



NEWPORT NEWS

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

December 2011

Lydia Cole—Editor

Vol. 2 Issue 24

*The President
Executive Members
&
Committee Members of the Seniors Group*

*Wish all our members and their families
A Merry Christmas
And
A Happy and Prosperous New Year 2012*



The President's Message

Dear Fellow Members & Friends,
I am very pleased to inform you that all the "proposed changes to the constitution" put forward by the Committee at the Annual General Meeting of the Association held on the 2nd October 2011 were all unanimously accepted by the members present.

As a result of this, we are now in the process of updating the constitution and when finalized, copies will be distributed to all members.

As most of you are aware, a big percentage of the **Association** members are also members of the **Seniors Group**.

At present, we have a situation where, the **Association** hold the **Annual General Meeting** during the month of October, and the **Seniors Group**, hold theirs in August. With the two meetings being so close, certain members are confused as to when the renewal of membership fee is due. For this reason, as from next year we are bringing forward and **hold the Seniors Meeting** during the month of **February**. We will be needing your approval for the change, so I'll be asking for a show of hands during the Seniors Christmas Break Up Party.

2012 is election year, and in this issue of our Newsletter is a "**nomination form**" for the **Seniors Group Committee**. Any member, who has been financial for more than twelve months, has got the right to nominate for any position on the committee. Your attendance at this meeting is of great importance as your vote determines who will lead the group for the next two years.

At the October meeting of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, we were informed that applications for the "Bishop Joe Grech Memorial" scholarship will soon be available with the first

scholarship to be awarded by June 2012. I urge you all to pass on this information to your children and grand children and encourage them to apply by becoming interested in Maltese culture and history. I will keep you informed as more info comes to hand.

I am sure you'll be interested to know that the late Bishop Joe Grech has been honoured with a wing in **Australia's first pilgrim center in Rome**. It is a true and fitting tribute to Bishop Grech that pilgrims from all over the world will know of him and his special contribution to the church.

Make sure to obtain a copy of the "**Combined Programme of Events 2012**". It is jam packed with various activities for you to peruse and as the booking for each activity is open, don't forget to book early so you won't miss out

As this year is coming to an end, may I express my heartfelt thanks to my fellow Committee Members on the board of the Association and the Seniors for their never ending support and commitments in keeping Newport, as always, on the top.

Many thanks also to our sponsors. Their financial support is always welcomed with gratitude and I must not forget the man who is always brightening up our functions with his music, thanks Mario.

On closing, may I on behalf of my fellow Committee Members of the Association and the Seniors Group wish you and your families a very **Joyful and Safe Christmas and a New Year 2012 full of Happiness, Prosperity and most important Good Health**.

Until next time, **Sahha**.

George Saliba
President & Seniors Co-Ordinator

COME AND JOIN US ON SATURDAY 28th JANUARY FOR AN ENJOYABLE EVENING WITH RENATO AND GEORGINA. DINNER AND DRINKS INCLUDED FOR ONLY \$25 PER HEAD.

Newport Maltese Association **Annual General Meeting** **Sunday 2nd October 2011**

Held at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville at 2.00pm this was well attended with 164 members.

After welcoming and thanking everybody for attending, George Saliba, the President, declared the meeting open.

The minutes of the last AGM were read by the secretary Vince Camilleri.

The President then read his report.

The Financial report was read by the treasurer Joe Cole.

Some questions were raised which were answered by the committee member relevant to the question, but on the whole everything went very smoothly.

There was a minor amendment to the constitution which the members unanimously accepted. (A copy of the amended constitution will be posted to all members in due course).

Refreshments were served after the meeting.

Get-Together

On Saturday 22nd October we held our Get Together at the Maltese Community Centre.

As usual this was well attended and the President, George Saliba welcomed everyone and thanked them for their support.

The DJ for the night was **Moods Music** alias **Mario Sammut** (so what's new you might say). We all enjoy Mario's music as he knows what kind of music we like and the floor is always full right till the end of the night.

Mr. & Mrs. Bonnici who were visiting from Adelaide also attended the function, I hope they enjoyed the night.

Once again St. Albans Catering supplied us with our food. Everyone enjoyed their meal with plenty of food left over for seconds if you were still hungry.

The music and the dancing continued on until it was time to draw the raffle.

Congratulations to the winners and thank you all for your support.

The committee works hard to organize these functions and it is very satisfying to see that with your support and cooperation these functions are always successful.

Lydia Cole
P.R.O.



George Saliba President of the Association, with the Honourable Alex Chernov A.O., Q.C. Governor of Victoria, being awarded the Order of Australia Medal on 6th October 2011 at Government House, Melbourne

Below: Photos from the Annual General Meeting on 2nd October 2011



Seniors' Corner

By Joe Ellul
Secretary

Senior's Weekend Away 17-18 September 2011

Not even a week after the successful Father's day function, 51 members braved the early hour pickup to go on a Pokies weekend away. The first pickup was at 6.15 am and with half the committee unavailable Lou Bugeja was elected as the man in charge at the depot, George and his group came next, Frank D'Amato had his merry group ready at the MCCV and last but not least the cavallery with some goodies for the trip Joe and Olga , Maurice and Carmen and Lina Camilleri.

With everybody settled in for the first journey, Maurice was elected as the Catering Manager. The comment from the members was that Maurice and Victor are like Chalk and Cheese, one noisy and the other quite. I can never imagine how anyone can sleep during bingo. I do not want to mention names, but what the heck Lou Bugeja and Charlie Borg were fast asleep, however their sense of smell was not, as both of them woke up when Date slices (Imqaret) were handed out. Thanks to Irene Cachia.

Morning tea at Euroa was a welcome stop. Tea, coffee, cakes, biscuits and other goodies were in abundance. The beautiful sunshine was a plus. Mick the coach captain in conjunction with his assistant Ross (fondly nicknamed Dick by us) tried to take all the credit for the good weather, little did they know that the committee had planned it with the number ONE up high, ages ago. The Mulwala services club was the next stop for lunch. After fortunes were made and lost we were back on the coach on our way to Corowa.

With everyone settled in their rooms, some of the early starters decided to have a nap. While other decided on chit chat and telling jokes. Maria had the ladies in stiches with her carry ons and the X Factor (those that were there know what I am referring to) while Vince kept the men gasping for breath. At our age some say that laughter is better than Sex. (Debatable) Well that is another story.

Sunday brought with it a beautiful day and before you know it everyone was up and looking forward for breakfast. At 9 am everyone was ready to go to church and market before settling in front of the one arm bandits (poker machines). Mick took us for a drive round Yarrawonga with the intention of wetting our appetite to win a jackpot and buy a river frontage house. Lunch came with a difference in as much as we had a choice of Pizza, Spaghetti, or fish and chip at La Porchetta.

It would be remiss of me if I did not mention the other ladies that supplied other goodies. Lina Saliba – peanuts, Carmen Spiteri-- jam cookies, sesame rings and muffins, Mary Azzopardi, Evelyn Lawrence and Beatrice D'amato -- lollies.

A big thank you to Stan Azzopardi who kept us entertained with his musical talent. Singing along was a great success. Vince's jokes even had the driver in tears.

A great weekend enjoyed by all.

One Day Outing

Badger's Creek reserve in Healesville was the destination selected for the day. With the weather promising to be a sunny day, we embarked on our journey, Ross our coach captain was relying on his GPS and Joe's direction to get us there, as it was his first time to the reserve.

Once again it was an early start for some, however with all the smiling faces around, the inconvenience of waking up early was soon forgotten.

At Lilydale we stopped for coffee, biscuits and cake and needless to say a visit to the boys and girls rooms. Rennie was like a lost sheep without Gwen,

contd next page

luckily enough he managed a coffee and cake (somebody took pity on him). Half an hour later we were on our way again.

Come 10.30 we arrived at our destination and everyone congregated in groups and before you could say hello the tables were filled with all kinds of food. The scene reminded me of Robin Hood and his merry men and women sitting down for a meal in Sherwood forest, we even had a few Friar Tucks. The smell of food attracted the Rosellas and it did not take long for them to surround us and even being cheeky enough to fly on our heads and shoulders and nibble from our hands. This was an experience for some and the delight of everyone present.

After lunch a walk was the order of the day to burn some of the calories gained. Others organised card games or just sat down enjoying the scenery and talking. Some even slept.

As they say time flies when you are having fun, at 3.30 we boarded the coach to start our return journey. This brought the end of another wonderful day in the company of friends and nature.

Gold Coast 10 Day Trip

Even though Qantas flights were grounded, Tullamarine airport was busy with people, our 48 Happy and smiling seniors were ready and eager to catch a Virgin and go on holidays. OOPS I meant a Virgin Flight. Although the airline was busy we left on time. Our destination was "The Watermark Resort Gold Coast".

For some of the members it was the first time up north, for others it was their 2nd or 3rd or even more visit. Irrespective of this we were all there for a good time. Once settled in our rooms we started to find our bearings round the resort.

The next day at 10 am, after a magnificent breakfast, we boarded the coach for a 4 hour tour round the Gold Coast. One thing for sure, it makes a difference when you have local coach captains as their knowledge of the area is an advantage. Peter

our driver was very knowledgeable. The information he gave us on the areas we visited and views we saw were well received. On the way back the committee thought of having a Melbourne Cup sweep. Our brains were in holiday mode and unfortunately we had to cancel as what we did not take into consideration was that 2 pm in Queensland is 3pm in Melbourne.

When we arrived back at the resort, we broke all previous records of exiting the coach, straight to the bar to watch the race. Needless to say Freddie Sacco was first across the line. What amazed me also, was how many people celebrated the Melbourne cup day in Queensland.

The planning for this trip was a combination of day trips as a group and free days for everyone to do as they please. Mind you the committee was always planning and organising, because even though we planned for this trip over the past months, some things do not work out the way we plan.

Trips to the north and south of the Gold coast and Tamborine Mountain were a great success to say the least. The breath taking views from the mountain will not be easily forgotten, and what about the walk down to the waterfalls, it was easy going down but a struggle going up. Mind you the suggestions put forward while trying to take a photo were hilarious. Some of the suggestions cannot be printed or I should say translated in English. Imagine trying to fit about thirty people in a small area. It resembled a Benny Hill episode. I am sure that you are young enough to remember Benny Hill on TV. We are trying to collate some photos for everyone to see.

One thing for sure nobody missed breakfast. I heard rumours that some members were putting on weight, but how can anyone resist the breakfast presented for us. On my part I did not want to upset the Chefs, therefore I enjoyed my morning ritual.

On Sunday Gwen had the misfortune of falling and breaking her leg on the way to Church. It was a pity seeing one of our members being taken to hospital in an ambulance.

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By special request the committee were asked to organise a dinner for the group, similar to what we did in Phuket. After we made enquiries we picked a venue. The venue was Food Fiesta at Jupiter's Casino, what a feast we had at a price we could not believe.

All good things come to an end and it was time to pack and say goodbye to Gwen and Rennie who had to stay back as Gwen was still in hospital.

The question was asked if the committee had planned for next year and it was funny when some word in a conversation was misheard (some of us have a hearing problem) and the rumour spread like wild fire that we were going to Fiji. Well let me tell you that a destination has not been decided on as yet.



Above: Pictures from the Queensland Trip organized by the Seniors Group in October/November 2011

Twas the Month before Christmas

Twas the month before Christmas

When all through our land,

Not a Christian was praying

Nor taking a stand.

See the PC Police had taken away

The reason for Christmas - no one could say.

The children were told by their schools not to sing

About Shepherds and Wise Men and Angels and things.

It might hurt people's feelings, the teachers would say

December 25th is just a ' Holiday '.

Yet the shoppers were ready with cash, checks and credit

Pushing folks down to the floor just to get it!

CDs from Madonna, an X BOX, an I-Pod

Something was changing, something quite odd!

Retailers promoted Ramadan and Kwanzaa

In hopes to sell books by Franken & Fonda.

As Targets were hanging their trees upside down

At Lowe's the word Christmas - was no where to be found.

At K-Mart and Staples and Penny's and Sears

You won't hear the word Christmas; it won't touch your ears.

Inclusive, sensitive, Di-ver-si-ty

Are words that were used to intimidate me.

Now Daschle, Now Darden, Now Sharpton, Wolf Blitzen

On Boxer, on Rather, on Kerry, on Clinton !

At the top of the Senate, there arose such a clatter

To eliminate Jesus, in all public matter.

And we spoke not a word, as they took away our faith

Forbidden to speak of salvation and grace

The true Gift of Christmas was exchanged and discarded

The reason for the season, stopped before it started.

So as you celebrate 'Winter Break' under your 'Dream Tree'

Sipping your Starbucks, listen to me.

Choose your words carefully, choose what you say

Shout MERRY CHRISTMAS ,

not Happy Holiday !

Please, all Christians join together and wish everyone you meet

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Christ is The Reason' for the Christ-mas Season!

Notice from The Maltese Community Council of Victoria

The MCCV is compiling an email list of all those who are interested in being informed directly of activities at the Centre, as well as receive the MCCV Newsletter electronically. All those interested should send an email to the MCCV (admin@mccv.org.au) indicating their wish to be included.

Message to the Maltese Community
By His Excellency
Mr. Francis Tabone
High Commissioner for Malta in Canberra

Dear Friends of the Maltese Community in Victoria
Re: The Future of the Maltese Language in Australia

There is a very real danger that the Maltese Language will stop being taught in Victoria and indeed Australia. We are all very proud of our distinct Maltese language which has been spoken for hundreds of years.

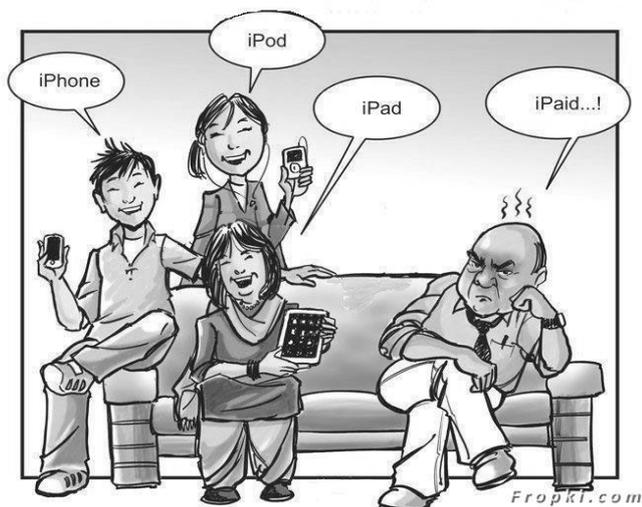
Unfortunately we have not encouraged our young people to study and speak the language in Victoria.

We are fortunate that the education authorities in Victoria are keen to assist with its preservation and will fund the Maltese classes.

I therefore call each one of you to promote the classes at your sporting or social clubs or wherever the members of our Maltese community meet.

Our Maltese Consulate in Melbourne and my High Commission in Canberra will do whatever we can to assist but we rely on our community leaders to spread the message that we must increase the number of our young people studying Maltese before it is too late.

Yours sincerely
 Mr. Francis Tabone
 High Commission for Malta



Bless You At This Season

**May Jesus our Saviour,
 who was born on Christmas Day,
 Bless you at this Season,
 in a very special way.**

**May the beauty and the promise,
 of that silent, holy night,
 Fill your heart with peace and happiness,
 and make your new year bright.**

--Helen Steiner Rice

NEWPORT MALTESE ASSOCIATION
FUNCTION DATES FOR 2011/2012

SAT. DECEMBER 31st	NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL	LAKESIDE RECEPTION
SAT. JANUARY 28th	RENATO & GEORGINA DINNER SHOW	MCCV
SAT. MARCH 3rd	CARNIVAL DANCE	MCCV
SUN. APRIL 15th	COMEDY LUNCH	MCCV
SUN JUNE 17th	DAY OUTING/POKIES	TBA
SAT JULY 7th	ANNUAL DINNER DANCE	LAKESIDE RECEPITON

NEXT FEW FUNCTIONS FOR THE
SENIORS GROUP FOR 2011/2012

Wednesday	14th December	Christmas Break Up
Wednesday	25th January 2012	Resume Meetings
Thursday	16th February	Day trip
Wednesday	29th February	AGM & Election
Thursday	15th March	Picnic



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Newport Maltese Association Inc. Senior Citizens Group

COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

Our Annual General Meeting including our bi-annual Election of the Committee will be held at the Maltese Community Centre, 477 Royal Parade, Parkville, on Wednesday **29th February 2012**

Your vote is important in selecting the Committee to represent you.

We hope that every member can attend on this important day of the year.

Prospective Committee Members are to take into account the guidelines shown below.

All nominated persons are to be current financial members, with a minimum of 12 months membership. Members are entitled to one vote per vacancy that is contested by more than one member.

Members can nominate one candidate for every position contested.

Nomination forms must reach our Secretary no later than Wednesday **15th February 2012**

Nomination forms can be passed on, or posted to:

**The Secretary
Joe Ellul
Newport Maltese Senior Citizens Group
C/- 477 Royal Parade
Parkville
Vic. 3052
Phone: 9744 6096**

Please cut along dotted line

Nomination Form 2012

<u>Nominees</u>	<u>Position to be contested</u>	<u>Nominees' Signature</u>
1 _____	_____	_____
2 _____	_____	_____
3 _____	_____	_____
4 _____	_____	_____
5 _____	_____	_____
6 _____	_____	_____
7 _____	_____	_____
8 _____	_____	_____
9 _____	_____	_____
10 _____	_____	_____
11 _____	_____	_____
12 _____	_____	_____
13 _____	_____	_____

Nominated by: _____

Seconded by: _____