



NEWPORT NEWS

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

June 2011

Lydia Cole—Editor

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The President's Message

Dear Fellow Members & Friends,

September 1996 played a significant role in the history of our Association. It was the month when we initiated registration for financial members.

During the past 15 years members have come and gone, but without a doubt our Association has been one that managed to stay alive and perform to high expectations. Proof to all this is the fact that membership has always been over the 300+ mark.

Since last March edition of our "Newsletter", you the members have well supported and enjoyed the following successful events:- Fancy Dress Dinner Dance organized by the Association and the Mother's Day Luncheon and the B.B.Q. Picnic at Upper Yarra Dam organized by the Seniors Group.

The Executive Committee Members of the Association are at present in the process of listing proposed changes to the Constitution. This is necessary from time to time to keep in line with the present. When completed, you will all be notified with the changes and together we'll put the "seal of approval" at a special general meeting

Mrs Sandra Mooney (nee Caruana) was the guest speaker at the May 2011 meeting of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria. Right from the beginning our Association had strong connections with the Caruana family.

Sandra (I'm sure she doesn't mind me addressing her by her first name) spoke about her involvement with the group called "MAUSSIES".

I have extracted parts of Sandra's speech to the Council. This is what Sandra had to say:- the group "MAUSSIES" started in November 2009 and has evolved into a community based, free range, organic group where the common denominator is "THERE IS A BIT OF MALTESE BLOOD IN US ALL"

There is a yearning for a Maltese identity in the younger generation of first, second and third generation Maltese. A place to belong. We see "MAUSSIES" being the continuance or providing an eternal link to Malta. This we call future proofing Maltese heritage and preserving culture.

*Every time I meet someone new and mention I am Maltese, there is always a positive remark to say they know a beautiful/wonderful Maltese person, family etc. **I NEVER WANT TO LOOSE THIS FOR ME, MY CHILDREN OR FOR YOU!***

Well said, Sandra.

I now believe that as we are all getting on in years, the likes of Sandra and the group "MAUSSIES" hold in their hands the future of anything that is Maltese being:- culture, history, traditions and hopefully language. So I urge you to talk to our younger generation of first, second and third generation Maltese to join the group "MAUSSIES" as they can be an asset to help carry on what we and those who came before us have started in this adopted country of ours. Email address: www.maussies.org

The "Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Fund" has now been launched. This is a wonderful idea to commemorate the ideals exemplified by the late Bishop Joe Grech. The aim of the fund is to raise

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sufficient money to enable, on a yearly basis, one or more young persons of Maltese background to go to Malta to appreciate at first hand Maltese culture, history and traditions. Some organizations and individuals have already contributed to the fund. Members of the Maltese community are well admired for their generosity, so I appeal to you all, to seriously consider contributing to the fund so we will always uphold the name of Bishop Joe Grech in high esteem.

Anyone needing more information or guidelines about the memorial fund, please don't hesitate to contact me, I'll be more than happy to help you out

Finally, may I suggest to you the members, to keep the pocket size "Combined Programme of Events 2011" somewhere handy, cause there's a lot of activities coming your way and that way you will not miss out.

Till next time, Sahha.

**George Saliba,
President & Seniors Co Ordinator**

Carnival Dance

Saturday 16th April 2011

Another successful night enjoyed by all whether in fancy dress or not. The food supplied by St. Albans catering was very pleasing. As for the entertainment once again 'Moods Music' (best DJ in the land, according to George, and I'm sure we all agree) gave us a very entertaining night with his choice of music, songs that we all love.

The costumes seem to get better every year. There were 35 ladies and 20 gents, once again the ladies outdid the gents. (Maybe we can try harder next year). Too many to mention, but have a good look at the photos an you will see what I mean.

As an encouragement award three names each from the ladies and the gents were drawn and awarded \$50. The lucky winners were: Gents: Rennie Busuttill-Dracula, Eddie Ganado-Columbia Man, and John Buttigieg-Major Nelson. The Ladies: Sandra Mooney-Spanish Dancer, Lena Saliba-

Dancer, and Lina Brincat-Chinese Woman.-

The committee dared to give an impromptu dance to the tune of "New York, New York". As you could see for yourselves, no practising was needed.

Our next function is the Annul Dinner Dance at Lakeside Banquet & Convention Centre, hope to see you all there.

Lydia Cole

P.R.O.

(All photos from the Carnival Dance unless otherwise stated)





Congratula- tions George Saliba

President & Seniors Co Ordinator

On Monday 13th June, (Queen's Birthday), George was awarded the (O.A.M.) Order of Australia Medal for his hard work amongst the Maltese Community.

All those who visit the Maltese Centre know George, but not many of you know to what extent his involvement with the Maltese community was over the years. Hence a brief History:

In 1972 George Saliba was one of the founding members of the **Newport Maltese Association** and was the **first President elect** of the Association, a position he held for **22 years**. During this period of time, George worked vigorously to make the Newport Maltese Association what it is today, one of the pillars on which the Maltese Community of this state is built.

In 2010, at the request of his fellow committee members, George once again accepted the position of **President** of the Association.

In 2003, George was also appointed **Co Ordinator of the Association's Seniors Group**. The

Seniors Group, 240 in number, meet every Wednesday to socialize and join in various competitions and activities. Although primarily the Association was established to provide welfare and social activities for the Maltese Community and their friends, George successfully predicted that as part of this process they would exchange ideas and help each other to adapt to the Australian way of life.

In 1978 George was also elected **Senior Vice President of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria**. A position he had held for 16 years when he retired.

Fund raising for the Maltese Community Centre Building Project at Parkville, Victoria was always top priority. This project was one that George believed was imperative for the Maltese Community. In order to cater for their social and welfare needs a meeting place equipped to provide the necessary environment was essential. Through his leadership and sheer determination, the Newport Maltese Association raised in excess of \$ 300,000 for the building fund, an achievement unmatched till today.

One of the earliest fund raising activities that George helped create for the Maltese Community in the state of Victoria was the "Miss Maltese Community of Victoria Quest". During its run of 15 years, the quest raised \$400,000 for the Maltese Community Centre building fund.

In 1980, George was instrumental in helping to organize the first ever Maltese Song Festival. He continued to present the 1981 and 1982 Festivals at the Melbourne State Theatre and the 1983 Festival at the Melbourne Town Hall. These festivals were met with great success and many new Maltese / Australian talents were discovered.

George has always been a lynch pin in the organization of the annual "Maltese Cultural Festival". He coordinated the opening of the first Festival at the City Square in Swanston street, Melbourne Victoria (1977) to promote Maltese culture among other nationalities.

The Festival, with its dual purpose of introducing and reinforcing culture to younger members of our community, and providing an



opportunity for the community at large to witness and participate in

Maltese cultural activities, is without a doubt one of the biggest activities on the Maltese social calendar. George has been involved with the Festival since its inception and for many years as its Coordinator.

For the past 40 years, George has worked very hard on activities aimed at developing the Maltese Community in every aspect, with some outstanding results to his credit. Today George is still very active amongst our Community and his dedication to make a better world for members of our community, especially among the elderly citizens, is as strong as ever.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to Community Service, in 1999 at the Victoria University, St Albans Campus, George Saliba was awarded the "Manuel De Vilhena Award" under the patronage of Dr. Eddie Fenech Adami, Prime Minister of Malta.

On the occasion of the 150 years anniversary, the Victorian Government presented George with a "Certificate of Appreciation" in recognition and appreciation for voluntary work to the community

In November 2007, George was presented with an award for "Excellence in Multicultural Affairs" by the Governor of Victoria Prof. David De Kretser, A.O. at Government House.

So our warmest Con-

Activity Fun Night Saturday 4th June 2011

Congratulation to the Seniors Committee for a well organized humorous and entertaining evening where everyone could become involved and have a go.

Lydia Cole



Lillian Calleja Social Secretary of the Association, with the Honourable Alex Chernov A.O., Q.C. Governor of Victoria, receiving the Order of Australia Medal on the 12th May 2011 at Government House, Melbourne.

Two Interesting Years

Interesting Year 1981

1. Prince Charles got married
2. Liverpool crowned soccer Champions of Europe
3. Australia lost the Ashes (cricket) tournament
4. The pope died

Interesting Year 2005

1. Prince Charles got married
2. Liverpool crowned soccer Champions of Europe
3. Australia lost the Ashes tournament
4. The pope died

Lesson to be learned:

The next time Charles gets married, someone should warn the Pope.

Seniors' Corner

Gwen Busuttil
Seniors' Committee Member

LORNE/MOTHERS' DAY/ WARBURTON

It was a chilly St. Patrick's Day, March 17th that we all set out for a day near the seaside. It is amazing the enthusiasm that we all have for these outings. It's not so much the destination that is important to us all, but the company and friendship we all share with each other.

Nobody that I could see dipped their toes in the water, some laden with picnic baskets reserved tables in the park, some played bocci, some played cards, and the fish'n chip shops did rather well, together with the hotel on the hill. Time passes quickly when you are having fun, so pretty soon Helen, our Coach Captain had us on the bus heading home. Thank you to the person that provided the DVD of Mamma Mia (a Maltese Comedy) which had us all watching on the way home.

All those that attended our Mothers' Day Luncheon which was held at Melrose on the 1st May commented on the lovely time that they had. When you have Mario, alias Moods Music playing our favourites, lots of room on the dance floor to twirl around, delicious menu, wine, beer and soft drinks were flowing, and the company of your friends sharing the occasion with you. What could be better?

Thank you to Charles Vassallo who on every Mother's Day function delights us all with his rendition of Mamma. What an incredible voice. Surprise, surprise, Charlie Bugeja sang us his Italian version of the song, to the applause of many. We never cease to be amazed with the talent that is amongst us. **Thank you to both of you.**

On the grapevine, a comment as to how well our group scrubs up. **You all looked lovely!** Pretty sure George will not mind me mentioning that our function to celebrate Fathers' Day will also be taking place at Melrose on the 11th of September, so make sure you book for that one.

Thank goodness our yearly BBQ was relocated to Warburton. The day was typically Melbourne, wet and cold,

however, the cosiness that is in the Upper Yarra Dam in Warburton is so picturesque!

The colours of the trees at this time of the year are just breathtaking. It seems that time has stood still in this part of Victoria, only some 80km from Melbourne and yet it looks like the 50's there.

As we drove along you could hear the water flowing, all those that love fishing imagined themselves with a fishing rod there, and the shops around the little village looked like something from a postcard.

As soon as we arrived, everyone got busy, ladies making salads, guys cooking the steak and sausages, and when we had it all ready everyone lined up for tucker. Well done fellas, you did well.

For entertainment, we had Carmen doing a pole dance, having her lunch go everywhere, and Jimmy doing a back flip..... to what lengths do the committee go to entertain. (Jokes aside, thank goodness neither one of you got hurt).

Can't tell you much about the drive back, as I slept most of the way back.

Until next time, enjoy your future functions and outings, as I will be away till early September.



Member's Corner

In the last issue of our Newsletter I put forward the idea of including a "Members Corner".

So I thought I'll start the ball rolling by sharing with you the following episode of my life.

I come from a family of six brothers and one sister and I am the eldest.

By the time I was 10 years old, my parents had 4 more children, all boys. Being the eldest, my mother (God bless her soul) always put me in charge of my siblings every time she needed to go and buy the groceries from the local grocer, which during those days was on a daily bases.

To keep my brothers amused, and from getting into any mischief, I was always organizing some games.

One particular day I came up with the idea of playing the role of a "barber" and to my surprise all my brothers agreed to it. So before you know it I had them all sitting on the kitchen table and with a pair of scissors in one hand and a comb in the other hand I started cutting their hair. No need to tell you I created 4 new hairstyles. When mum came back from the grocer shop, she nearly had a heart attack and I can never forget poor mum crying her heart out. Naturally I had to pay for my misbehaving and for the next two weeks I coped the job of mopping the floor every day. Needless to say, my brothers have never let me forget, but at the time they reckon it was fun. So if any one wants a free haircut--no don't come to me.

Now, I'm sure you all have little episodes like that which you can share with us, so how about it.

*Cheers,
George.*

42 – Day Australia/Asia Cruise **Sun Princess – March 5 to April 16 2011**

The group consisting of Carmen and Victor Casa, Mary Anne and James Cunningham, Agnes and Joseph Camilleri, Derek Camilleri and Frances Soler, Carmen and Maurice Spiteri and Helen and Benedict Soler sailed out of Sydney Harbour and headed north towards Asia.

42 days seemed a long trip ahead for us but we made sure that we organized ourselves in numerous ac-

tivities during each day to pass the time. Apart from the numerous visits to the many eating areas, some of the activities consisted of dancing lessons, boules, goofy golf, darts, exercising (walking, gym work), trivia, films, table tennis, choir, on board lectures, live shows, disco, sitting on pianos, etc. etc. Gold medals were given to those who excelled in the sporting events and it was good to see some of our group who participated in the activities earning quite a number of these medals for their achievements. I believe Victor Casa walked away with the biggest grin at the end of the cruise.

Our first ports were Airlie Beach, where some took advantage of the beautiful lagoon to have a dip, while others were content to just walk around and enjoy the sunshine. Next we arrived at Darwin, the highlights here were mainly the remembrance of Japanese bombing in 1942 and the destruction of Cyclone Tracey. It was here that we heard about the disastrous fate of Japan and our concern grew regarding our stopovers there.

As we sailed on, we visited the grand Jame'asr Hassanal Bolkiah Mosque and the Water Villages of Brunie followed by the stunning 30 story glass tower suspended on a central core in Malaysia.

Hong Kong, "a city rushing through the present in eager anticipation of the future". Busy, exciting and vibrant, it never stops. Here we were thrilled on the ferries crossing Victoria Harbour and the beauty of Repulse Bay as we journeyed to Victoria Peak. Stanley market, with numerous shopping opportunities and the sampan ride at Aberdeen Fishing Village were also most enjoyable.

Shanghai and Japan's replacement Beijing were definitely the highlights of the cruise. We marvelled at the progress made in Shanghai over the last 150 years, their buildings, their freeways and their cities are incredible! We visited the museum and then walked along the mighty "Bund" river side. We were touched by the number of beggars as we visited other sites, including the Jade Buddha.

At Beijing we were able to organize a two day tour, the boat being three hours away from all the action. Our first visit was the mighty Great Wall of China. Well!!! What a sight, the wall meanders through hills and mountains for 3,600 miles and is visible from the moon. The part we were taken to was, quite steep to walk, with height of steps varying from 4 inches to 15 – 18 inches and it made it very difficult to walk up but even worse coming down due to the unevenness of the

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steps. To our credit, most members of the group managed to climb up to the main tower. Next we went to the ancient Mongol Imperial City now known as the Forbidden City and later onto the Temple of Heaven. In both instances we marvelled at the beautiful decorative work that was achieved some 700 years ago.

The other highlight of Beijing was of course Tiananmen Square. It's huge and it's said to hold up to 1,000,000 people. People everywhere but most imposing site was the queue lined up to visit the tomb of Chairman Mao, still revered after his involvement in the infamous Cultural Revolution.

Our next port of call was Busan, South Korea were unfortunately we only had half a day here, however the sites and the markets deserved more time had it been available. Saipan was small but we were still able to buy Johnny Walker Black Label duty free \$20.00 cheaper than on the ship. Guam was bigger and more interesting, some found the sky blue beaches, while others were content to visit shops with "Ross" being the most popular. On the Raboul, stifling heat, were the main attraction was the five volcanoes, with Tavurvur continues to huff and puff after its eruption in 1994.

We arrived in Brisbane and made the most of a nice sunny day, quite the opposite of our welcome back to Sydney, before we boarded another 2 hour delayed flight back to Melbourne.

B. Soler

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NEWPORT MALTESE ASSOCIATION
FUNCTION DATES FOR 2011

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| SAT. JULY 2nd | ANNUAL DINNER DANCE | LAKESIDE RECEPTION |
| SUN. OCTOBER 2nd | ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING | M.C.C.V. |
| SAT. OCTOBER 22nd | GET TOGETHER | M.C.C.V. |
| SAT. DECEMBER 3rd | CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP | M.C.C.V |
| SAT. DECEMBER 31st | NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE | LAKESIDE RECEPTION |

“MOODS MUSIC TO ENTERTAIN AT ALL FUNCTIONS”

NEXT FEW FUNCTIONS FOR THE SENIORS GROUP
FOR 2011

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Saturday | 23rd July | Christmas in July—Dinner |
| Sunday | 14th August | Annual General Meeting |
| Saturday | 11th September | Father's Day Function |
| Sat/Sun | 17-18th September | Pokies Trip TBA |
| Thursday | 6th October | Outing TBA |
| Late Oct to Early November | | Surfers Paradise |



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This site was sent to me by George Saliba. Those of you who are on the internet might have already seen this before, but for those who are not, I thought it might be interesting.



VALLETTA

Valletta, The Fortress City, Citta' Umilissima, “a city built by gentlemen for gentlemen” is Malta's capital city: a living, working city, the administrative and commercial heart of the Islands. Valletta is named after its founder, the respected Grand Master of the Order of St John, Jean Parisot de la Valette. The magnificent fortress city grew on the arid rock of Mount Sceberras peninsula, which rises steeply from two deep harbours, Marsamxett and Grand Harbour. Started in 1566, Valletta was completed, with its impressive bastions, forts and cathedral, in the astonishingly short time of 15 years.

Valletta has many titles, all recalling its rich historical past. It is the “modern” city built by the Knights of St John; a masterpiece of the Baroque; a European Art City and a World Heritage City. Ruled successively by the Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs and the Order of the Knights of St John, it is one of the most concentrated historic areas in the world.

The city is busy by day, yet retains a timeless atmosphere. The grid of narrow streets boasts some of Europe's finest art works, churches and palaces.

Hosting a vast cultural programme, walking around Valletta you'll come across an intriguing historical site around every corner: votive statues,

niches, fountains and coats of arms high up on parapets. Narrow side streets are full of tiny quaint shops and cafés, while Valletta's main streets are lined with larger international branded shops for fashion, music, jewellery and much more.



MDINA

The history of Mdina traces back more than 4000 years. According to tradition it was here that in 60 AD that the Apostle St. Paul is said to have lived after being shipwrecked on the Islands. Furthermore it is said that St. Paul resided inside the grotto now known as Fuori le Mura (outside the city walls) now known as St. Pauls Grotto in Rabat. Lamp lit by night and referred to as “the silent city”, Mdina is fascinating to visit for its timeless atmosphere as well as its cultural and religious treasures.

Mdina has had different names and titles depending on its rulers and its role but its medieval name describe it best – ‘Citta’ Notabile’: the noble city.

It was home then, as now, to Malta's noble families; some are descendants of the Norman, Sicilian and Spanish overlords who made Mdina their home from the 12th century onwards. Impressive palaces line its narrow, shady streets.

Mdina is one of Europe's finest examples of an ancient walled city and extraordinary in its mix of medieval and Baroque architecture.

Here are some great ways of dealing with the burdens of life:

Accept that some days you're the pigeon,
And some days you're the statue.

Always keep your words soft and sweet,
Just in case you have to eat them.

Always wear stuff that will make you look good
If you die in the middle of it.

Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be
"Recalled" by their maker.

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

If you lend someone £20 and never see that person again,
It was probably worth it.

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to be kind to others.

Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time,
Because then you won't have a leg to stand on.

Nobody cares if you can't dance well.
Just get up and dance.

Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.

The second mouse gets the cheese.

When everything's coming your way,
You're in the wrong lane.

Birthdays are good for you.
The more you have, the longer you live.

You may be only one person in the world,
But you may also be the world to one person.

Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

We could learn a lot from crayons...
Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Have a great day.