Events for the Year 2023.

Thursday 16th March	Day Trip Phillip Island.
Thursday 20th -22nd April	3 Day Trip Lakes Entrance
Sunday 30th April	Mother's Day Lunch (Ferraro Reception)
Sunday 21st May	Fun & Games Luncheon (Parkville)
Sunday 11th June	Luncheon Parkville
Sunday 9th July	Christmas in July Lunch
Sunday 27th August	Fathers' Day Lunch
Sunday 24th September	AGM
Sunday 15th October	Annual Dinner Dance
Late October	Annual Trip TBA
Sunday 19th November	Spring Carnival Parkville
Wednesday 13th December	Christmas Break-Up

Please note: These dates are subject to change.

NEWPORT MALTESE ASSOCIATION AND SENIORS GROUP Inc. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Joe Ellul	9744 6096	Rennie Busuttil	9333 3693
Andrew Gatt	0416777807	Miriam Camilleri	9398 4018
Gwen Busuttil	9333 3693	Anne Caruana	9449 7792
Olga Ellul	9744 6096	Mary Galea	9304 1452
Carmen Casa	9436 8196	Antonia Camilleri	9390 1686
Arthur Galea	0439830454	Joe Camilleri	9390 1686
Maurice Spiteri	9469 2067	Antonia Scicluna	0408750187
Carmen Spiteri	9469 2067	Fred Scicluna	93695325
Victor Casa	9436 8196	Joe Camilleri	93901686

Day trip to Phillip Island.

Another fun bus trip this time to Phillip Island was organised by the committee. We were blessed with perfect weather. The bus left our club rooms around 8.00 am and the atmosphere on the bus was noisy with lots of laughter as usual.

We were barely 20 kilometres out of Parkville before the chocolates and lollies were handed around by Victor. I think he wants to make sure that no one gets low on sugar ha ha.

We had morning tea at a lovely spot in Tooradin, muffins and tea and coffee were made available for all members by our Club.

We had a pit stop at San Remo where we were hoping to watch the pelicans being fed but as it turned out we were there some 1 hour early and after a short break headed back on the bus for the Island.

Philip Island is very pretty with lots of cafes and shops for the ladies to look at. Some of our members had lunch at the local pub, or bakery or one of the cafes around the area.

After lunch and a walk around the town we headed off to the Penguin Walk. A lot of our members went down to the beach to look at the area and enjoy the scenery. You could also go into the Observation area which also had a souvenir shop.

After around half an hour we all got back on the bus to make our way back home. Our driver put on music and some of us sang along to music of our generation. The lollies and chocolates were handed around again and we had a pit stop at a service station on the way home.

Everyone said what a lovely day they had and thanked the Committee members for arranging the trip. Joe Ellul our President thanked all the members for coming and making the day lots of fun.



To all of our members who are celebrating Birthdays or Anniversaries over this period we wish you all the happiness and health on these occasions.

The Committee:



Did you know.

Stunning underground Valletta secret garden finally open to the public after 400 years.

After four centuries, one of Malta's hidden treasures has at last opened its doors to the public. The Mysterium Fidei Museum will be organising tours into the underground world lying beneath the St. Catherine's Monastery in Valletta.

The monastery was closed off to the public as it was used by monastic nuns who chose to lock themselves from the outside world for as long as they lived.

St. Catherine's Monastery was originally built to take care of female orphans during the time of the Knights of Saint John in the year 1575.

The monastery itself was built on the stones dug up from the quarry underneath the monastery. The open quarry was then turned into the stunning underground complex you will now finally be able to explore.



However, now visitors can immerse themselves into the everyday life at the monastery and discover the fascinating history this mysterious monastery has to offer.



Religious Easter quotes

"He is risen." – Matthew 28:6

"Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." – John 20:29

"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone but in every leaf in springtime." – Martin Luther King Jr.

"We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when His light illuminates the dark moments of our existence." – Pope Francis

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song." – Pope John Paul II

"The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created spring." – Bernard Williams

"I believe in Christ like I believe in the sun – not because I can see it but by it I can see everything else." – C.S. Lewis


We love because He first loved us." – John 4:19

"And by his wounds we are healed." – Isaiah 53:5

"And he departed from our sight that we might return to our heart, and there find Him. For He departed, and behold, He is here." – Saint Augustine



The Chicken Salad Spot



**Open
7 days**

10.00 am TO 9.00 pm



Shop 19, Gladstone Park Shopping Centre
Phone: 9334 5325

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