

Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.



Annual Report 2008/09

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President's Report

It gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report for the year ending 30th October 2009 for the Maltese Community Council of Victoria ("MCCV").

The MCCV has throughout the last twelve months made every effort to address many of the needs of the Maltese Community as well as the development of a number of programmes.

The needs of the aged community members continue to fully engage Council. Their numbers are continually on the rise and there are currently a shortage with places in aged care facilities.

Council has established a strong link with other Associations in an endeavour to ensure that these agencies are sensitized to the culture and needs of our aged community members. Council makes every effort to ensure community members are not disadvantaged in the provision of general welfare services including admission to aged care facilities.

Welfare Programmes

Details of the programmes delivered by the MCCV are set out in the report of our Welfare Staff contained in this report. Whilst these programmes are only possible as a result of Federal and State Government funding it must be recognized that Council's social activities are a great assistance in topping up grants to ensure the delivery of a high standard service.

This year's economic meltdown and the resultant increase in the unemployment numbers of community members has tested our welfare programmes. Aged persons have also been adversely affected with a sharp drop of income from their investments.

Thankfully conditions are improving but the stress, strain and uncertainty caused to many of our aged members has been reflected in their health issues.

The role of our volunteers must be recognized with many of them contributing on a regular weekly basis. Their contribution has been much appreciated by Council which looks to them for assistance from time to time. The demand on our welfare programmes is high with waiting lists established for entry into a particular programme.

Maltese Culture

Council had resolved towards the end of 2008 to re-organise our cultural festival programme by extending this to regular events over a calendar year. This change should expose Maltese culture to a larger section of the community including our friends who wish to attend planned cultural events.

Affiliated Associations continue to participate in presenting a number of cultural events. The Maltese Literature Group and the Maltese Historical Association in particular are at the forefront of arranging special events relating to Maltese Language and culture. Festival events have been well supported over the months and enjoyed by a large number of community members and their friends.

Maltese History Language and Culture

Regular monthly meetings of the Maltese Historical Association have been extremely well received. A number of guest speakers have made presentations over a wide range of subjects. Recollections of some previous event or particular parish or region in Malta have been very popular with attendees. A number of persons from overseas with particular specialities have also been invited to speak of their experience and topics of interest.

The Maltese Literature Group with its monthly meetings continues to encourage those with a love of the Maltese language and literature. As part of the Cultural Festival they present poems and short stories written by them.

The teaching of the Maltese language at Parkville has been under the direction of Ms Edwidge Borg, a former President of the Council. Other teachers include Ms Laura Schembri, Ms Georgina Scillio and Mr Edward Mercieca.

Thursday evening classes at the Community Centre are well attended. Students are extremely keen and attendances are well maintained throughout the year. Council is indebted to our volunteer teachers. Maltese language classes are also conducted at the Saturday School of Language Programme. Council continues to voice its concern of the shortage of students sitting for the VCE Maltese language examination. Council is on notice, together with other communities, that unless participation in the VCE programme is maintained at a proper level, then there is a great risk that the Maltese language will not be maintained as a VCE subject. Constant calls for students enrolment has met with a poor response.

Council continue to maintain pressure on schools with a large population of students of a Maltese background, that they be given the opportunity of learning Maltese at school. It is also recognized that for some time there has been a shortage of trained Maltese language teachers and Council has done its utmost to obtain some assistance from the Malta Government.

Malta Discovery Tour

This has been the 4th year of the programme and it is understood that a large number of students have registered to take part. Edwina Mallia, who organizes the programme, has provided a great opportunity for students, many of whom are of a Maltese background, to visit Malta to discover for themselves, the history, language and culture of the Maltese Islands. This year the group also visited Taormina and Mount Etna in Sicily and spent two nights stopover in

Dubai on their way back to Australia. The tour was held late in November 2008 shortly after students completed their final examinations.

The Australian High Commissioner in Malta continues to welcome the students whilst in Malta.

Students from Victoria University are subsidized to the extent of \$2,000.00 which is of great encouragement to them to participate. The students are expected, whilst on the tour, to undertake a research programme with them being credited with appropriate marks for their course.

Affiliated Associations

Some 36 Maltese Associations are presently affiliated with the Council. A number of Associations are constantly contributing and assisting Council with its work. A number of Council Executive members are leaders within their own Associations.

Council has noted regular attendances at Council meetings by core associations who are continuing to support Council and make themselves available for any task directed to them.

Delegates from these associations also make a meaningful contribution to discussions at monthly meetings. It is pleasing to note that a number of associations continue to extend their activities and services to the aged members.

Weekly activities provide their members with considerable social contact.

Bambina Festival

This festival continues to be a highlight on the Maltese calendar in this State. This feast is held at St Mary's in West Melbourne organized by Father Dennis Carabott and assisted by the Reskeon Association. The Maltese Own Band and the Malta-Gozo Brimbank Band play traditional music outside the church and during the procession.

It has been of interest to note that a number of young people are now attending the church service.

Missionary Society of St Paul

Father Dennis Carabott is the chaplain for the MCCV. He has worked very closely with Council, attending all Executive and Council meetings regularly. He has also been responsible for organizing Easter and Christmas Festivities at the Community Centre and often celebrates mass for the elderly attending at the Centre. Council is grateful to Father Dennis for his commitment and meaningful participation.

Father Victor Shields visited Melbourne in July 2009 and delivered a series of lectures at the Centre and in Blacktown NSW. His sessions were most interesting and extremely well attended.

Overseas Visitors

On Saturday 21 February 2009 His Excellency Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, President of Malta and Mrs Mary Fenech Adami and Dr Tonio Borg, the Deputy Prime Minister, arrived in Melbourne.

The MCCV Council and the Maltese Australian Business & Professional Association of Victoria (MABPAV) jointly held a reception on Saturday 21 February 2009 at Firenze Receptions in Fawkner to welcome the President and Mrs Mary Fenech Adami as well as the Deputy Prime Minister to Melbourne.

On Sunday 22 February 2009 His Excellency Dr Eddie Fenech Adami unveiled the bust of St George Preca which had been installed in the Cherry Blossom Gardens at St Patrick's Cathedral grounds in East Melbourne. The bust was blessed by His Grace Archbishop Dennis Hart.

On 14 May 2009 Dr Joseph Borg, European Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs representing Malta on the European Commission and visited the Community Centre at Parkville. He addressed the community at a function organized in his honour.

Departure of Consul General

On the 18th July 2009, the community hosted a reception at the Centre to farewell the Consul General Angele Azzopardi, her husband Tony and children Liam and Kelly.

The President thanked the Consul General for her work and assistance to the Council, to the Maltese Associations and the community generally. He spoke of her involvement in the community participating in a large number of events. The Consul General had also coached her daughter, Kelly who presented the traditional child's sermon at midnight mass on Christmas eve.

The Consul General thanked all those present for the assistance given to her and the welcome which she had received from the community.

St George Preca

Council is grateful to Joseph Borg, a former MCCV President, who was the project manager for the commissioning of the work and the installation of a bust of St George Preca at St Patrick's Cathedral ground (pictured, right). The St George Preca Committee consisting of Executive members and representatives of the Society of Christian Doctrine met regularly to organize the project and arrange for the installation of the bust.

Joseph Stafrace and members of his Finance Committee worked tirelessly to raise funds in excess of \$50,000 for the project.

Council is most appreciative and grateful to the sculptor Mr Peter Collette for his professionalism and excellent work. He has been most welcoming to us whenever we visited his studio and we thank God for his talent which has resulted in an excellent replica of St George Preca.

Awards

Council extends its congratulations to Vincent Calleja OAM and his family for his award of the Medal of the Order of Australia on 8 June 2009. It was a most appropriate way of recognising his services to the Maltese Community in Victoria.

The Religious

It is often said that our Catholic faith is part of Maltese culture.

Council wishes to acknowledge the contribution of the Maltese religious. Members of the Missionary Society St Paul, the Maltese Diocesan priests, the Dominican Sisters and the Augustinian Sisters Servants of Jesus and Mary and the other Maltese Sisters who are members of various religious Orders.

The presence of our religious is extremely comforting and we are indebted to them for their services to the community.

High Commission for the Republic of Malta

Council acknowledges the assistance of His Excellency Mr Francis Tabone. He has visited Melbourne on a number of occasions throughout the year. Council maintains a meaningful relationship with his office. We wish to thank him for his support and encouragement and the information which he passes on to Council from time to time. Angele Azzopardi as the Consul General for the State of Victoria, has been a real work horse throughout her term of office. We thank her for her consular services and particularly her community involvement. We wish her every success in her diplomatic career.

Acknowledgement of Effort

Council acknowledges the great personal efforts of Alfred Axiak, a member of the Salesian Old Boys Association. Alfred is generally involved in all functions held at the Centre. He has an exceptional talent and is regarded as a decorator extraordinaire.

Alfred also prepares displays for Easter and Christmas decorations including the large crib which he constructs in the Board Room.

We thank him for his continued support and efforts and his wife Lillian, who has been extremely supportive of him.

Council Executive

I must truly acknowledge the efforts of my Executive members on the Council. They gladly accept all delegations to them and always ensure that tasks allotted are carried out in a most professional manner. They make considerable contributions to Council discussions and provide a solid driving force for its activities.

I would like to express my thanks to the following Council members for their valuable support:

- Our two Vice Presidents, *Gejtu Deguara* and *George Saliba*, for being very supportive and taking on considerable responsibilities for Council activities;
- Our long time treasurer *Paul Borg*, who gives much of his time to the financial management of Council's welfare and other activities, including his Friday evening attendances at the Maltese Centre in Parkville to manage our Bingo sessions, for his long time commitment and the expertise that he brings to the Council in the professional management of all activities;
- Our Secretary, *Edwina Mallia*, and Assistant Secretary, *Marilyn Pace*, for managing our correspondence, keeping Executive and Council meeting minutes and looking after all the administrative paperwork;
- Our Public Relations Officer, *Charles Belli*, for keeping up with regular issues of our bi-monthly newsletter letter, maintained the MCCV website and taken photograph of community events as part of Council's records;
- Our Welfare Officer, *Rosemary Attard*, for capably overseeing the MCCV Welfare Programmes and keeping Council informed throughout the year;

We are also grateful to our staff, Welfare Programmes Co-ordinator, *Michael Caruana*, Community Development Worker, *Paul Lia* and Community Aged Care C-Ordinator, *Jeffrey Saliba*, who competently manage their relevant welfare programmes and other staff engaged on the programs.

We also thank our Administrative Secretary, *Carmen Mamo*, for the excellent performance of her duties and support to the Council.

Finally, our thanks go to the many volunteers who give much of their time in support of Council programmes and community activities.

I look forward to continue to work with members of my Executive in the coming year which is my last year in the leadership of the Council.

Victor G Borg

President, MCCV

31 October 2009

Welfare Programmes

Never take a person's dignity: it is worth everything to them, and nothing to you. – Frank Barron (1922-2002)

The Welfare Programmes and other projects that the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc (MCCV) run and undertakes are based on the premise that each individual, whether young or old, able bodied or not, deserves to be treated with dignity and also ensure that dignity is not in any way diminished by others. Through this service the MCCV provides assistance directly or indirectly to the community and in particular the elderly who are ageing in Australia.

The MCCV depends on funding from the Department of Human Services (State Government) for the Home and Community Care (HACC) programmes as well as funds that emanate from the Department of Health and Ageing (Federal Government).

Planned Activity Groups

This programme runs 4 days a week in the Western and Northern suburbs with a Saturday session depending on attendees. The Maltese elderly, whom the programme targets, find a source of companionship and support from each other and our dedicated staff.

During the past year we had one client who turned 90 and has now retired into a residential facility. The majority of our clients are females as it appears that apart from outliving their husbands they do not drive or do not have the confidence to go out on their own.

The multicultural pilot Dementia Specific PAG with the Macedonian Welfare has been successful and depending on funding it will continue.

Community Education

Throughout the year we receive various calls from members of the community seeking information about services that are available to them in their circumstances. This year we had three sessions of community that covered health issues.

One session targeted carers of dementia sufferers. Alzheimer's Australia Vic and Carers Vic held a session on how and why the carer has to take care of themselves. A Yoga relaxation demonstration was part of the session which concluded with JayP (whose father is a dementia sufferer) who is the ambassador for Alzheimer's Australia singing from his album Patiently Waiting.

Another session was run by City West Water and Continence Victoria auspiced by the North West CAW Partnership. City West Water explained the need to save

water and all the ways on how to achieve around the home. Continence Victoria talked on the need of hydration and how drinking water helps the body to be healthy.

Food is an important part of any culture and the Maltese are well known for their love of food. As we know, very often we are being told that what we are used to eat maybe is not the best to eat. We were proactive and held a session on food and diabetes with an accredited dietician of Maltese background giving a presentation and a Maltese chef who showed how to prepare tasty Maltese dishes avoiding harmful fats and sugars.

During Dementia week I was invited with a GP and a carer on SBS Maltese radio to discuss and give information on what dementia is (medical), the experience of caring for a dementia sufferer and information about services available.

We also tried to hold other sessions but had to be cancelled due to lack of response or the attendance was very poor. We looked at the reasons that possibly could have contributed to this and it seemed that people did not relate to the topics or perhaps we were not clear in explaining the issue to be presented.

These sessions of community education are becoming popular and we plan to have more in the coming year. If all the MCCV affiliated associations either publicized these session and encouraged members to attend I am sure that the hall in the Centre would be full to capacity.

2009-2010

The coming year will bring with it its challenges. I plan that with the cooperation of our staff we continue to provide a service that focuses on the dignity of the person who is receiving our care and support. Partnerships is the way to go and I hope that in partnership with other agencies both mainstream and ethnic we will be able to provide the community with the service they deserve.

The MCCV welfare work can only continue to be a success if all the Maltese Community supported the programmes and events that are organized during the year. In particular I call on the leaders of the affiliated associations to work together SO that our community can grow and continue to hold its head high.

Finally I thank the Maltese broadcasters on all radio stations who are always willing and sometimes at short notice ready to announce our community events. I also thank the Executive members of the MCCV for their support and trust they put in all the staff and in me.

Michael Caruana

Welfare Programmes Coordinator

Community Aged Care Packages (CACPs)

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria received funds for twenty-five Community Aged Care Packages (CACPs) to be distributed amongst the frail, elderly Maltese. The Maltese CACPs program provides the services of Maltese-speaking Personal Care Workers who assist Maltese elderly to remain living independently in their home or community rather than having to reside in a hostel or other residential care facility.

To be eligible for a Maltese Care Package a client needs to be assessed by the local Aged Care Assessment Service and a report is then forwarded to the Program Co-ordinator at the MCCV.

The Welfare Program Co-ordinator and the CACP Co-ordinator oversee all aspects of the service including:

- **Assessing the needs of clients** – this involves liaison with medical practitioners, aged care assessment services, family, carers, and the client themselves.
- **Establishing a program that meets the complex needs of the client** – including time allocated to the client, duties of the carer, co-ordinating with other agencies involved such as district nurse, HACC groups etc.
- **Case Management** – as well as the above this includes initial meetings with prospective clients, assisting clients with transport to medical appointments, dealing with problems with Centrelink, organizing personal alarms, wheelchair ramps, smoke alarms, podiatrist, special accommodation, emergency respite, and all other health related needs.
- **Supervision of Staff** – planning schedules for staff to supervise clients, administrating the employment of staff (time-sheets, sick leave, holidays etc), monitoring client feedback and dealing with any issues with staff, organizing staff training and regular staff meetings, and organizing emergency replacement of staff when a member is taken ill.
- **Packages Review** – continual review of client needs through personal contact and through feedback from the carers and family, adapting the package to suit the changing needs of the client.

There are currently seven (two full time and 5 part-time) Personal Care Workers employed by the Maltese CACP program to provide hands on assistance to clients through:

- **Personal Care** – assistance with showering / bathing, dressing, shaving, personal grooming and general personal hygiene.
- **Home Help** – General domestic cleaning and hygiene, assistance with laundry.
- **Meals Preparation** – cooking of Maltese meals for lunch and dinner.
- **Transport** – to medical appointments, Community rehabilitation programs or Day Centres.
- **In Home Respite** – allowing the live in carers (family etc) much needed time for personal needs.

CACP also provide a gardener to maintain a neat and safe yard for the clients.

Unfortunately, in the past 12 months a number of Personal Care Workers resigned and the MCCV has not been able to replace them all at this stage. This is a reflection of an industry wide problem that is affecting all aged care agencies. There is a shortage of workers in the industry and, so far, efforts to recruit new people to the industry have had limited success. Many agencies, including our own, have met and discussed strategies to address this problem and some of these strategies will be implemented in the coming year.

Clients receive an average of three to nine hours per week, depending on their care needs and available support from family members and/or carers.

In order to expand our services to the Maltese community we are also servicing Maltese clients of other agencies and charging them for our time. This service has also impacted significantly on the duties of the CACP coordinator. Liaising with other agencies and organizing carers for these other agencies has added to their overall responsibilities, but as a result the MCCV has formed a mutually beneficial relationship with Catholic Homes. Catholic Homes have been generous in sharing their recourses, particularly in areas that a large organization such as they, will hire consultants for advice.

During the first six months of 2009, The Department of Heath and Aging conducted a Quality Reporting check, where representatives from the Department reviewed all the CACP paperwork and files. When the review was completed we received a letter from the Department highly commending us for our work.

Jeff Saliba

Community Aged Care Co-ordinator

Community Development

This year has been a very fruitful year in the area of Community Development in the Maltese Community. Our problem gambling project has come to an end and the MCCV has been funded for a further three years for our Community Partnerships Programme (CPP).

Problem Gambling

For our problem gambling project we have disseminated a large volume of material throughout the State to raise awareness of problem gambling within the Maltese community. We have also created a CD in Maltese that educates the Maltese community on problem gambling, signs of problem gambling and where to find help in overcoming this problem. This CD is of benefit for the affected persons and their families. Other materials that we created in the Maltese language are posters highlighting the dangers of problem gambling and a brochure on what is problem gambling.

Maltese Cultural Programme

We have continued to provide excellent service to the Maltese community, residential facilities and respite services through the Maltese Cultural Programme, which is funded through the Community Partnerships Programme Grant (CPP), through the Department of Health and Ageing.

Within the past year over 20 residential facilities, RDNS and Carers Vic, have been visited and have benefited through the 'Maltese Cultural Programme', which is a PowerPoint presentation with information on Maltese history, culture and traditions. This programme has been disseminated to residential facility personnel to raise awareness of the staff on Maltese cultural values and cultural needs, with the ultimate goal being that elderly Maltese in residential care benefit by receiving culturally appropriate care in mainstream residential facilities & respite services.

Maltese Resource Directory

We have also updated and distributed a large number of our Maltese Resource Directory, this directory is full of information such as Maltese recipes, phonetic translations, a cultural calendar and other useful information. This resource has been found very helpful to staff in residential facilities.

Residential Facilities Visits

We have also held visits to residential facilities for Maltese elderly to give them a first hand feel of life in a residential facility. This activity has proved very

beneficial to our elderly in assisting them to make an informed choice on residential care.

Maltese Language Workshop

This year we also started the Maltese Language Workshop, which is an informal session, where staff practice and become knowledgeable in basic Maltese words and phrases that can assist them in communicating with elderly Maltese and their respective facilities.

Fit & Fed From The Centre Of The Med

Late last year we held our first 'FIT & FED FROM THE CENTRE OF THE MED' Seminar on the Mediterranean Diet, with a special focus on Maltese cuisine. The purpose of this seminar was twofold:

- To encourage members of the Maltese Community to revert back to traditional Maltese cooking that they were brought up with the aim of improving their physical well-being; and
- To raise awareness in residential facilities of the importance that culturally appropriate foods have on the well-being of their residents.



Anton Camilleri, Maltese Chef addressing those present at the Fit and Fed

In the coming year the plan is to build on what has already been done and find new ways in which the members of our community can access services such as aged care, create programmes that are needed by our community and assist and raise awareness of mainstream organisations, residential facilities and respite services to provide better culturally appropriate care to all members of the Maltese community.

Paul Lia

Community Development Worker

Library Report

During the past five years, Dr Brian Zammit, Pauline Zammit, Charles Attard and Charles Belli have been meeting weekly on Wednesday nights to organise the library books and catalogue them according to the International Dewey Decimal System. This system is used to organise books in libraries in a specific and repeatable order that makes any book easy to find and to return to its proper place.

By November 2008, 90 percent of the books and manuscripts had been entered on the library's computer system and the number of items on the database was then 5,015 entries. Unfortunately, Dr Zammit's work commitments restricted him from attending the Wednesday meetings and therefore the group ceased to meet. We thank them for all their time working in the library during those five years.

Since then a large number of books and other reading material were donated to the library. On behalf of the Executive Committee of the MCCV and the Library staff I wish to thank Charles Camilleri's family for donating the great collection of Maltese literature to the MCCV library. The task of processing this collection has been completed.

The number of items processed from this collection was close to 800 books. 595 of these books were entered into the database and added to the Library's collection. Owing to the limited space available in the library we could keep only two copies of each book. The remaining 200 duplicates are stored in one of the centre's offices to be distributed to city councils' libraries in locations where Maltese residents may have access to this literature. 30 books have already been donated to the Glenroy library managed by the Moreland City Council.

Most of the library books and manuscripts are now entered into the computerised database and as at the 20th September 2009, the database shows 6,535 entries. This does not include a number of books and periodicals requiring repairs and other multimedia material such as audiocassettes and videotapes which have not as yet been catalogued. Further housekeeping and stocktaking work is urgently required in the library. We are hopeful that Brian Zammit and Pauline Zammit would be able to continue to assist.

Finally I wish to thank Gejtu Deguara the officer-in-charge of the library, Joe Ellul for his involvement and assistance in the library and all those who have in the past donated books to the Maltese Community Council Library.

Charles J. Belli

Library Co-ordinator

Ladies Auxiliary

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV) Ladies Auxiliary's (LA) main aim is to support the MCCV, provide and extend welfare services to the Maltese Community. During the year the LA held bingo sessions on Tuesdays and sponsored the Christmas lunch in December for the Maltese frail and aged.

The Bingo sessions on Tuesdays provide an outlet for a small group of women who come to the centre on regular basis. They look forward to their social gathering and enjoy playing bingo in a more relaxed atmosphere. Bingo commences on the first Tuesday in February and concludes on the second Tuesday in December. Last year the Bingo group joined the Welfare group and celebrated the Christmas break up together. A raffle is held during the luncheon to help with the day's expenses.

During the year Birthdays and Special days are celebrated, Shrove Tuesday with home made pancakes and home made jam, on St Patrick's Day the prize on the last green ticket is doubled and at Easter with Figolli and Easter Eggs. More events will be celebrated next year.

Committee members and their partners volunteered to assist at the Maltese Community Council during the St George Preca celebrations.

At the MCCV Council meeting in February 2009 the LA president reported that their storage cupboards were tampered with, during the Christmas holidays. Tablecloths were used and left soiled in the cupboard and bingo tickets taken.

At the last meeting held in June the LA committee decided that since they no longer are holding a craft stalls, all the material stored will be distributed amongst charitable organizations before the end of the year.

The LA appreciates the support of all the committee members, their partners and Volunteers. Their assistance throughout the year is greatly appreciated.

Committee members: *Mary Cefai, Pauline Farrugia, Treasurer, Mary McLaughlin, Secretary, Inez Mifsud, Therese Tabone, Vice President, and Marlene Xerri, President.*

Men's Group

The Men's Group provides a great opportunity for men of Maltese background who often find themselves isolated at home to meet on a weekly basis, make new friendships and support each other.

The men are happy to get together for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee, some pastizzi and some beautiful fresh homemade salad rolls. They discuss Maltese news items and their visits overseas. Soccer and AFL results sometimes dominate the scene. They also enjoy a trip down memory lane recalling instances of their youth in Malta.

The group has been active for over 20 years and meets every Monday from 9.00am till 2.00pm.

Activities available include: -

- Billiards
- Card games
- Draughts
- Or just a quiet morning sitting down with great company.

During the colder months, hot meals are available from the kitchen, including:

- Pastizzi
- Ravjul
- Qassatat
- Hobz biz-zejt
- Tea
- Coffee
- Soft Drinks
- Kinnie

The Men's Group at the Maltese Community Centre is open to everyone, not just to those of a Maltese background, further information can be obtained by contacting John or Marilyn Pace at the Maltese Community Centre on 9387 8922 on Monday's from 9.00am till 2.00pm and Friday's from 3.00pm till 9.00pm.

John Pace and Marilyn Pace

Men's Group Co-ordinators

Discovery Tour of Malta and Sicily - 2008

The tour was once again held in conjunction with Victoria University. It was listed as a Study Tour and students participating on this tour were eligible for credits towards their degree as well as, this year, a travel grant of \$2,000.

Helen Borland from Victoria University considered this tour intensive and informative enough to make it eligible for students to have it recognised as a study tour in combination with their degree course and the university is ready to help students with monetary support.

The Malta Discovery Tour group departed on 21 November 2008 and returned to Melbourne on 15 December 2008.

On the SBS Maltese radio programme on Monday 9 June Marlee Galea interviewed myself, Deborah Camilleri and Laura Grech, two students and Mary Zammit who participated on the 2007 trip.

The tour is open to everyone – students, young adults over 18 years and older adults – no age limit.

3 weeks were spent in Malta. There was (as always) an option to spend 4 days in Sicily where we visited Taormina and Mount Etna as well as two nights stopover in Dubai where we all went crazy with the shopping!!!.

All accommodation, daily breakfast and some meals were included. The accommodation was at a hotel on the Sliema seafront, central to everything. We are accompanied by an English speaking guide on all the excursions. We pre booked the visit to the Hypogeum – Hal Saflieni underground temple to make sure we get in.

Our trip always starts with a visit to Valletta and the Multi Media Show – The Malta Experience. From then on we visit the places of interest chronologically starting with the prehistoric temples, through the ages to the Roman Domus, the middle ages to Mdina, The Three Cities, Valletta and other sites not usually covered on the usual tourist run. We also have a Maltese picnic at Buskett Gardens and visit the northern end of the island.

For the trip to Sicily we flew from Malta to Catania with transfers to Taormina and stayed in a hotel there for 4 nights. Excursions were organised to Mount Etna and a walking tour of Taormina with transfers back to the airport.

For the Dubai option transfers from and to the airport as well as accommodation for 2 nights in a Dubai hotel and visa were all organised.

The Maltese Community Council holds these tours to encourage the young people to learn and discover more about Malta as well as to help those who would like some assistance with travelling on their own.

There are usually 20 places available on this trip, on this trip there were 11 participants.

Edwina Mallia
Tour Coordinator



The Malta Discovery Tour Group 2008 visiting Dingli Cliffs, Malta

Appendix A – Community Events in Pictures

Saturday 21 February 2009

Dinner Dance to welcome the President of Malta, H.E. Dr Edward Fenech Adami Held at Firenze Receptions, Fawkner



His Excellency Dr Fenech Adami addresses the gathering



MCCV President, Mr Victor Borg, presents a gift to Dr Fenech Adami



The Australian High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr Jurek Juszczak, Mr Victor Borg, Dr Edward Fenech Adami, Mrs Fenech Adami and His Excellency Mr Francis Tabone.



Jay P performing at the President's Welcoming Dinner Dance

Sunday 22nd February 2009

The Blessing of the Bust of St George Preca at St Patrick's Cathedral



The Bust of Saint George Preca at the studio of Peter Corlett, (Sculptor).



Archbishop Denis Hart, blessing the Bust of St George Preca.

Thursday, 14th May 2009

Visit by Dr Joe Borg, European Union Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs



Dr Joe Borg addressing guests at his welcome reception held at the Maltese Community Centre Parkville.



left to right - Member of the European Union Delegation, Dr Joe Borg together with Mrs Angele Azzopardi, Consul General for the Republic of Malta in Victoria viewing the completed statue of Saint George Preca.



Mrs Angele Azzopardi , Consul General for the Republic of Malta in Victoria, Dr Edgar Gatt, Dr Joe Borg, Edwina Mallia (Secretary MCCV) and guests.



The Executive Committee of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc (Back: Marilyn Pace, Assistant Secretary; Victor Borg, President; Guy Deguara, Vice President; Rosemary Attard, Welfare Director; George Saliba, Vice President; Front: Edwina Mallia, Secretary; Dr Joe Borg; Dr Edgar Gatt; Angele Azzopardi) .

Saturday, 18th July 2009

The Farewell Function for Mrs Angele Azzopardi, Consul General for the Republic of Malta in Victoria held at the Maltese Community Centre, Parkville



Above: Mr George Saliba, Fr Noel Bianco, Mr Victor Borg, Mrs Angele Azzopardi, His Excellency Mr Francis Tabone, His Grace, Bishop Joseph Grech.

Below: Mr Victor Borg, President, MCCV, Mrs Angele Azzopardi and Ms Miriam Cassar, Secretary to the Consul General.



Above: Mrs Angele Azzopardi addressing the guests.



Appendix B – MCCV Committees and Memberships

(* Denotes Chairperson or joint Chairpersons)

MCCV Executive Committee

President	Victor Borg A.M. MQR, LL.B.(Melb), LL.M. (Lond)
Vice President	Guy Deguara
Vice President	George Saliba
Secretary	Edwina Mallia
Treasurer	Paul Borg
Assistant Secretary	Marilyn Pace
Welfare Director	Rosemary Attard
Chaplain	Fr. Denis Carabott M.S.S.P.

Centre Management

*Victor Borg; *Fr. Denis Carabott MSSP; George Saliba; Guy Deguara; Edwina Mallia; Paul Borg; Rosemary Attard; Marilyn Pace

Men's Group

John & Marilyn Pace

Education

Edwidge Borg; Laura Schembri; Georgina Scillio; Edward Mercieca

Library

Guy Deguara; Charles Belli; Dr Brian Zammit

Administration

Edwina Mallia - Council Secretary
Carmen Mamo – Administrative Assistant

Maintenance

Guy Deguara

Ladies Auxiliary

*Marlene Xerri; Theresa Tabone; Inez Mifsud; Mary Cefai; Pauline Farrugia; M. McLaughlin; Carmen Fenech

Welfare Staff

Rosemary Attard (Executive Member) – Welfare Director; Michael Caruana – Welfare Programmes Coordinator; Jeff Saliba – CAPS Coordinator; Paul Lia – Community Development Officer

Planned Activity Groups (HACC)

Margaret Mallia; Theresa Tabone; Pauline Fenech; Doris Bassi; Diane Buccello; Antoinette Kasjan; Carmen Mamo

Community Aged Care Packages (CACP)

Josephine Axiaq; Doris Bassi; Diane Bucello; Annie Demetriou; Rose Nuner; Doris Cauchi; Carmen Gauci; Josephine Gauci; Marina Scholz; Vicky Sammut; Mary Boland; Wayne Micallef

Bingo Committee

*Paul Borg; Vince Calleja; George Brimmer; George Saliba; Emmanuel Camilleri; John Pace;
Marilyn Pace; Horace Dalli; Peter Cardona; Ray Buttigieg; Maria Calleja; Maurice Spiteri

Cultural Festival Co-ordinators

Alfred Asciak; George Saliba; Paul Lia

Membership & Council Representatives

Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria
Radio 3ZZZ Board of Management

E. Micallef

Appendix C – Liaison and Outreach Activities

Government Departments

Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service
Dept. of Health and Ageing
Dept. of Human Services
Dept. of Immigration, Multicultural & Indigenous Affairs
Employment, Education & Training Youth Affairs
Victorian Multicultural Commission

City Councils

Brimbank City Council
Darebin City Council
Hobson's Bay City Council
Hume City Council
Maribyrnong City Council
Melbourne City Council
Melton City Council
Moreland City Council
Whittlesea City Council
Wyndham City Council

Maltese Organisations

Malta High Commission - Canberra
Consul-General for Malta - Victoria
Bank of Valletta Ltd.
Maltese Community Council - Canberra
Maltese Community Council of NSW
Maltese Community Council of QLD
Maltese Community Council of SA
Maltese Community Council of WA
Maltese-Australian Club - Tasmania
Public Library of Malta
University of Malta

Ethnic Organisations

Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria
Australian Greek Welfare Society
Australian Jewish Welfare & Relief Committee
Ethnic Services Network
Italian Assistance Association (COASIT)

Welfare, Educational and Cultural Organisations

Age Care Assessment Team (ACAT)
Altona Migrant Resource Centre
Alzheimer's Association Victoria
Australian Council for Rehabilitation

Welfare, Educational and Cultural Organisations (cont.)

Australian Council on Population and Ethnic Affairs
 Brimbank Community Health Service
 Catholic Education Office
 Catholic Family Welfare Bureau
 Commonwealth Voluntary Learning Group
 Community Justice Centre
 Diabetes Australia
 Ethnic Consultation Committee of Victoria
 Health Research Centre
 ISIS Primary Care
 Linkages
 Marian Secondary College Sunshine
 Melbourne University
 North West Migrant Resource Centre
 Northern Metropolitan Migrant Resource
 Royal Park Psychiatric Hospital
 St. Bernadette's Primary School, North Sunshine
 St. Albans & Deer Park Agencies Network Group
 The Australian Association of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta
 Victoria University
 Victorian Committee for Child Care Services
 Victorian Committee on Discrimination in Employment and Occupation
 Victorian Council of Social Service
 Victorian Deaf Society
 Vision Australia Foundation

Hostels & Hospitals

Rosary Home
 St. Bernadette's Hostel
 Western Hospital
 North West Hospital
 North-West Hospital Royal Park
 Royal District Nursing Service
 St. George's Nursing Home/Hostel
 Winteringham Hostel

Broadcasting, Communications/Media

SBS Radio	93.1 FM
Radio 3ZZZ	92.3 FM
Stereo 97.4	97.4 FM
97.9FM Melton	97.9 FM
Radio North West	98.9 FM

Appendix D – Affiliated Associations

Association

Australian Nadur Association Inc
 Ex-Members of the Malta Police Force Ass
 Hadfield Golden Years Social Club Inc
 Klabb Ghannejja Maltin Inc
 Lalor United Bocci Club
 Maltese Australian Business & Professional Association
 of Victoria (MABPAV)
 Malta Star of the Sea House Inc
 Maltese Association Hobsons Bay Inc
 Maltese Association Northern Suburbs Inc
 Maltese Australian Association
 Maltese Cultural Association of Victoria Inc
 Maltese Ex Services Association of Victoria
 Maltese Historical Association of Australia
 Maltese La Vallette Association
 Maltese Literature Group
 Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society Inc
 Maltese Performing Arts
 Maltese Salesian Past Pupils Assoc of Vic Inc
 Maltese Senior Citizens Club Airport West Inc
 Maltese Social Bowls Club Inc
 Maltese Committee Centre La Trobe Valley
 Melita Social Club Inc
 Moreland Maltese Elderly Citizens Assoc
 Newport Maltese Association Inc
 Newport Senior Citizens Group
 Our Lady of Grace Association
 Portarlington Maltese Pensioners Assoc Inc
 Reskeon Maltese Association
 Reskeon Seniors Group
 St Albans Good Friday Ass Inc
 St Bernadette Seniors & Social Club
 St. Gaetan's Society Inc.
 St. Paul's South Eastern Suburbs Assoc. Inc.
 St. Sebastian Association Inc
 St.Helena Maltese-Australian Social Club
 Stella Maris Maltese Association
 Sunshine George Cross Soccer Club
 Tarxien Social Club
 Tripoli Social Club
 Western Suburbs Maltese Assoc. Inc.

President

Mr Tony Sultana
 Mr Vince Calleja
 Mrs Rita Saliba
 Mr George Aquilina
 Mr David Ellul

 Mr Damien Digby
 Mr George Cini
 Chev Joseph Attard
 Mr Lewis Debono
 Mr Benedict Soler
 Mr Peter Muscat
 Mr Emmanuel Spiteri
 Mrs Frances Bonnici
 Mr Joe Schembri
 Dr Victor E Sammut
 Mr Solero Xuereb
 Mr Ray Anastasi
 Mr Joe Portelli
 Mr Alfred Sammut
 Mrs Joy Clinch
 Mr Charlie Zammit
 Mr Edwin Bonello
 Mr Robert Lewis
 Mr Vince Calleja
 Mr George Saliba
 Mr Joseph Portelli
 Mr Charles Attard
 Mr Caesar Vella
 Mr Caesar Vella
 Mr Lewis Stafrace
 Mr Alfred Zahra
 Mr Guy Deguara
 Fr Noel Bianco
 Mr Raymond Gatt
 Mr Victor Bartolo
 Mr Charlie Xerri
 Mr Charlie Borg
 Mrs Lina Mizzi
 Mr Romeo Cini
 Mr Vince Aquilina

Appendix E – Ethnic Radio Stations

Broadcasting Maltese Programs

<i>Name & Address</i>	<i>Contact Details</i>	<i>Program Time</i>
SBS Radio	Mr. Joe Axiaq	Monday, Tuesday, Thur & Saturday
PO Box 294	Title: Executive Producer	12.00pm–1.00pm
Sth Melb 3205	Ph: 9949 2121	Monday, Tuesday, Friday & Saturday
	Fax: 9949 2385	7.00pm- 8.00pm

BROADCASTERS: Joe Axiaq; Marlene Galea; Tony Spiteri; Manuel Casha; Paul Lia

Radio 3ZZZ	Mr. Emmanuel Brincat	Monday 5.00pm-6.00pm
PO Box 1106	Title: Maltese Programs Convenor	Friday 5.00pm-6.00pm
Collingwood 3066	Ph: 9415 1928	Saturday 10.00am-11.00am
	Fax:	9415 1818 Last Wednesday of
month		1.00pm – 2.00pm

BROADCASTERS: Emmanuel Brincat; Mario Sammut; Paul Vella; Lewis Stafrace

Stereo 97.4	Mr. Ray Anastasi	Wednesday and Thursday
PO Box 217	Title: Co-ordinator	6.00pm-8.00pm
Sunshine 3020	Ph: 9318 0444	
	Fax: 9318 0866	

BROADCASTERS: MaryLouise Anastasi, Ray Anastasi, Charlie Zammit; Carmen Zammit; Carmen Testa; Carmen Portelli; Michelle Galea; Joe Farrugia

97.9 FM	Mrs. Miriam Vella	Tuesday 6.00pm -8.00pm
PO Box 979	Title: Broadcaster	
Melton 3337	Ph: 9747 8500	
	Fax: 9747 0405	

BROADCASTERS: Miriam Vella; Robert Vella

98.9 North West FM	Mr: Emmanuel Brincat	Friday 6.00pm-7.00pm
PO Box 403	Title: Producer/Presenter	
Glenroy 3046	Ph: 9304 1244	
	Fax: 9304 1468	

BROADCASTER: Emmanuel Brincat