



Inc. Reg. No. A0028424X

RESKEON NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2014
WINTER EDITION
Volume 18, No. 2

Welcome! Merħba!

Welcome once again to another issue of Reskeon Newsletter.

It's hard to believe that it was Christmas not long ago and now we are half way through the year.

A lot of functions were organised in the last three months. But the most important thing for us all was the Special General Meeting called by the Committee of the Reskeon Maltese Association to decide the future of the Association. We have been functioning without a President and Vice-President for a while and the Association can't function like this. So at the meeting members were asked to nominate a President and Vice-President from the floor. The answer was negative, so members were asked to decide what is the future of our Association. It was decided unanimously that the Reskeon Maltese Association will amalgamate with the Reskeon Seniors Group as one association and all funds to be transferred to the Reskeon Seniors Group. It would have been a shame if the Association would have to fold up, and at least it will be still going along with the seniors.

The Seniors celebrated Mother's Day with a Luncheon at Firenze Receptions on May 1.

A two-day trip across the border was organised and enjoyed by all on the weekend of April 26-27.

A day out to Emerald Park Lake was organised on April 3 and it was a good day for one and all.

The first event for the year was a BBQ for members of Reskeon Seniors Group on March 13. This was held at Edwardes Lake Park, Reservoir.

The Seniors enjoyed a free Hot Cross Buns and some chocolates in the week before Easter.

There is an interesting article about the Proxy Bride Scheme in the 1950's and 1960's. One of these couples are our very own members of Reskeon Seniors Group, Antonia and Teddy Farrugia.

We remind you of the Bambina Feast and the Vittoria Dinner Dance. See notice on this page on the right.

You can read these stories in full on the inside pages of this newsletter. We encourage you to use the services of the advertisers in our Newsletter because they help financially in producing it for you. Tell them that you have seen their advert in our Newsletter.

Until we meet again, take care and drive carefully. In your prayers, remember those with no one to pray for them. Thank you.

PAUL VELLA, Editor

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Reskeon Seniors celebrate Mother's Day with a Luncheon

Reskeon Seniors Group organised their Mother's Day Luncheon on Thursday, 1st May, for their members, at the Firenze Receptions, McBryde Street, Fawkner. Around 142 members and friends attended.

When members arrived at around 11 am they entered the hall where they were served with pre-lunch drinks and hors d'ouvres. Secretary Paul Vella, MC for the day, welcomed guests and members and invited them to stand for the Maltese and Australian National Anthems. After Champagne was poured into the glasses, all male members were asked to be upstanding to offer a toast for all the Mothers on the occasion of Mother's Day.



MALTESE NEWS
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Għal min jippreferi jaqra' bil-Malti...

Naf li hafna jixtiequ jaqraw xi haġa bil-Malti f'din li Newsletter u allura se nippruvaw nagħtu xi dettalji fil-qosor.

IKLA GHAL JUM L-OMM

Ir-Reskeon Seniors Group organizzaw ikla għal Jum l-Omm għand il-Firenze Receptions fl-1 ta' Mejju. Mija u tnejn u erbghin membru kienu preżenti u hadu gost. Fosthom kellna żewġ persuni li kienu bi btala f'Melbourne, wahda minn Amerika u l-oħra minn Malta.

HOT CROSS BUNS GHALL-GHID

Fil-laqgħa ta' qabel l-Għid, membri tar-Reskeon Seniors Group ġew ippreżentati b'*Hot Cross Buns* u ċikkulata biex nidhlu fl-ispirtu tal-festi.

JUMEJN FI NSW

Fi tmiem il-ġimgħa tas-26 u 27 t'April, membri tar-Reskeon hadu sehem f'haġa ta' jumejn għal NSW fejn morna Barooga, Tacumwal u Mulwala. Kienu jumejn sbieħ fejn il-membri kollha hadu pjaċir flimkien.

HARĠA LEJN EMERALD

Il-Hamis, 3 t'April, membri tar-Reskeon Seniors Group hadu sehem f'haġa ta' ġurnata lejn *Emerald Lake Park*. Ghalkemm il-ġurnata kienet ftit xitwija imma ma għamlitx xita u kulhadd ha pjaċir. Qattajna ġurnata fil-park hdejn il-ferrovija *Puffing Billy*.

BARBECUE F'EDWARDES LAKE PARK

L-ewwel avveniment tas-sena kien fit-13 t'April meta membri tar-Reskeon Seniors Group attendew għal *barbecue* f'Edwardes Lake Park, Reservoir. Numru sabiħ ta' membri hadu sehem. Il-prezz kien ta' \$2 fejn ġie servut laħam, zalzett, salads, imbid aħmar u abjad u xorb minerali. Wara tqassam frott frisk.

ŻWIEĠ BIL-PROKURA

Fis-snin hamsin u sittin kien hemm hafna nisa Maltin li żżewġu bil-prokura waqt li kienu jghixu Malta ma' Maltin irġiel li kienu jghixu fl-Awstralja. Koppja minn dawn kienu l-membri tagħna Antonia u Teddy Farrugia. Aqraw l-istorja tagħhom f'paġna 5 ta' din il-harġa.

FESTA TAL-BAMBINA

Għalkemm għadu ftit kmieni, tajjeb li nfakkarkom fil-Festa ta' Marija Bambina fl-14 ta' Settembru fil-Knisja ta' St Mary Star of the Sea West Melbourne. Imma fit-8 ta' Settembru ssir il-Quddiesa f'nhar il-festa fiċ-Ċentru Malti ta' Parkville (fil-Kappella). Il-Ballu tal-Vitorja jsir is-Sibt, 6 ta' Settembru fil-Firenze Receptions. Puvaw organizzaw mejda mall-hbieb u ma' tal-familja tagħkom. Nippruvaw inżommu t-tradizzjonijiet tagħna.

Rapporti bl-Ingliż flimkien ma' ritratti fuq dan li għadna kemm thadditna fuqu ssibuhom f'faċċati oħra ta' din li Newsletter. Sakemm nergħu niltaqgħu darb'ohra, insellmilkom u nghidilkom "Sahha"!

— Paul Vella



Jenny Mikakos MP

State Member Northern Metropolitan Region

319 Spring Street, Reservoir 3073
Tel: 9462 3966

Jenny.Mikakos@parliament.vic.gov.au

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Paul Vella, Secretary, 9460-4404 Mob. 0409 961 928
Email: (Paul and Salvina Vella) paul.vella44@gmail.com

Reskeon Maltese Seniors Group

Merrilands Community Centre, Cnr. Asquith and Sturdee Sts, Reservoir

Hot Cross Buns and Chocolates for Easter

At the meeting of Reskeon Seniors Group, on Wednesday, 16th April, members present received a free hot cross bun and some chocolate eggs to get in the Easter spirit.

Around 130 members were present.

Committee member Madeleine Vella is seen distributing the hot cross buns and chocolates to members.



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Members of Reskeon Maltese Association decide the future of their Association

A special meeting was called on Sunday 18th May for all members of Reskeon Maltese Association at Merrilands Community Centre to decide the future of the Association. A good number of members attended this meeting.

The secretary Mr. Charles Tabone greeted all those present and explained the reason for this meeting.

The Association for some months was functioning without a President and Vice-President. The secretary asked for nominations from the floor to chair the meeting according to our Constitution. Caesar Vella was elected by a show of hands.

The Chairperson asked the members present if they would like to nominate a President and Vice-President from the floor, and the response was negative. After some discussions with the members what is best for the Association, finally a decision was made to amalgamate with the Reskeon Seniors Group and this was passed unanimously by all mem-

bers. The Chairperson declared that the Reskeon Committee members were dissolved and all funds frozen. According to our Constitution the funds of the Association are to be transferred to a body that has similar functions and purposes of the Association which, in our case, the Reskeon Seniors Group fits the category. Members of the Association agreed unanimously.

Caesar Vella said a meeting of the Reskeon Seniors Group Committee is to be called to explain the changes to the Constitution. Meeting was closed.

Mr. George Colvin on behalf of all members thanked Caesar Vella for chairing the meeting.

Pictured right: Salvina Vella, President of the Maltese Reskeon Seniors Group until next election.



Two days across the border

On the weekend of April 26-27, Reskeon Seniors Group organised a two-day trip across the border.

The group of 48 members and friends boarded the Midland Tours coach from the car park of St. Joseph the Worker Church, in North Reservoir, with another pick-up from opposite Kmart.

It was a beautiful autumn day. We travelled to our destination with a stop at Negambie for free morning tea and biscuits plus all the goodies brought by different members and shared around.

Our next stop was Baroogs Sports Club for lunch, a choice of grilled Maryland chicken or fish and chips. After a stay trying our luck there we travelled to our motel accommodation, the Kingswood Motel and Apartments in Tocumwal. We were greeted by the owners and made very welcome. The rooms were very clean and comfortable.

In the evening we travelled to Toumwal Golf Club for dinner – a choice of chicken schnitzel or fish and chips with dessert.

In the morning we went to the dining room of the Kingswood Motel and Apartments for a hearty cooked breakfast, orange juice and tea and coffee.

From there we travelled to Mulwala Services Club for lunch and another try at the pokies.

Lunch was a choice of fish and chips or chicken schnitzel with dessert and a free drink.

The administrators of Mulwala Services Club donated two bottles of wine to the group which were raffled free on the coach later on.

(Continued on Page 5)

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Mother's Day Luncheon (from Page 1)

The entrée of baked fish and rice and vegetables was served followed by a serve of lasagna. Main Course was chicken involtini and beef with vegetables on each plate. Dessert was Cassata ice-cream. This was followed by a platter of fresh fruit. Then tea and coffee was served along with Continental cakes. The music on the day was in the hands of DJ Domenic who kept all those present dancing on the floor most of the day. Distinguished guests present were the Life Member of Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group, Mrs Anne Gauci; Honorary Life Members, Dr Clemente Zammit and Mrs Mary Zammit; Vice-President of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Mr Gejtu Deguara and Mrs Mary Deguara; Honorary Treasurer of the MCCV, Mr Paul Borg and Mrs Pauline Borg. Apologies for not being able to attend because of previous engagements were received from the Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Victor Grech and Mrs Patricia Grech, and from Fr Edwin Agius, mssp, Rector at Parkville.

Also with us, visiting Melbourne from overseas, were Mary Vella, on a visit from Malta, and Lillian Grech, on a visit from New York, USA.

Later in the day, Co-Ordinator Salvina Vella gave her message for the occasion of Mother's Day, wishing a good day to all Mums with their families and asked to remember and pray for all those mothers who were no longer with us. She wished all members to enjoy the day with their Mum if she was still with us and to, as Mums, enjoy the day with their families. The Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Victor Grech, in his absence, also sent a short message for Mother's Day.

Then there was the presentation of trophies for the winner and runner-up of the Ladies' Bocce Competition which finished two weeks before this event. Co-Ordinator Salvina Vella invited Cathy Gatt, the organiser of the ladies' bocce competition, to present the trophies. This year's winner was Carmen Grech and runner-up was Carmen Topolcsanyi. All participants in the competition were asked to join them for a group photo. Salvina Vella thanked Cathy Gatt for her role in organising this competition.

We thank Co-Ordinator, Salvina Vella, who was responsible for the success of this function. We thank all members for being present and enjoying the day together as one big family. Thanks to all those members who found the time to approach members of the committee to pay their compliments for this well-organised function

which, as always, was heavily subsidised by Reskeon Seniors Group. Thanks also to the management and

waiting staff of Firenze Receptions for the way they looked after us like they do in all our functions.



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'50s and '60s proxy brides from Malta

Antonia and Teddy Farrugia,
members of Reskeon Seniors Group



In the 1950's and 1960's there was a great demand for Maltese girls as wives among men migrants in Australia. Maltese men who had decided to make Australia their home used to send letters to Malta to propose to their childhood friends, friends of their sisters and other young women they could remember from way back in Malta. These young women were to be known as "proxy brides".

Our friend and member of the Reskeon Seniors Group in Melbourne, Tonina Farrugia, was one of the thousands such "brides". Tonina opened up to me and decided to share her interesting story with the readers of *The Voice*.

Tonina remembered in a weird way that it was a different man from the one she had wanted to marry who joined her at the Altar for her wedding in Malta, while her "real" husband-to-be, Ted Farrugia, was 20,000 miles away in Australia.

After World War II a large number of men from Malta, Greece and Italy arrived in Australia to build a new life and future for themselves. However, this created an imbalance between Maltese male and female migrants. One way of solving this imbalance was by sending for these "brides" to join them in their new environment and the proposed new homeland.

Marriage by proxy was a scheme organised by the Catholic Church. At the same time, the Australian Government also accepted it.

At the time one could never imagine a girl, unwed, travelling alone on a ship all the way to Australia. But as it turns out, it was the right thing to do for these girls to be married.

How did the proxy work? The girl who accepted the marriage proposal would go to her village church where the parish priest would administer the wedding ceremony between the woman (the wife to be), and a very close family member - standing in for her husband to be. With the ceremony over, and with a ring on her finger she would then board a ship for the long journey to Australia and at the end of it to be met by her "real" husband. They could then go through another wedding ceremony in their new homeland.

Tonina was only 16 when she accepted Ted's proposal. She considers herself lucky to have come to Australia a country she had always loved, as a child bride.

She well remembers the day when she disembarked at Station Pier. She also proudly boasts that her union with Ted was a great success. The couple has just celebrated its 58th wedding anniversary on April 2, 2014.

In 2008, a reunion was organised by the Immigration Museum, in Melbourne, where many couples like Tonina and Ted, who had married by proxy in two different countries thousands of miles apart, shared their stories.

Tonina and Ted both come from Floriana where they had known each other since early childhood. For a while, they stopped seeing each other, but they soon renewed their acquaintance when they started corresponding. That was when Ted expressed his wish to get married and to make a new life for himself and his future family away from Malta by emigrating. That was a big step to take for a young girl who had never left home, living in a small village like Floriana.

Tonina had a very sick mother who died when Tonina was still only 11 years old. Her father remarried. When she told him about her and Ted's plans to get married, he approached the parish priest

and together organised the "wedding". In Ted's absence his uncle took his place at the altar. He answered all the questions on Ted's behalf.

Tonina told me it was kind of strange to hear the priest even address Ted's uncle as "Ted", her future husband. As her father was too shy to fill his role as father of the bride, her uncle stood in for him.

She recalls that she didn't even wear a long wedding dress. At the end of the ceremony they all returned home where her father organised a small family get-together for the occasion complete with a small wedding cake. She said that it felt very funny because after the party when everybody had gone, it was just another day for her.

Tonina got married on April 2. She recalls it was a Monday. Six days later, that is the following Sunday, she boarded the Australia-bound ship, Arosa Kulm, for the long trip to the new continent and home. She carried with her a trunk full of sheets, clothes, towels and anything else that could help her start her new life as a married woman at a new home. She was so upset to leave her family and loved ones behind that she didn't even want to say goodbye to them.

Soon as she boarded the ship she suddenly became conscious of her important decision. Tonina said that she was in a dormitory along with a dozen more women and children. She was sick almost throughout her journey and hardly noticed any of the countries they stopped at on their way to Melbourne. But she remembers vividly a kind woman who used to bring her food.

On the ship she made friends with a few other proxy brides. She listened to horrid stories from some of these brides who got married to men whom they had never met. But, she said, for most of them there was a safety net, that is, that their marriage could be annulled before it was consummated.

But Tonina and Ted never regretted their decision: 58 years of happy marriage, two children and two grandchildren are a real testament of their happy life together.



(Continued from Page 3)



After spending some time at the club, we boarded the coach and travelled through Shepparton with a visit to the SPC Ardmona Factory Sales. Most of the members did some shopping there and stocked up on very cheap cans of fruit. Then we boarded the coach for the rest of the journey back home, arriving around 5.30 pm. Coach Captain was Terry, who always enjoys working with our group. We thank him for his friendly way in looking after us. Thanks to the organizers of the day and to all those members and friends who participated at this weekend trip. Everyone told the committee how much they enjoyed the day, especially the non-members. It is always a pleasure to spend a weekend with our members who are very friendly to each other and spend these two days as one family.

A trip to Emerald Lake Park

On Thursday, April 3, a group of 48 members boarded a Midland Coach from St. Joseph the Worker Church carpark, in Reservoir, to enjoy a day trip to Emerald Lake Park.

The day was a bit overcast but it didn't rain and it was quite warm.

We arrived at the park around 11 am.

After morning tea and sharing some goodies brought by the members, all had lunch either that provided by themselves or purchased from the kiosk.

The park is surrounded by a beautiful lake, bridges, trees and greeneries. Some friendly exotic colourful birds mingled among the members.

The well-known Puffing Billy train crosses through the park and it did so to the delight of all members.

While some sat in the gazebo, others preferred to take walks around the park.

All members enjoyed this day which was heavily subsidised by the Group. At around 3 pm all boarded the coach on the way back home to Reservoir. Our coach captain was Allan and was very helpful giving out information of places we drove through to Emerald and back.



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS...

Mark these dates in your diary!

- June 12: Restaurant Day, Roxburg Park Hotel
- August 14: Father's Day Luncheon (Firenze Receptions)
- September 6: Bambina Dinner Dance (Firenze Receptions)
- September 8: Bambina Mass, Maltese Centre, Parkville (in the Chapel)
- September 14: Bambina Feast, St. Mary's Church, West Melbourne

MASSES IN MALTESE

For those members wishing to attend Mass in Maltese, we are publishing these times and locations.

- Every Saturday, at 6 pm:
St. Paul's Chapel, Parkville (Maltese Centre)
- Every Sunday, at 8.00 am:
St. Paul's Church, Sunshine Avenue, Kealba
- Every First Friday of the month, 6.30 pm:
St Paul's Church, Glengala Road, West Sunshine
- Every First Friday of the month, 7 pm:
Resurrection Church, 51 Gum Road, St. Albans West
- Every First Saturday of the month, 6 pm:
St. Joseph The Worker Church, Wilson Blvd, Reservoir
- Every First Saturday of the month, 4.45 pm:
St. Joseph Church, Springvale
- Every Second Saturday of the month, 5.15 pm:
St. Luke's Church, 1a David Street, Lalor
- Every Third Saturday of the month, 5.00 pm:
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Childs Road, Mill Park
- Every Fourth Saturday of the month, 6.00 pm:
St. Thomas More Church, 65 North Street, Hadfield
(Confessions about half an hour before Mass)

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Consul General of Malta
9670 8427

Maltese Fathers, Parkville
9387 7433

Maltese Centre, Parkville
9387 8922

Thank you!

Ms Rita Mee for helping with proofreading, **Dr Edwin Borg-Manche**, who takes care of the MCCV website for his help in advertising our activities, to **Mr Paul Borg**, Treasurer of the MCCV, for his ongoing help in auditing our books, to **Darebin City Council** and the **Victorian Multicultural Commission** for grants received, and to all those who help in organising the Bocce competitions. We also thank the **Maltese Radio Stations** for advertising our functions and all those who assist us from time to time. Thanks also to the many members who give their help and assistance when needed.



With great regret we announce the death of our members' and friends' loved ones which occurred recently:

TONINA BUHAGIAR

Long time member, Reskeon Maltese Assoc. and Reskeon Seniors Group

DORIS DEBONO

Ex member Reskeon Seniors Group wife of member Tony Debono

ALFRED BUSUTTIL

Brother of member Theresa Cachia

MARY FERRITO

Ex member of Reskeon Maltese Assoc. and Reskeon Seniors Group Sister of the late John Gauci Sister-in-law of Anne Gauci Aunt of member Miriam Mizzi

CHARLIE ZAMMIT "Iz-Ziffa"

Broadcaster of Maltese Programs on Stereo 974 FM

JOYCE PISANI

Wife of member Alfred Pisani

Please remember them in your prayers

R.I.P.

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about our

Reskeon Maltese

Seniors Group

Sec. Paul Vella

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0409 961 928

Happy Birthday ...

June: 3: Vivian Tabone; 7: Emily Depares, Fiona Cutajar; 17: John Saliba, Charles Magro; 22: Tessie Colvin; 25: Jane Cutajar; 27: Tony Cassar.

July: 1: Frank Micallef, Charlie Camilleri; Emmanuel Brincat, Charlie Ciantar; 15: Lina Bonnici; 19: Melita Borg, Tonina Cassar; 22: Freddie Cachia; 25: Annie Scicluna; 30: Carmen Borg. **August:** 2: Salvina Vella (Reservoir), Fred Mifsud, Lino Hammett; 4: Mary Attard; 6: Salvina Vella (Coolaroo); 7: Edward Fabri; 11: Doris Farrugia; 12: Annie Gauci; 16: Gejtu Vella; 18: Dolly Agius; 20: John Hili; 23: Joe Agius; 24: Frank Mallia; 25: Sam Bartolo; 30: Manwel Mifsud; 31: Tessie Sacco.

Happy Wedding Anniversary ...

June: 1: Doris and Charlie Farrugia; 5: Gwido and Jane Ciantar; 12: Mr and Mrs Scicluna; 25: Mr and Mrs G. Magro; 27: Mr and Mrs G. Vella. **July:** 7: Mr and Mrs Tony Scicluna; 8: Doris and George Caruana; 10: Lucy and Edward Fabri; 16: Lisa and John Saliba; 19: Charles and Frances Galea; 27: Toni and John Hili. **August:** 7: Moses & Pauline Busuttill; 11: Rita and Charlie Zammit; 14: Antida and Jim Galea; 20: Miriam and Tony Mizzi.

Reskeon Maltese Seniors Group

President: Salvina Vella
Vice-President:
Secretary: Paul Vella
Asst. Sec.:
Treasurer: Victor Pulis
Asst. Treas.: George Colvin
Social Sec.: Salvina Vella
Asst. Social Sec.:
Members: Gerald Magro
Melita Magro
Sarah Catania
Alfred Cachia
Joe Galea
Theresa Cachia
Madeleine Vella

The group meets every Wednesday at Merrilands Community Centre, Asquith St, Reservoir, 9.30-2 pm.

For more information Ring 9460-4404

SAINT GEORGE PRECA

Those receiving special favours through the intercession of Father George Preca, are requested to report this to:

The General Secretary, Society of Christian Doctrine, Blata l-Bajda, Malta

Let us Pray

Lord, you called Dun George Preca to be a teacher and father to the young, and now you have numbered him with your saints in heaven. We thank you for this glory you have given him. We ask you to fill us with love like his: may we give ourselves completely to your service and to the salvation of mankind. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grant we beseech Thee O Lord that Thou wilt glorify Thy humble servant who worked with so much zeal for the salvation of souls and that through his intercession it will please Thee to grant this favour.....



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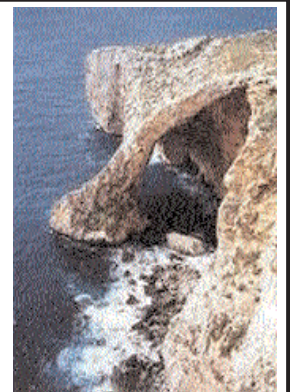
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Reskeon members enjoy a barbecue lunch

Around 112 members of Reskeon Seniors Group enjoyed a barbecue lunch at Edwardes Lake Park on Thursday, 13th March.

The weather was excellent with temperatures reaching 26 deg. C.

The ladies prepared the salads while the men were in charge of the cooking of the sausages and the meat.

In no time the members started to be served with the meal. Red and white wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee were available all day.

Members were served with a fruit platter afterwards.

After the meal, some members enjoyed a chat in a group sharing all the goodies they brought with them. Cakes and sweets were in abundance. It was good to see the members enjoy the day like one happy family.

Other members enjoyed a walk along the 2.5 km walking track around the beautiful lake.

This is a family park and although on this Thursday we had the place for our own, on Saturdays and Sundays hundreds of community members from different nationalities flock the park.

This park boasts free gas barbecues and other amenities.

Thanks go to the Salvina and Paul for their part in organising the day. Thanks to Phyllis Vella, Madeleine Vella, Vera Sacco and Carmen Grech for preparing the salads and serving the meals. Thanks also to Charles Sacco, Vincent Borg, Caesar Vella and Joe Pace for cooking the meat and sausages.

A big thank you to all members present who made the day a pleasant and enjoyable one.



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