



MerHbA

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

No 1/2011

February Newsletter

This Month: Our first talk for 2011 will take place at the Maltese Community Centre, 477 Royal Parade, Parkville starting at 7.30pm on **Tuesday February 15, 2011**. Our guest speaker this month is Fr Victor Buhagiar and his topic is 'Fireworks in Malta: their evolution'.

Fr Victor hails from Siggiewi where he lived for over thirty years. He studied engineering, philosophy and theology at the University of Malta and also worked at the Drydocks as an engineer. He has been in Australia for the past twelve years and is currently the parish priest at Good Shepherd in the suburb of Gladstone Park.



Dear members and friends of the MHA,

Welcome back and I hope you all had a good start to 2011.

Since our last meeting, a few events have occurred in our community – some were happy and others rather sad. Unfortunately, we have lost Bishop Joseph Grech, here in Victoria, who passed away late last year. Bishop Nikol Cauchi, brother of Professor Maurice Cauchi also passed away in Gozo last year. Profs Cauchi is a great benefactor to the association in various ways. We pass on our belated condolences to Maurice and family.

On a happier note, we would like to congratulate Profs Henry Frendo, one of the founders of the MHA, who received the award of Officer of the National Order of Merit from the Government of Malta. Closer to home, the committee and members of the MHA congratulate Mrs Lillian Calleja on the recent Australia Day award 'The Order of Australia Medal' (OAM) she received for her tireless contribution to the Maltese community in Victoria. Well done Lillian – you truly deserve this award.

This year, as was decided during last year's AGM, the meetings are going to be held bi-monthly. We have a line up of quite prominent speakers, including Fr Buhagiar; Associate Professor Claudia Sagona and Professor Maurice Cauchi to name a few. In the event that speakers visiting from Malta offer to give a lecture to members of the association, I assure you that the committee will do its utmost to organise extra meetings.

On behalf of the committee, I invite you all to join us on the evenings when we have our presentations and I hope you find the lectures both interesting and enlightening.

Frances Bonnici

Looking Back – MHA Activities in 2010*

MONTH	SPEAKER	TOPIC
February	Fr Victor Buhagiar	'History of the Dockyards'
March	Dr Richard Pennell	'Joseph Azzopardi (Maltese convict)'
April	Professor Maurice Cauchi	'Westwards Oh! Facts and Fancies from the West End of Gozo'
June	Mr Charles Mifsud	'Aviation in Malta during WWII'
July	Brian Zammit	'Sette Guigno'
August	Mr Brian Kewley	Exhibition of Maltese paintings
September	AGM	
October	Mr Paul Lia	'The Maltese Festa: Past, Present and Future'
November	Mr Martin Bonnici	'Impressions on Maltese Landscapes through Photography'

* no talk was held in May due to unavailability of committee members

Upcoming Events

1] The President of Malta, HE Dr George Abela, will be paying a short visit to Australia in late March, 2011. His itinerary will include a day in Melbourne; details will be released shortly.

2] A fund-raising luncheon in aid of the Migration Museum Fund is being held at the Parkville Centre from 12pm on Sunday March 6, 2011. Donation is \$25 (to be confirmed). Details: Carmen Mamo on 9387 8922

Care and Assistance

The Executive Committee of the MCCV would like to compile a list of people of Maltese background who need assistance of some sort. If you have a relative or a friend who needs some help, please contact the Centre on 9387 8922 and leave a contact number for this person to be contacted at a later date.

January in Maltese History – Some Important Events

January 3, 1427 – King Alfonso incorporates Malta into the Crown of Aragon (Kingdom of Sicily) and promises never to grant Malta as a fief to any third party

January 1, 1523 – the Knights of St John evacuate the island fortress of Rhodes in the Dodecanese, after surrendering on terms to the Ottoman Sultan

January 11, 1693 – a powerful earthquake causes extensive damage, particularly in Valletta and Mdina, where the cathedral is destroyed

January 9, 1732 – the first ever public performance takes place at the Manoel Theatre, making it one of the oldest functioning theatres in Europe

January 18, 1741 – Manoel Pinto de Fonseca, a Portuguese knight, is elected Grand Master

January 17, 1799 – following a failed uprising, Dun Mikiel Xerri, aged 61, and four other Maltese patriots are executed by the French in Valletta

January 8, 1898 – Manwel Dimech publishes the first issue of his weekly paper, *Il-Bandiera tal-Maltin* (The Flag of the Maltese People)

January 20, 1918 – seventy Maltese seamen are lost when HMS Louvain is torpedoed by a German submarine UC22 in the eastern Mediterranean

January 16, 1923 – the aerodrome at Hal Far is officially opened by Field Marshall Lord Plumer, the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, accompanied by the Maltese Prime Minister and other ministers

January 6, 1926 – the *Unione Politica Maltese* and *Partito Democratico Nazzjonalista* merge to form the *Partit Nazzjonalista*

January 1, 2008 – Malta adopts the euro as its national currency, officially joining the Eurozone

http://www.google.com.au/archivesearch?q=june+in+Maltese+history&as_ldate=2000&as_hdate=2049&scoring=t&hl=en&um=1&sa=N&nav_num=20



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