



MerHbA

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

No 9/2012

NOVEMBER Newsletter

This Month's Program:



Kacca u
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Hunting & Trapping

Presentation by Emmanuel Cilia



About Emmanuel Cilia

Emmanuel Cilia was born and raised in Birgu, Malta. He attended De La salle college in Cottonera, up to the age of 15 years. At that stage the family migrated to Australia, where they set up residence in Keon Park, Melbourne. After completing secondary school, he studied Mechanical Engineering at the then Philip Institute of Technology. While finishing his studies he took up a position as a trainee technical officer at the Ammunition Factory in

Footscray. Later he Joined the then Telecom Research Laboratories as a technical officer in Melbourne & in Clayton. During the seven years at the Telstra Research Laboratories, he provided specialist technical support for such projects as the introduction of Mobile phones networks, Optic fibre communication technology, Microelectronics applications, (eg digital dialer, Ocular ear prototype manufacture), thick film & multilayers circuit board prototyping and other cutting edge technologies. He left TRL to take up technical position at Telstra Headquarters dealing with external plant procurement, design and field testing of telecommunication equipment and practices. Emmanuel left Telstra in 1996 due to organizational downsizing to follow his other career in Architecture and construction. He now runs his own building design practice named after a very historic place in Malta – Cottonera.

Emmanuel is secretary of Maltese Historical Association (Aust) Inc., Secretary of Melita Club (Inc), and Secretary of Federation of Maltese Living Abroad.

Emmanuel Cilia is married to Marija from Paola Malta and they have one daughter and two boys. His favorite pastimes are painting & drawing, Sailing (time permitting) and reading.

Venue: **Maltese Community Centre**

477 Royal Parade, Parkville

Time: 7.30pm

Date: Tuesday 20th November, 2012.



Last Month

MHA Talk 16th October 2012

By Agnes Cauchi



This talk was given by Mr Charles Mifsud, Consul General for Malta in Victoria and was entitled:

"il-Folklor Malti – Maltese Folklore"

Summary:

Mr Mifsud started his presentation by asking the question "What is Folklore?" He came up with several answers. He said that :

- It comes from periods in history of lack of education. In the olden days few people went to school.
- The church's influence was at its peak. It had a lot of say in the everyday life of the Maltese.
- Traditions came down the ages. Some were sound, like medical aspects. For example, for the relief of cough, people drank the water of boiled borage (fidloqqom). The idea behind it was folklore, but the medicinal aspect is real.
- Rumours: Malta is small and people talk with each other. In no time these rumours spread like wildfire and keep being repeated from generation to generation.
- People trying to explain a phenomenon. In towns and villages there were certain people who were considered more knowledgeable than others, so they gave their interpretation of the phenomenon. In time, this interpretation became folklore.
- Punishment like fasting during Lent. It was not mandatory to fast during the days of Lent, but people used to be afraid of not following this rule. They were afraid that there will be consequences in the afterlife.

Mr Mifsud listed an array of traditions and folkloric beliefs on many topics such as :

- Pregnancy, the evil eye, Christmas, carnival, lent, Holy Week, trades, games music, mourning, feasts and other folklore, like "il-guccija", "l-ghazziela", and shooting stars.

Pregnancy, Lent and Holy Week top the list in the number of folkloric beliefs, and with reason. Pregnancy was always shrouded in mystery, whilst and Holy Week were naturally influenced by the church which had a big influence in Malta.

Some traditions and folklore are kept to this day, but most of them have been forgotten.

SOME NEW IDEAS FOR 2013

What would you say if you were asked?

"What was the most important period in the history of Malta?"

We are considering a different kind of presentation for the coming year, whereby groups made up of two members per group debate this question. We are looking for interested parties who wish to take up this challenge next year.

One speaker of each group will choose a period and will highlight why it is important. The second member of the group will need to convince the audience against these arguments.

If you think you are up to this challenge then contact a member of the committee so you can be booked in for next year.

Our second idea is that we are looking for members or their friends to share their views about a specific period in Maltese history.

These presentations would be for around 15 minutes with the intention to have 4 or 5 speakers on one evening.

There is still time to consider this further. If you wish to participate, please let us know by our last presentation in November.

We are trying to introduce new formats so as to add more vitality to our monthly presentations and encourage members to take an active role by attending more often. It is envisaged that the new ideas will be used at least once next year. And if they prove to be popular, we hope to continue the same the following year. The committee puts in a significant amount of effort which goes towards making the monthly presentations interesting and socially enjoyable. It always gives the committee great pleasure to see more members and others attending the MHA presentations regularly. I wish to thank our members for their regular support in the months and years to come.

Frances Bonnici
President

GENERAL NOTICE

1. MHA membership fees for 2012/2013 are now due. Please see Mario Bonnici at the next event or mail cheque to The Treasurer 59 Binnak Drive, Watsonia, Vic 3087. These fees are important to the MHA as membership fees are our main source of funds. Donations are accepted as well
2. **Mediterranean Diet- the Maltese Way**



Maltese Chef Anton Camilleri will show how to prepare a simple traditional Maltese lunch,



Join us for a traditional Maltese lunch

On Friday 16th November 2012
At the Maltese Community Centre 477 Royal



Maltese Dietician Ann Pantalleresco, will give a talk on healthy eating



Maltese traditional 'teatrin'

Parade Parkville
From 10:30am to 12:00 pm (followed by lunch)
\$10 per person (Pre-payment is required to book. For more information and booking please contact: Paul Lia on 9387 8922

3. The Home Visits Group of Volunteers of the MCCV requires both male and female volunteers to visit elderly Maltese. This group is also making up a list of those people who would wish to be visited at home by members of this group. Please ring the centre on 9387 8922 for more information.

Interesting Websites

Check these out:

- 1] www.malteseabroad.org - the website of the Federation of Maltese Living Abroad, formed following the Convention of Maltese Living Abroad held in Malta in 2010.
- 2] <http://www.maltain360.com/#110001632> - this Heritage Malta website takes you on a virtual tour of a number of historically significant sites (courtesy of Joe Borg).
- 3] www.maltagc.net.au- This website dedicated to the people of the Maltese Islands to whom the British monarch, King George VI, awarded the George Cross seventy years ago on 15 April 1942.
- 4] <http://www.maltain360.com/#110001632> - this Heritage Malta website takes you on a virtual tour of a number of historically significant sites (courtesy of Joe Borg).
- 5] <http://www.maltamigration.com> - The aim of the Malta Migration Museum website is to collect information relating to issues of interest to migrants and migration. It will continue to grow to provide the most comprehensive collection of such information.
- 6] www.mha.org.au. The official Maltese Historical Association website to be launched this month
- 7] <http://www.maltahistory.info> – This site is dedicated to the fascinating history of the islands of **Malta, Gozo and Comino**. It provides a lawyer's perspective of the history of Malta describing the conditions of the Maltese people throughout the ages

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 & download application form.



SUMMER SHADOWS is a fiction in English: Summer on the enchanting island of Malta is the setting for this novel that weaves a spider web of dangerous relationships, passions and intrigue. It is a story of rules broken and careers wrecked as ambitions turn into headlong obsessions, leaving true love only to triumph over phony values.

The book is a Smashwords Edition, as was my previous one – *TIEQA FUQ IT-TRIQ*. Smashwords has been named the largest producer of eBooks for 2011. As a Smashwords author with works approved for its Premium Catalogue, my book is distributed to major online retailers. I am also opted in to Apple's distribution channel – iBooks Store – with a global reach that has now been expanded to 50 countries.

Where to purchase the book

[Apple's iBooks Store](#) (for Apple's iPad, iPod or iPhone)
(search for it by author's name – **Clemente Zammit** – in iBooks Store on your iPad or other Apple's reading device)

WANTED

The Maltese Historical Association is looking for sponsors from within and outside the Maltese Community. The role of a sponsor is to offer some financial assistance in support of our activities. In return the Sponsor will be given an advertising space in our Newsletter and given mention at all our events throughout the year. It is a worthwhile cause in helping the MHA to continue the good work within the Maltese Community. For more details about the MHA please e-mail Frances Bonnici (President) at [mfbonnici@bigpond.com]

Thanking you in advance.