



MerHbA

Maltese Historical Association (Aust) Inc

(Għaqda Storika Maltija (Awstralija) Inkorporata)

MHA Newsletter

www.mha.org.au

September/October 2020

Dear Members and Friends of the MHA,

I hope this newsletter finds you as well and happy as possible in the circumstances. COVID continues to dominate our lives, here and in Malta as well as the rest of the world. Presently, restrictions in Melbourne are being lifted, while elsewhere they are being increased.

At the start of the outbreak, Malta had been held up as the poster child of Europe's first wave success. New cases went down to 0. Restrictions were eased, as Europe and Malta opened to travel and tourism. Towards the end of July, a second wave started amongst young adult revellers in Paceville and at the Festa of St Venera. With many new cases, Malta soon became known as a COVID hotspot. At the time of writing, Malta has recorded 364,249 swab tests since the start of the pandemic. There are 1980 active cases with the 20 to 40 age group over-represented. Sadly, most of the 78 deaths so far have been those aged over 70. Further information and a day by day breakdown can be found [here](#).

Difficult times can bring out the best in people and the MHA is no exception. Your historical association has entered the 21st Century! We had our first ever Zoom committee meeting recently, and it was followed two days later with a practice PowerPoint presentation. All went well. We then held a practice session with our members, which was a bit of a disaster due to technical issues. The following Tuesday, 17th October, we held a meeting at our regular scheduled time. 17 members signed in and enjoyed over an hour of conversation. This may be the way of the future, especially as lectures can be recorded with both visuals and sound. Membership fees have been waived for this financial year. The MHA donated \$400 to the MCCV Home Visitation Scheme towards the provision of Christmas Hampers, as visits were unable to be made for most of this year.

The 2020 AGM will be held on Zoom, though elections may be held at a later date, at a live meeting, depending on the outcome of ongoing discussions. In this newsletter, on pages 12 to 14, are the Notice of AGM, Committee nomination form, Minutes of the last AGM, the Agenda, the President's statement, and a Proxy Voting Form. The Financial report can be found [here](#).

MHA Annual General Meeting

7:30 pm
17th November 2020
On Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting 1
Please log in at 7:25 and wait to be accepted. Clicking on the link below should take you to the meeting. Otherwise enter the Meeting ID and Password manually.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73245212660?pwd=aWlOZ0d6QWFaV3I3c3hGbGhmcklUQT09>

Meeting ID: 732 4521 2660
Passcode: mhaAGM1

Should the meeting exceed the 40-minute time limit, a second meeting will be held immediately afterwards

Join Zoom Meeting 2
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75485769452?pwd=bzNTelR5R3RlL3V0ZkFIT0FEc2Q3UT09>

Meeting ID: 754 8576 9452
Passcode: mhaAGM2

Thank You Charlie Portelli for setting this up for us.

Any difficulties phone Charles Gatt (Secretary) on 0425 708 830

Our president, Joseph Borg, has indicated that he will step down completely from the MHA committee. This is a big decision, as he was a founder of the MHA and a stalwart of the organisation for over 30 years, giving several lectures each year. There is a good chance that the MHA will collapse without him. The present committee has agreed to stay on, if we are needed, but we need new members to bring in fresh ideas and energy. If you would like the MHA to continue, please consider standing for committee. We need you! The commitment is not great. We only meet a few times a year and we especially welcome young people. Computer skills would be an added bonus, especially as our website has suddenly died for no apparent reason! Fortunately, our Facebook page is going strong. Please submit a Nomination form on page 9 to the secretary by mail or preferably by email or just let the secretary know on secretary@mha.org.au.



September saw the Feast of the Nativity of Mary on 8th September. Also known as the Festa ta' Marija Bambina and Our Lady of Victories, the commemoration is special to the Maltese, as it celebrates the end of the Great Siege of 1565, and the 1943 surrender of Italy in WWII. For many years, the feast has been celebrated on the second Sunday of September at the Star of the Sea church in West Melbourne. Organised by Reskeon Seniors on behalf of the Missionary Society of Saint Paul, this was the first time in many years that the celebration was not held. The photos are from 2019.

We sadly bade farewell to Charles (Carmel) Portelli, who passed on the eve of the Nativity of Our Lady. He will long be remembered for his contribution to the Maltese Community. An early member of the MCCV, he served on the executive committee for many years as social secretary and treasurer. Dedicated to the Maltese Community, he was instrumental in gaining funding for the Community Centre in Parkville. On behalf of our members and friends, the MHA offers our deepest condolences to his wife, Edith Alice, and all his family and friends. A tribute is found on Page 3.

The 21st September marked the anniversary of Malta gaining independence in 1964. The MCCV placed on their website [celebration messages](#) from the President Marlene Ebejer and Fr. Lonnie Borg (MSSPP), with performances from the MMG Concert Band of Victoria and Maltese Own Band. Video (29:38)

Thank you to Georgina Scillio for sharing her delightful stories based on her experiences as a child growing up after the war (See Page 4). Thank you Mario Bonnici for sending us links to relevant and interesting *Times of Malta* articles (Page 6). A special thank you goes to all those who provide support and encouragement in these difficult times.

Hoping to see you 7:30 pm on the 17th November on Zoom,

Charlie G for the MHA

(Secretary@mha.org.au)



VALE CHARLES (CARMEL) PORTELLI (1926 – 2020)

Carmel (Charles) Portelli was born in 1926 and studied in the Seminary in Malta, intending to be a priest. One day, while traveling on the bus, he saw the beautiful Edith Alice Carter outside her home. He fell instantly in love and the young couple married in 1948, a marriage that would last over 70 years. Their first son sadly died at only 5 weeks old. They had a daughter, Carmen, then came to Australia in 1951. Their younger son, Harold, was born in Australia later that same year. The four set up home in Port Melbourne, then later in Patterson Lakes and finally in Middle Park.



Carmel 'Charles' Portelli

5th March 1926 - 7th September 2020

*You will be sadly missed but will forever remain in our hearts
and live in the memory of those who held you dear.*

In 1953, Edith and Charles met Paul Paris, who was organising functions to bring the Maltese Community together. After a few years, because of his age, Paul decided to hand over to younger people. In 1965, Charles was asked to join the Maltese Community Council of Victoria and was elected Social Secretary. In this capacity, he raised many thousands of dollars towards the building of a permanent centre for the Maltese Community at Parkville, on the site owned by the Missionary Society of St Paul.

Charles organised many functions, with up to 800 people attending. He also organised a very successful Miss Maltese Community Quest. All the money raised from these events went directly towards the cost of building the Community Centre, which would finally open in 1983. With facilities for functions, meeting rooms, offices and a library, the Ċentru Malti has hosted many dignitaries from Australia and overseas and served the Community very well for a long time.

In the 1970s, Charles became Assistant Treasurer of the MCCV, as he was by that time a qualified accountant, and later auditor. He donated his time assisting members of the community with their tax returns. In a voluntary capacity he also looked after the books for the MCCV, the Rosary Home for the aged in the Western suburbs of Melbourne, and also for Maltese Nuns in Sydney, travelling at his own expense.

In 1974, Charles founded a new Maltese Club, the [Maltese La Vallette Association](#). The club was very successful and drew in many people in the South-eastern suburbs of Melbourne and is still going strong today. In the 80's and 90's and into the 2000's, Charles coordinated fetes highlighting Maltese Arts and Crafts. He became unwell in 2012, with a chronic lung condition, and was reluctantly unable to carry on in any capacity of responsibility. He and Edith continued to be involved with the Community by attending functions whenever they could.

A devout man who was devoted to the church of Mt Carmel and to the mother of God, Charles passed away 5 minutes before midnight on the eve of the Nativity of Our Lady. We pray that he was welcomed into Her arms. After many years of service to the Maltese Community and to his family, may he rest in eternal peace.

The Video of his funeral mass and the Guest Book can be found [here](#)

On behalf of the Maltese Community, we offer our sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

Charles Gatt for the MHA

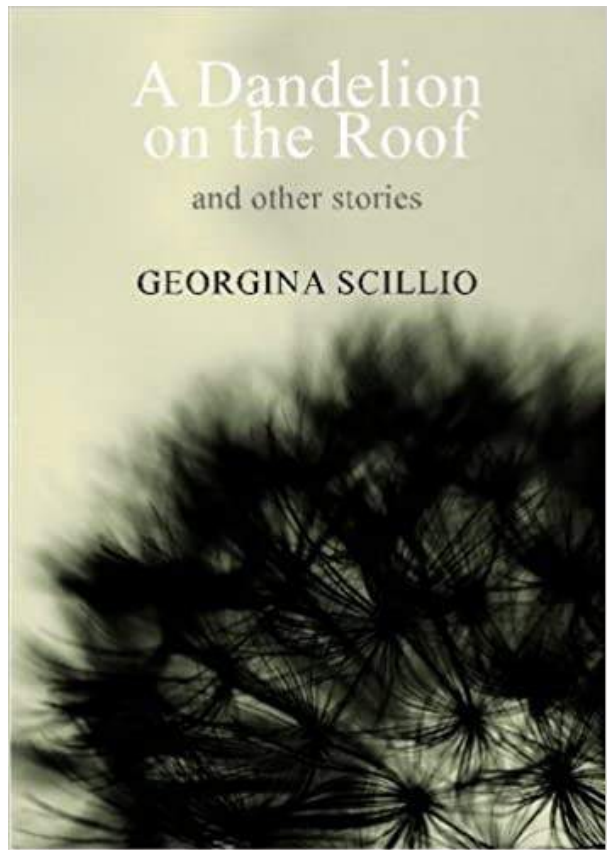
From the Pen of Georgina Scillio

Georgina Scillio née Zammit is a retired teacher. Her short stories have won several awards. Her collection of short stories, A Dandelion on the Roof, won the 2008 Northern Writers competition. It was published by Clouds of Magellan Press and distributed in several libraries. Georgina is currently working on her second book.

Georgina was prepared to give the March lecture to the MHA. She had planned an interactive session, sharing her experiences as a child growing up in Malta after World War 2 through fictional short stories based on real events. Unfortunately, COVID restrictions forced us to cancel the lecture. Georgina has kindly shared two of her stories from her as yet unpublished collection titled Divided Hearts. The first one follows. Enjoy!

A Dandelion on the Roof is available on [Bookdepository](#) and on [Amazon](#):

Charles Gatt



Malta 1947

The King is coming!

The King is coming to our school. His Majesty King George the Sixth of England, Chief Commander of the British Commonwealth, is visiting our Primary School in a few weeks' time! We need to get ready. Spruce up the classroom, Make sure that the everything is sparkling clean. Our uniforms spotless, ironed, our hair neat and tidy....

We will decorate the classroom. Bring flowers on the day. Our teacher suggested that we place a table in one corner of the room, cover it with a nice cloth and put vases full of flowers....

To my great joy, my family rug, *it-tapit*, has been chosen for the decorated table. Now this is no ordinary rug—thickly woven with brightly coloured silk threads on a gold background, it represents an extravagant desert scene. Dunes so well depicted you can almost see the grains of sands. There are palm trees lush with dates, fronds perfectly sewn. There are birds hovering over the clear water. An oasis in the desert.

There are Sheiks sitting upright on magnificent camels, all decorated with jewels. The camel handlers are wearing flowing white robes and turbans but are barefoot, while the haughty Sheiks have jewelled sandals. The tassels on the edges of the rug are long and silky. And all this is hand woven on a soft but thick material. A masterpiece of colour and of lavish work

How this rug has come into our possession, I have no idea. Someone must have given it to us in lieu of payment, or as a thank you for some great favour done. *It-tapit*, with its strong smell of camphor, comes out of a drawer on very special occasions only. It is draped over the Singer sewing machine, not only showing that something festive is happening, but also that the source of mother's work is covered, hidden from view. The *tapit* is large enough to touch the ground, hiding the treadle of the sewing machine: for my overworked mother it means she is on holiday!

The Governor, the King and a host of other dignitaries arrive at our school... two hours late. Standing to attention in straight rows, unable to move in the blazing sun, we are thirsty, hungry and about to faint. His Majesty has been kept longer than he had expected at another establishment. He had visited the war ruins. Later on we learn that he was so overwhelmed by the extent of the war damage, that he stayed and talked to several people he had not been scheduled to meet.

Now he is to see our school, and the wonderful things British education is doing to us....

Just as the King is arriving in his big black car, I and another girl faint, and we are taken elsewhere to recover. Naturally, we must not spoil the parade by doing something terrible like getting sick in front of the King himself!

I have to be satisfied with a view of the King and his retinue from upstairs as he crosses the quadrangle. Just seeing the hair parting on his well-groomed head is enough to give us a thrill. There is no mistaking which one is the King. His Majesty is the most recognizable personage - the face on our coins, his picture on our classrooms' walls.

'Did the King see the *tapit*?' I ask the others, the lucky ones who have been in the same room as the King.

'Oh yes!'

'Did he say anything?'

'He said something about the nice classroom.'



'Yes, but what about the *tapit*, did he notice how beautiful it is?'

To lessen my disappointment at having missed the main event, someone says:

'Oh yes, he said how pretty the horses are.'

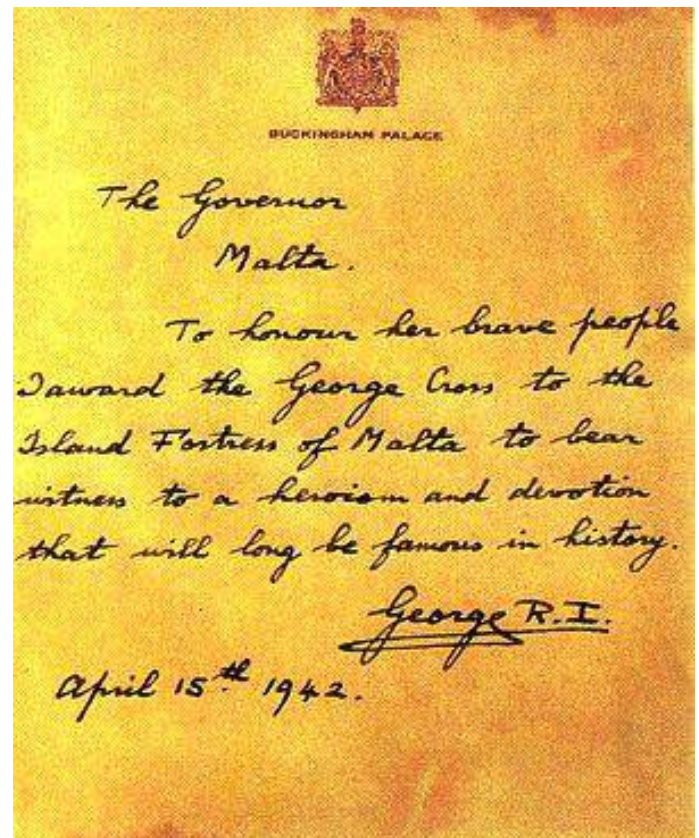
I know she is lying, it is camels and not horses which are depicted on the rug. A King who governs almost the whole World would know a horse from a camel, I'm sure.

'Did the King actually, *actually* come near the table, I mean did he...did he actually touch the rug?' I ask over again, my heart in my throat in anticipation.

'Well...'

If the King had only just done that, if he had only just brushed past the table, past our rug, our wonderful *tapit*, that would be ecstasy enough for me. It would be like imbuing it with magic.

The visit of His Majesty is the topic of conversation for weeks and weeks later. We had to write essays and poems about it. Stories of how the King had touched someone's head, or shaken someone's hand or smiled at someone, or talked to someone, have become so exaggerated that in the end we realize that, like a fairy tale, they cannot all be true.



King George VI reigned from 1936 to 1952.
He awarded the George Cross to Malta in a handwritten letter during the peak of hostilities in World War 2

From the MCCV:



FREE
BINGO
BY ZOOM
PRIZES TO BE WON!
EVERY SATURDAY
STARTING AT 2PM
Register at admin@mccv.org.au
before 5pm Friday

Made with PosterMyWall.com



FROM 11:59PM
TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER

- There are no longer limits on reasons to leave home - 25 kilometre limit remains in place
- Up to 10 people can meet outdoors, from any number of households
- Retail open
- Beauty, personal services and tattooing open - face masks must be worn
- Restaurants, hotels, cafes, bars, clubs open - following density limits
- Outdoor community sport returns for children
- Outdoor non-contact sport returns for adults
- Outdoor weddings increase to a maximum of 10 people
- Funerals increase to a maximum of 20 people
- Religious gatherings:
Indoor - up to 10 people plus one faith leader
Outdoor - up to 20 people plus one faith leader

For more information: vic.gov.au/roadmap

VICTORIA

Highlights from the [MCCV September Newsletter](#)

The President, Marlene Ebejer, addresses the Maltese Community in English and Maltese. The MCCV has reinstated the much-loved Bingo, albeit online by Zoom. Following the success of the first session on 22nd August, Zoom Bingo is held every Saturday at 2 pm. Register by emailing admin@mccv.org.au before 5 pm on Friday. See ad above.

The MCCV has been invited to participate in the Moomba Parade on 8 March 2021. If interested contact the MCCV on (03) 9387 8922 or admin@mccv.org.au

Registration for Online Maltese language classes starting in 2021 will soon be available. At three different levels, the courses run for 16 weeks, each with a 90 minute lesson and an extra hour of self-guided learning activities. See page 3 for more details.

The MCCV Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) Social Support group delivers a culturally sensitive and consumer-centred services across its sites in Parkville and Sunshine. For more information about joining the MCCV Social Support Group please contact My Aged Care on 1800 200 422 or by accessing the website at <http://www.myagedcare.gov.au/> and mentioning the Maltese Community Centre Social Support Group. For more information about this program, call the Maltese Community Council of Victoria 9387 8922.

Page 5 sees a recipe for Cannoli and a Maltese wordsearch. Page 6 is *Medical Information* from Emeritus Professor Maurice Cauchi on COVID-19 in Maltese and English, which continues on Pages 7 with Graphics in Maltese from the Victorian Government. We can also see photos of the key players in the MCCV.

Page 8 is a business directory, which includes contact details for the Consulate in Melbourne, and finally on page 9 is a list of the Maltese Radio programs in Melbourne and suburbs.



IT'S COMPETITION TIME!!!

'How Does Your Garden Grow' Competition

We would like you to send us photos of your beautiful gardens and tell us a few words about yourself and why your garden is special to you.

We have some lovely gardening prizes to give away.

Please send your entries to admin@mccv.org.au and include:

- Your Name
- Contact number
- A photograph of yourself in your garden
- A short story about your garden

All entries will be posted on MCCV Facebook page as they are received.

Winners will be announced on Facebook and contacted by telephone and email.

Entries Close
4pm Monday 30 November 2020

Interesting links:

[MCCV Facebook Page](#) Keep up to date with the news and interact with the MCCV with 3000 followers.

[MHA Facebook Page](#) With 1833 likes and 1864 followers, it is increasing in popularity. Keep in touch!

[Voice of the Maltese](#) is based in New South Wales but contains many articles relevant to Maltese around the world.

Frank Scicluna's [e-newsletters](#) are always a good read.

Lots of great photos can be found on [Bay Retro's facebook page](#):

[Malta Underground's facebook page](#) has many interesting articles, as does [Temple Rescue's facebook page](#):

TV and Radio Programmes

3ZZZ 92.3 FM Melbourne Ethnic Community Radio - *Maltese*. Mondays 5-6 pm, Fridays 5-6 pm, Saturdays 10 -11 am. If you miss a scheduled programme, you can catch it [here](#) by clicking on "LISTEN TO A SHOW" and scrolling down.

STEREO 974 97.4 FM Wednesdays (Maltese Magazine) & Thursdays (Merħba): 6.00pm to 8.00 pm, Co-ordinator –Ray Anastasi

98.9 Northwest FM [Showcase](#): Fridays 6 pm – 7 pm with Emmanuel Brincat, and [Here, the Maltese Heart](#): Mondays 7 pm – 8 pm with Emmanuel Brincat.

SBS Radio [Maltese programmes on demand](#).

SBS MALTESE NEWS: *L-Aħbarijiet* on SBSTV twice a week nationwide; Sundays 8.00 am on SBS2 (Chan. 32), and Thursdays at 8.00 am on SBSTV32. Also [on demand](#).

Watch the latest programmes, news, and radio from Television Malta [TVM programmes on demand](#), and [the latest news in English](#)

[Malta Vintage History](#) is a private Facebook group with many amazing old photos. Well worth joining!

Thank you, Mario Bonnici, for these links to Times of Malta articles:

[A time to recall and rejoice... with limited celebrations](#) by Neil Zammit describes the history of L'Unione Philharmonic founded in 1880 by maestro Vincenzo Camilleri and his four sons.

[The aircraft that returned from the depths: The story of Hawker Hurricane Mark IIA Z 3055](#) by Jeffrey Sammut. Early in the morning of 4 July 1941, 23-year-old Sgt Thomas Hackston took off from Safi in bad weather but was never seen again. Wreckage just off the Ħamrija Coastal Tower, close to Wied iż-Żurrieq showed engine failure. The young pilot had brought the plane down smoothly and escaped from the cockpit, but he was never found. The article describes the complicated recovery and restoration of the plane.

Royal events in old Maltese postcards [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#) by Giovanni Bonello shows events in Malta after the invention of photography in 1839.

[Inside Dom Mintoff's villa](#) Stephanie Fsadni visits Yana Mintoff, the daughter of the former Labour leader and prime minister, Dom Mintoff, for insight into their life, house and garden, and the impact of nearby developments.

[Leo Amery's visit to Malta in 1919](#) by Brian Blouet. Following the 1919 riots in Malta, the Colonial Secretary, Lord Milner, dispatched his Undersecretary of State, Leo S. Amery, to the islands to seek remedies. He found the imperial government was directly to blame. He convinced the Colonial Office to provide funds to Malta's civil government and worked with Filippo Scerberras (later Sir Filippo) on a new constitution giving self-government. Sadly, the 1921 constitution was abandoned in the political turmoil of the 1930s.

[Maltese women in the books of the Knights – the first 50 years](#) by Giovanni Bonello. The National Library in Valletta houses the archives of the Order of Malta, including minutes of their meetings, the Libri Conciliarum. Women featured mostly in crimes committed against them, many by the Knights themselves.



Maltese Historical Association (Australia) Inc

Għaqda Storika Maltija (Awstralja)

www.mha.org.au

Dear Member,

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**To be held on ZOOM. (See front page for details)
7:30pm Tuesday 17th November 2020**

The Annual General Meeting of The Maltese Historical Association (Australia) Incorporated will be held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 17th November 2020 on Zoom.

The Agenda will be as per clause 9 of the Rules:

- a) to confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting; and
- b) to receive from the Committee reports upon the transactions of The Association during the last preceding financial year; and
- c) to elect officers of The Association and the ordinary members of the Committee.

and 4) ... may conduct any special business of which notice has been given in accordance with these Rules.

In accordance with clause 12, any member of the Association who has an item they would like to bring up in General Business should advise the Secretary in writing to 9/99 The Strand Newport 3015 or preferably via email to: secretary@mha.org.au

All members are encouraged to consider nominating for a position on the committee. A nomination form (Appendix 4) follows below.

The Agenda for the 2020 Annual General Meeting follows below.

The Minutes of the 2019 AGM are below.

The President's report is below.

The Treasurer's Report for 2019/2020 is [here](#).

An Appointment of Proxy form is also available for use if required. Each member is entitled to appoint another member as a proxy by notice given to the Secretary no later than 24 hours before the start of the Annual General Meeting.

Yours Sincerely,

Charles Gatt

MHA Secretary

Ph 0425 708 830

Email: secretary@mha.org.au

APPENDIX 4

Nomination for the Election of a Member of the Committee of Management of The Maltese Historical Association (Australia) Incorporated – Ghaqda Storika Maltija (Awstralja) Inkorporata

We, the undersigned, being financial members of the Maltese Historical Association
(Australia) Incorporated, hereby nominate
Candidate's

name

For the position of

In accordance with the Rules of the Maltese Historical Association (Australia) Incorporated.

Proposer's

name

Address.....

.....

Signature.....

Date.....

Secunder's

name

Address.....

.....

Signature.....

Date.....

Candidate's consent

I

of

Hereby consent to accept the above nomination and if elected as a member of the committee, I pledge to abide by the Rules of The Association and assist in the administration of The Maltese Historical Association (Australia) Incorporated.

Signature.....

Date.....

MHA Rules - 18 May 2009.doc



Maltese Historical Association (Australia)

Għaqda Storika Maltija (Awstralja)

www.mha.org.au

MHA Annual General Meeting AGENDA

Time and Date: 7.30 pm Tuesday 17th November 2020

Venue: Zoom meeting: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73245212660?pwd=aWlOZ0d6QWFaV3I3c3hGbGhmcklUQT09>

Meeting ID: 732 4521 2660

Passcode: mhaAGM1

Attendance:

Apologies:

Minutes:

Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting will be read and are below.

Business arising from minutes:

President's Report: *See below*

Treasurer's Report: [See here](#)

Election of Office-bearers and Committee Members:

Agenda Items:

1. Donation to MCCV
2. Donation to 3ZZZ radio

General Business:

Meeting closed:



Maltese Historical Association (Australia)

Għaqda Storika Maltija (Awstralja)

www.mha.org.au

MHA Annual General Meeting 2019

MINUTES

Time and Date: 7.30 pm 19th November 2019

Venue: Maltese Community Centre, 477 Royal Parade, Parkville (enter from Ievers St)

Attendance: From the attendance sheet: Mario Bonnici, Joe Bonett, Charles Gatt, Charlie Portelli, Angela Portelli, Agnes Cauchi, Maurice Cauchi, Mary Sciberras, Gregory Sciberras, Frances Bonnici, Georgina Scillio, Georgette Pace, Joseph Borg, Robert Blythe, George Portelli, Desiree Blythe.

Apologies:

Charles and Rosemary Attard,

RIP Manwel Cassar 8/11/19 and Victor Borg 18/11/19

Minutes: Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting were read.

Motion: That the minutes be accepted.

Moved: George Portelli

Seconded: Mary Sciberras

Carried

Business arising from minutes: Nil

Correspondence: MCCV Letter asking for increased attendance and participation

Radio 3 ZZZ – We are encouraged to attend the AGM

President's Report:

Mr. Joseph Borg gave the President's Report for 2019. A summary follows:

At the last AGM the committee was elected: President - Joseph Borg; Vice-President - Robert Blythe; Secretary - Charles Gatt; Treasurer - Mario Bonnici; Committee Members – George Portelli and Charles Portelli.

We held 9 lectures and the AGM, with the participation of about 25 to 40 people. Lectures are held at 7:30 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, except December and January, and are followed by tea, coffee and biscuits. Visitors are welcome but encouraged to become members at \$15 per person or \$20 for a couple. A suggested change of the meeting time in consideration of the elderly will be brought up at the next committee meeting.

Joe requested new speakers to please contact us. We have a list of topics since inception, and it is possible to revisit topics with a different emphasis.

We advertise our activities on Facebook and on our web page. The 2019 AGM will be held on the 19th of November. Joe urged members to attend and to consider nominating for a position. The MHA especially encourages young people to participate. After 32 years, it is up to the younger generation to take over the running of the association.

Mr Borg then listed the lecture topics for 2019:

February	Mr Joseph Borg	From Norman to Hohenstaufen to Angevin
March	Professor Maurice Cauchi	The Carthaginians in Malta
April	Mr Joseph Borg	The Aragonese Period
May	Professor Maurice Cauchi	The Romans in Malta
June	Mr Joseph Borg	The Sette Giugno riots 1919
July	Mr George Portelli	Malta between the 15 th and 18 th centuries: an Overview from a Historical and Social Perspective

August	Mr Joseph Borg	History of Victoria, the Cittadella and Gozo
September	Professor Morris Cauchi	Two Important Dates in the History of Gozo: 1551 and 1798
October	Mr Mario Bonnici	Some Monuments in Malta
November		AGM

The 2020 program will be organised by the incoming committee. We look forward to keeping the interest level high and attracting visitors. Lectures are free and anyone is welcome.

Treasurer's Report:

Mario Bonnici presented the Treasurers Report to June 2019. Expenses included the website, and donations to Maltese DownUnder, 3ZZZ, and the MCCV. Income \$579.95, Expenses \$955.39, Balance \$4225.69

Election of Office-bearers and Committee Members:

Frances Bonnici supervised the election. All nominees were elected unopposed. The committee remains the same as in the previous year.

Agenda Items:

- 1. Donation to MCCV.** Due to reduced income, the donation to the MCCV is reduced to \$200, to go towards the home visitation scheme. The Maltese Language Group and the Maltese Historical Association are not profit-making organisations but provide a cultural aspect to the MCCV and the Maltese community.
- 2. Donation to 3ZZZ radio:** \$50 was approved

General Business:

Joe Borg proposed putting a motion to the MCCV AGM that Victor Borg's contribution to the MCCV be reflected by renaming the Ċentru Malti the Victor Borg Centre. There was general agreement.

The MCCV is having a second market day on Sunday the 1st of December. Mario Bonnici attended the first one and said there were lots of young families. It was suggested that the MHA have a table. We will try to have the \$30 fee waived, as we are not a commercial organisation. We can put on a slideshow, have a presepu (crib), Joe Borg's model of Valletta, etc. Frances Bonnici suggested activities for children, food etc. Charles Gatt has produced a brochure, Mary Sciberras mentioned radio advertising.

Charlie Portelli spoke. The MHA laptop was purchased in 2009. Vista is no longer supported, and it is running very slowly. We really need a new one running Windows 10. Also, the overhead projector at the MCCV is playing up and there may be a problem connecting to it with a new machine. Mario Bonnici had one with reasonable picture quality that he has given to Charlie Portelli. Mario mentioned that we bought the previous laptop with a \$1000 grant from the ethnic community council.

2020 lectures. Joe Borg will start with Harbours of Ancient Malta and Gozo, and suggested someone can look at where St Paul was actually shipwrecked. He has given a lecture on Rabat. Others can explore towns they are familiar with, such as Birkirkara, Mosta and Msida. Maurice Cauchi's autobiography brings his town of Għarb to life. Maurice mentioned a colleague has written an excellent book. Frances Bonnici offered to run a session on Maltese Foods. Mario Bonnici suggested fortresses in Malta and Georgina Scillio offered to do the history of primary schools in Malta.

There was a discussion on how to use PowerPoint

Joe Borg thanked everyone for their contributions.

Meeting closed: 8:28 p.m.

The meeting was followed by a **book launch** of Professor Maurice Cauchi's autobiography, *The Making of a Medico*.



Maltese Historical Association (Australia)

Għaqda Storika Maltija (Awstralja)

MHA President's Report 2020

2020 Activities Report (September 2020)

What a year this has been!

The Association had its Annual general meeting last November, when the committee was re-elected unopposed.

A programme for the year was tailored at the Committee meeting held in early February.

The first meeting of the Association was held on the third Tuesday of February, held at the Maltese Centre. The lecture was delivered by the President, Joseph Borg, and the subject was 'Ancient Harbours around Malta and Gozo'. The meeting was well attended.

Then the Covid hit and in view of the serious nature of the virus and the fact that the majority of our membership is in the senior age-group, we, i.e. the committee decided to postpone our March meeting. After that as we all know the situation got worse and no further meetings have taken place.

During this period, our Secretary has been diligently sending out a newsletter with interesting snippets and many links to various sites dealing with Maltese History and Culture. For this I want to publicly thank Charles Gatt. I also want to thank other members of the Committee for the help they gave Charles to achieve this result.

The committee will meet via 'zoom' next week to see where we go from here. We hope to have our Annual General meeting via emails and 'zoom'.

Whether the Association will get through all this remains to be seen.

Joseph Borg

President

APPENDIX 3

**Maltese Historical Association (Australia) Incorporated –
Ghaqda Storika Maltija (Awstralja) Inkorporata**

Form of Appointment of Proxy

I of
(name) (address)

being a member of the Maltese Historical Association (Australia) Incorporated appoint:

.....
(name)
or the Chairperson of the meeting

of
(address)

Being also a member of the Maltese Historical Association (Australia) Incorporated as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at annual/special* general meeting of The Association to be held on:

.....
(date)

and at any adjournment of that meeting.

My proxy is authorised to vote in favour or/against on my behalf on matters arising as instructed by myself.

..... Signature of Seconder

..... Date

*Delete if not applicable