



NEWPORT NEWS

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

June 2012

Lydia Cole—Editor

Vol. 3 Issue 1

The President's Message

Dear Fellow Members & Friends,

We are already in the middle of the year 2012 and so far things have been moving smoothly for the Association and the Seniors Group.

A quick look at the “ Combined Programme of Events” for this year, will show you that so far we have enjoyed the following activities:- Dinner/ Show with Renato & Georgina, Day Outing at Sorrento, Carnival Dance, Picnic at Brimbank, Comedy Luncheon, Mother`s Day Dinner Dance, Luncheon at Roxburgh Park Hotel, Activity Fun Night and a day outing at the Pokies.

Thanks to you, all these activities were a great success and here`s hoping that we continue in this manner through the whole year.

By now, most of you know that Lillian Calleja, after nearly 40 years of great devotion to the Association, has relinquished the “Social Secretary Portfolio” for personal reasons. Therefore, I cannot let this opportunity go by without acknowledging Lillian`s immense contributions while serving the Association in this position.

Through the years, Lillian never let the Association down, never refused any task allocated to her and always performed her duties with great ability and passion. No doubt, she played a big part in the establishment and success of our Association and for that, we will always be grateful for

her long standing commitments and knowing Lillian, I`m sure she will continue to help in any way she can, to see our Association move forward.

We are well and truly in the season of winter and what it means is that while most of us have to live with the cold and wet weather a good number of our members will be departing our shores and heading to Malta (some members are already there) for the summer to catch up with family members and enjoy the crystal blue sea and the warm weather. We wish them all, a very happy and safe holiday and we will be looking forward for your return home safe and sound.

I have in the past informed you about the Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Fund. The good news is that application forms are now available from the MCCV office at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville or may be downloaded from the MCCV website: www.mccv.org.au

Two young persons of Maltese Origin between the ages of 18-35 will be awarded scholarships to visit Malta. Conditions of Acceptance will be in the application form.

So, I urge you all to encourage your children and grandchildren that are of the age bracket to apply. I assure you the successful applicants will not be disappointed.

Finally, I wish you all good health and good fortune.

Until next time, Sahha.

*George Saliba
President & Seniors Co Coordinator*

COMEDY LUNCHEON

After the hustle and bustle of Easter, what is there better than spending a few hours with friends?

Well the Comedy luncheon on 15th April was a great opportunity and 160 members came together for lunch and comedy. However our members came with an open mind and with the ultimate intention to have fun, and fun they had.

When everyone was settled down at their tables, George (EL PRESIDENTE) welcomed everyone and gave a brief rundown of the proceedings without giving out any secrets. Stan Azzopardi opened the afternoon with dancing music. The dance floor filled up very quickly. While everyone was dancing, the committee were preparing lunch to be served. Straight after lunch Vince Calleja took the floor with a performance of jokes that got everyone in stitches.

Then came some serious business, and George called upon Lillian Calleja and presented her with a beautiful watch as a gift and thanked her on behalf of all our members for her 40 years of hard work in the association and other community groups.

Following another dancing period, it was time for the play. With a cast consisting of George Saliba, Vince Calleja, Lina Saliba, Joe Ellul and myself, members were expecting a serious play. How wrong they were. From the opening sentence to the last one everyone was laughing their head off. I tell you that those who did not take the opportunity to go to the toilet before the play started had a problem!

Desert was served and after that the final comedy session with the 3 amigos began. Another 30 minutes of jokes narrated by Vince Calleja, Paul Schembri and Joe Ellul got everyone grasping for breath.

The final dancing segment had added value with Vince Camilleri entertaining us with 2 magnificent songs. 5 o'clock came very quickly and was time for the raffle to be drawn.

The lucky people were Carmen Deguara, Carmen Borg, Rita Pullicino, Joyce Farrugia and

Maria Mallia. The feedback we received was very encouraging. The committee will start working on next year's Comedy Luncheon.

Olga Ellul

Social Secretary

(Photos by Tessie Buttigieg)



Congratulations Olga

As you all know by now that Lillian Calleja has retired from the position of **Social Secretary**. Filling this position now is **Olga Ellul** (pictured below) so any bookings for all Association functions are to be made with Olga, either at the Maltese Centre on Wednesdays or contact her on **9744 6096**.



BEST POEM IN THE WORLD

**I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
Nor the lights or its decor.**

**But it was the folks in Heaven
Who made me sputter and gasp--
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics and the trash.**

**There stood the kid from seventh grade
Who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbour
Who never said anything nice.**

**Bob, who I always thought
Was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
Looking incredibly well.**

**I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal?
I would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.**

**'And why is everyone so quiet,
So somber - give me a clue.'
'Hush, child,' He said,
'they're all in shock.
No one thought they'd be seeing you.'**



Bookings for the Senior's Group functions are to be made with **Carmen Casa** (pictured left) as usual, on Wednesdays at the Maltese Centre or contact her on **9436 8196**

Seniors' Corner

by Gwen Busuttill
Senior's Committee Member

Mothers' Day Dinner Dance Sunday 29th April, 2012

Everyone loves going out, especially when you are going to be amongst all your friends. Melrose was the venue, and all the ladies were dressed beautifully, the Ballroom looked special, Mario was at the ready to entertain us, and all those who loved dancing had tons of room.

George welcomed everyone, announced all the Birthdays and Anniversaries being celebrated (sorry I did not make a note of the names). Then Entrée was served.

Tickets were given out to all the ladies for the Door Prizes, and the winners were Joyce Saliba, Georgina Dalli, Rita DeGiorgio and Benna Stafrace. Enjoy your special drop ladies.

Everyone I spoke with was enjoying the night, dinner was delicious, and we do have to leave some room for desert.

As per normal we had a raffle, and eleven people selected from the array of prizes. Charlie Borg, Lina Stafrace, Joe Bajada, Doris Sacco, Georgette Pace, Tony Zerafa, Mary Cefai, May Mallia, Carmen Borg, Maurice Spiteri and Beatrice D'Amato.

Another successful event! -Thank you to all of you who support us.

LUNCHEON AT
ROXBURGH PARK HOTEL
-17TH MAY, 2012

Hi everybody,
Hope you all enjoyed the luncheon at Roxburgh Park Hotel.

We counted 147 members in all, and from the feedback everyone enjoyed the afternoon. The food on offer was quite delicious; looking around there was something there to please everyone.

If you missed it, you missed out.

Thank you George for allowing the Seniors' Group to be so heavily subsidised.

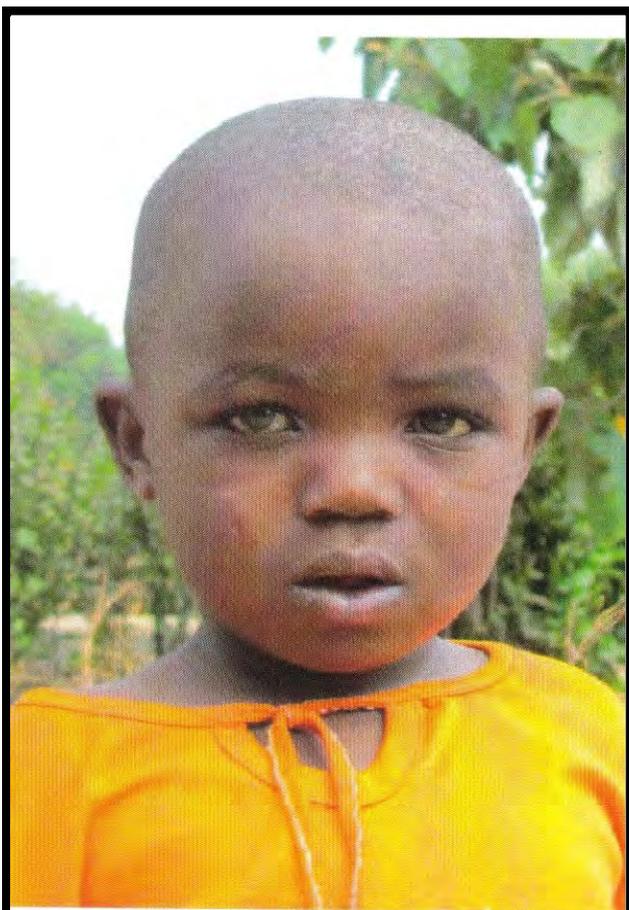
Wish for Ease

**If wishes worked like magic
And plans worked that way, too
And if everything you wished for,
Whether good or bad for you,
Immediately were granted
With no effort on your part,
You'd experience no fulfillment
Of your spirit or your heart,**

**For things achieved too easily
Lose their charm and meaning, too,
For it is life's difficulties
And the trial-times we go through
That make us strong in spirit
And endow us with the will
To surmount the insurmountable
And to climb the highest hill.**

**So wish not for the easy way
To win your heart's desire,
For the joy's in overcoming
And withstanding flood and fire,
For to triumph over trouble
And grow stronger with defeat
Is to win the kind of victory
That will make your life complete.**

Helen Steiner Rice



This is our sponsored child from World Vision
Vastina Saimon Mganga

Vastina was born on 30/11/2006 and she lives in Tanzania. Her favourite game is ball games.

Donations

For many years our Association has been donating funds to various charities which the Committee considers worthwhile and meaningful.

As we did in previous years, this year our Association also made a donation to the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. In recognition, this year, the Appeal's committee saw fit to present the Newport Maltese Association with a certificate of appreciation (Picture above).

The Committee is pleased to share this information with you the members, for your awareness and support.

So far, for the year 2011-2012 the Committee, on your behalf, has made the following donations:-

<i>World Vision Australia</i>	\$516.00
<i>Gellibrand Support Services</i>	\$50.00
<i>Id-Dar Tal Povidenza (Malta)</i>	\$500.00
<i>L-Istrina Fund (Malta)</i>	\$500.00
<i>70th Anniversary Tal George Cross</i>	\$300.00
<i>3ZZZ Radiothon</i>	\$100.00
<i>R.C.H. Good Friday Appeal</i>	\$200.00

**Joe Cole
Treasurer**

The English Plural

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
 But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes;
 One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
 Yet the plural of moose should never be meese;
 You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,
 Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,
 Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen ?
 If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
 And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet ?
 If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
 Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth ?

Then one may be that, & three would be those,
 Yet hat in the plural would never be hose;
 And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.
 We speak of a brother & also of brethren,
 But though we say mother, we never say methren.
 Then the masculine pronouns are he, his & him,
 But imagine the feminine: she, shis & shim !

Let's face it - English is a crazy language.
 There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger;
 Neither apple nor pine in pineapple.
 English muffins weren't invented in England .

We take English for granted,
 But if we explore its paradoxes,
 We find that quicksand can work slowly,
 Boxing rings are square;
 A guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.
 Why is it that writers write, but fingers don't fing,
 Grocers don't groce & hammers don't ham ?

Doesn't it seem crazy that ...

You can make amends but not one amend ?
 If you have a bunch of odds and ends ...
 And get rid of all but one of them,
 What do you call it ?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught ?
 If a vegetarian eats vegetables,
 What does a humanitarian eat ?

Sometimes I think all people who speak English should be in an asylum for the verbally insane.

In what other language do people recite at a play, and play at a recital ?
 We ship by truck but send cargo by ship ...
 We have noses that run & feet that smell;
 We park in a driveway & drive in a parkway.
 And how can a slim chance & a fat chance be the same,
 While a wise man & a wise guy are opposites ?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down;
 In which you fill in a form by filling it out,
 & in which an alarm goes off by going on.
 And in closing

If Father is Pop
 How come Mother's not Mop ? ? ? ?

A WELL DESERVED REST

On behalf of the Newport Maltese Association committee, the Seniors Group Committee and all the members, may I take this opportunity to wish George (The President) and Lena Saliba a very enjoyable Holiday in Malta and a safe trip back. I'm sure that they will both be extremely missed especially on Wednesdays.

Lydia Cole
 P.R.O.

SOME MALTESE HISTORY



Hamrun is a bustling, urban area that developed from fragmented villages. It is a popular shopping town with a lively atmosphere. Hamrun's rapid development from the mid-19th century was the result of the building of the railway, though the population had already swelled with the overflow of dockyard workers from Valletta and Floriana. The railway lasted only five decades until around 1930, but by then Hamrun had become a major centre. It was granted parish status the late 19th century. The early baroque parish church, St Mary of Porto Salvo, built in 1736, developed like the town itself from smaller beginnings: it was probably once a village chapel. Today's main parish church is dedicated to San Gaetan. Also of interest is the small chapel of tas-Samra. It houses a small icon brought to Malta from Spain by a wealthy 16th century merchant. The icon, a depiction of the Madonna, was much revered and was unusual for the dark complexion of the Madonna.



Birkirkara is the largest population centre on the Islands and has been so since the Middle Ages. Birkirkara was listed as one of the original 12 medieval parishes in 1436. It continued to flourish until it splintered into separate parishes. Today, the parish church is still known as 'Matrici' which means it is the mother of the other neighbouring parishes. Another interesting church is the old parish church dedicated to The Assumption. Most of present-day Birkirkara

is modern, though the town retains a traditional core characterised by alleyways, narrow streets and houses typical of small villages. The larger town houses tend to be used as headquarters for band clubs or political parties. A tiny garden separates the town's older area from the new quarters. Here you can see one of the old railway stations on the commuter line that ran from Rabat to Valletta. Apart from the churches, the oldest buildings in the town are the windmills. One is a private residence, the other, at the heart of the town, is an art gallery. Known locally as 'Ta' Ganu' it hosts exhibitions by local and foreign artists.



Floriana is a suburb of Valletta and shares with it the impressive harbour fortifications. It also lies within the capital's landward fortifications which reach as far as the Portes des Bombes on the main Valletta approach road. Floriana is named after the 17th century military engineer Pietro Floriani who was commissioned by the Knights in 1636 to extend Valletta's fortifications. Floriana was conceived as an entire fortress city in front of Valletta. The town is characterised by open spaces, gardens and some fine patricians' houses. Highlights include the elegant St Publius Church, overlooking Granaries Square and the Argotti Gardens on St Philip's Bastion. The vast flag-stoned Granaries Square hides a number of deep silos which were built in the late 17th century to ensure food supplies for Valletta in times of war. Also of interest is the Mall; today a garden but once an area where the Knights played a kind of tennis. This narrow strip of greenery is dotted with statues and plaques commemorating events and personalities of Maltese 20th century history.

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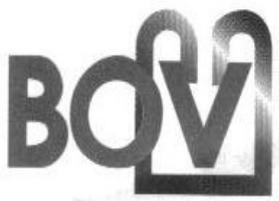


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NEWPORT MALTESE ASSOCIATION
FUNCTION DATES FOR 2012

SUN JUNE 17th	DAY OUTING/POKIES	
SAT JULY 7th	ANNUAL DINNER DANCE	LAKESIDE RECEPTION
SUN OTOBER 14th	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	M.C.C.V.
SAT OCTOBER 27th	GET TOGETHER	M.C.C.V.

FOR BOOKING PLEASE CONTACT OLGA ELLUL ON 9744 6096

NEXT FEW FUNCTIONS FOR THE
SENIORS GROUP FOR 2012

SATURDAY	9th JUNE	ACTIVITY FUN NIGHT/SING ALONG
SUNDAY	29th JULY	CHRISTMAS IN JULY-LUNCHEON
SATURDAY	25th AUGUST	FATHER'S DAY FUNCTION
SAT/SUN	15-16th SEPTEMBER	WEEK-END POKIES TRIP

FOR BOOKINGS PLEASE SEE CARMEN CASA

**Someone had to remind me, So
I'm reminding you, too.**

Don't laugh.... It is all true!

**Perks of reaching 50
Or being over 60
And heading towards
70 or beyond!**

- 1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.**
- 2. In a hostage situation, you are likely to be released first.**
- 3. No one expects you to run -- Anywhere.**
- 4. People call at 9 PM (or 9 AM) and ask, "Did I wake you?"**
- 5. People no longer view you as a Hypochondriac.**
- 6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.**
- 7. Things you buy now won't wear out.**
- 8. You can eat supper at 4 PM.**
- 9. You can live without sex but not your glasses.**
- 10. You get into heated arguments about pension plans.**
- 11. You no longer think of speed**

limits as a challenge.

- 12. You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.**
- 13. You sing along with elevator music.**
- 14. Your eyes won't get much worse.**
- 15. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning To payoff.**
- 16. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.**
- 17. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.**
- 18. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.**
- 19. And you notice these are all in bold print for your convenience.**

**AND THE MOST IMPORTANT
THING:**

**Never, NEVER, NEVER ,
Under any circumstances,
Take a sleeping pill, and a
laxative on the same night!**

Rokna tac-Cajt

Mick, from Dublin, appeared on 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire' and towards the end of the program had already won 500,000 Euros.

"You've done very well so far," said Chris Tarrant, the show's presenter, "but for a million euros you've only got one life-line left, phone a friend. Everything is riding on this question. Will you go for it?"

"Sure," said Mick. "I'll have a go!"

"Which of the following birds does NOT build its own nest?"

- A) Sparrow
- B) Thrush
- C) Magpie
- D) Cuckoo

"I haven't got a clue." said Mick,
"So I'll use my last lifeline and phone my friend Paddy back home in Dublin "

Mick called up his mate, and told him the circumstances and repeated the question to him.

"Bluddy hell, Mick!" cried Paddy.

"Dat's simple it's a cuckoo."

"Are you sure?"

"I'm bluddy sure."

Mick hung up the phone and told Chris,

"I'll go with cuckoo as my answer."

"Is that your final answer?" asked Chris.

"Dat it is."

There was a long, long pause and then the presenter screamed, "Cuckoo is the correct answer! Mick, you've won 1 million euros!"

The next night, Mick invited Paddy to their local pub to buy him a drink.

"Tell me, Paddy? How in Heaven's name did

you know it was da Cuckoo that doesn't build its own nest?"

"Because he lives in a..... clock!"

A far more accurate account of the events of that fateful morning....

Baby bear goes downstairs, sits in his small chair at the table.

He looks into his small bowl. It is empty..

"Who's been eating my porridge?" he squeaks.

Daddy Bear arrives at the big table and sits in his big chair.. He looks into his big bowl and it is also empty. "Who's been eating my porridge?!?" he roars.

Mummy Bear puts her head through the serving hatch from the kitchen and yells, "For God's sake, how many times do I have to go through this with you idiots? It was Mummy Bear who got up first. It was Mummy Bear who woke everyone in the house. It was Mummy Bear who made the coffee. It was Mummy Bear who unloaded the dishwasher from last night and put everything away. It was Mummy Bear who swept the floor in the kitchen. It was Mummy Bear who went out in the cold early morning air to fetch The newspaper and croissants. It was Mummy Bear who set the damn table.

"It was Mummy Bear who walked the bloody dog, cleaned the cat's litter tray, gave them their food, and refilled their water.

"And now that you've decided to drag your sorry bear-arses downstairs and grace Mummy Bear with your grumpy presence, listen carefully, because I'm only going to say this once....

"I HAVEN'T MADE THE FREAKING PORRIDGE YET!!!"