



# MerHbA

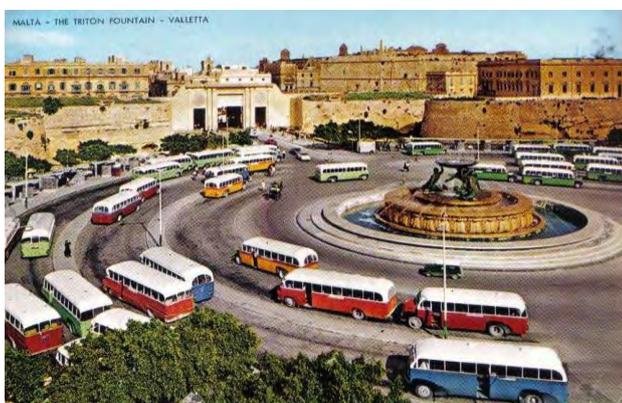
**Maltese Historical Association (Aust) Inc**  
(Għaqda Storika Maltija (Awstralija) Inkorporata)

No.2/2013

APRIL Newsletter

## This Month's Program:

### *Colourful BUS Trip into Nostalgia*



Presentation by

## Albert Aguis

Mr Albert Aguis is well known to members of the MHA as he frequently attends talks or presents lectures. He was instrumental in the formation of the association when, even before its inception, he encouraged his brother-in-law Chev. Joseph C. Sammut to give two talks (one about Maltese coins and another about Maltese and British cartoons on Malta) to groups of people at the Maltese centre.

Albert migrated to Australia in 1978 and quickly took an interest in the various activities of the Maltese community. He was correspondent for the 'Times of Malta' for some 25 years reporting on different events taking place within the

community. He was the senior journalist in the Maltese Language programs on SBS radio between 1987 and 1989. He also contributed feature articles and news stories in the 'Malta Cross' and 'Il-Maltija'.

His full time job was as an Administrative Officer in the Department of Health with the Commonwealth Government of Australia. In September 1993 he was seconded by the Australian Government as a Consultant to the Parliamentary Secretariat for the Care of the Elderly in Malta under the auspices of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

In 1997 Albert became a Member of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta.

In May 2000, Albert published 'It-Tezawru' the first thesaurus published in the Maltese language. Last year he published the second Tezawru. Other publications by Albert Aguis are 'Qwiel, idjomi u Laqmijiet Maltin' as well as 'Building a Community' and 'Fears, Tears and Cheers' two books in the series 'Maltese Settlement in Australia'

Sliema Motor Bus Co



Venue: **Maltese Community Centre**

477 Royal Parade, Parkville

Time: 7.30pm

Date: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2013.

## Previous Months Month

**March 2013**

**MHA Monthly Presentation.**

By Frà Professor Richard Divall  
**The Sacred Music of Malta's  
National Composer**



**Nicolò Isouard [1773-1818]**

### A summary

By Agnes Cauchi

This presentation had two parts: the first part was on music in Malta under the Knights, with special focus on the composer Nicolò Isouard. The second part was the actual concert of sacred music by Nicolò Isouard, performed at St John's co-cathedral in Valletta, and conducted by Prof Divall.

Before the Knights came to Malta, there was already a music life in Mdina, especially in the cathedral of St Paul. However, the Knights brought a musical establishment to St Lawrence's church in Birgu. For 200 years, music composition flourished in Malta. Maltese priests were sent to Naples to study music, among them we find a certain Grixti and Balzan. Grand Master de Vilhena even built a baroque opera house five storey high. Some operas were performed there for the benefit of the Italian Knights who always favoured operas. Unfortunately, all music of that era is lost, except for some sacred music.

Nicolò Isouard (1773 – 1818) is considered to be a national composer of that era. He was born in Valletta of a French father and a Maltese mother. His father was a revolutionary with strong French sympathies. The Isuards were also members of

the Freemasons. The son took after his father and was also an agnostic.

His father sent him to France to study music. Then he was sent to a military college. Meanwhile, the French Revolution intervened and Nicolò was sent back to Malta. From there, he went to Palermo to study music under well-known composers.

What was he like? By all accounts he was charming, good-looking and very believable. He always believed in himself. He wrote numerous operas and sacred music. There are six or seven operas which everyone knows about in Paris.

Isouard made friends with the French when they arrived on the Island. He offered 37 compositions to the Grand Master of the time. He was well-liked. When the French banished from the Island, Nicolò tried to escape to France on a French ship which was captured by the British. Luckily for Nicolò, he was simply sent back to Malta.

His sacred music survived. Dun Gwann Azzopardi, who is the curator of the museum in Mdina, has collected his works and he wrote a book in Maltese.

The second part was the recording of the actual concert from St John's Cathedral in Valletta.



Frà Professor Richard Divall

## GENERAL NOTICE

- Ex-Servicemen George Cross commemoration at MCCV Sunday 7th April
- George Cross commemoration at Shelter of Peace Sunday 14th April at 11:00am

### Mother's Day Dinner Fund Raiser

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013**  
6.30pm start

**Galli Estate Restaurant**  
1507 Melton Highway  
Plumpton Vic (Melway Ref 353A9)

#### 3 Course Dinner:

- Entrée
  - Main
  - Dessert &
  - Glass of Wine, Bubbly or Soft Drink
- Instant Tea, Coffee & Biscuits right through the night

**\$35.00** p/person

Payment & Bookings required prior to the function

**Contact: Mark Bonello**  
**0400 307 945**

Maltese Language Teachers Association of Vic

### Prospective members:

All Welcome

You are always welcome to attend any of our lectures and obtain a hard copy of the membership form from Mario Bonnici. Or go to our website [www.mha.org.au](http://www.mha.org.au) & download application form.

## Come and Celebrate Maltese Heritage in Melton



Did you know that around 20% of Rockbank, Plumpton and Mt Cottrell residents are of Maltese ancestry?

So, we're inviting Maltese residents, past and present, to join us for lunch during Heritage Week 2013

Come along, enjoy some pastizzi, re-new some friendships and reminisce.

Community volunteers will be collecting information and stories of the Maltese settlement of Melton and looking for ideas for history projects that might celebrate Melton's Maltese heritage.

**WHEN:** Saturday April 27 2013

**TIME:** 12.30pm – 4.00pm

**WHERE:** Rockbank Hall, Old Leakes Rd, Rockbank

**RSVP:** <http://profile.eventarc.com/profile/Meltonheritageweek2013>

For further information please contact Liz Pace 9747 7200.

Please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements



## YOUR BRAIN MATTERS

A GUIDE TO HEALTHY HEARTS & MINDS

We are holding two information sessions for the Maltese Community on caring For your brain.

During these information session we will discuss and give strategies on how to live a brain healthy life, how to look after your brain, body & heart.

The dates and venues for these sessions are as follows :

- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2013 – Maltese Community Regional Office, 14 Watt St Sunshine – 10.30am – 11.30am
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> of June – Maltese Community Centre 477 Royal Parade Parkville – 10.30am – 11.30am

Both sessions are **FREE** of charge followed by light refreshments

If you would like any further information on these information sessions or to Register your attendance contact Paul Lia at the Maltese Community Centre on 9387 8922 or [paul.lia@mccv.org.au](mailto:paul.lia@mccv.org.au)



**This Project 'Building a Permanent Bridge' is supported by the Australian Government**