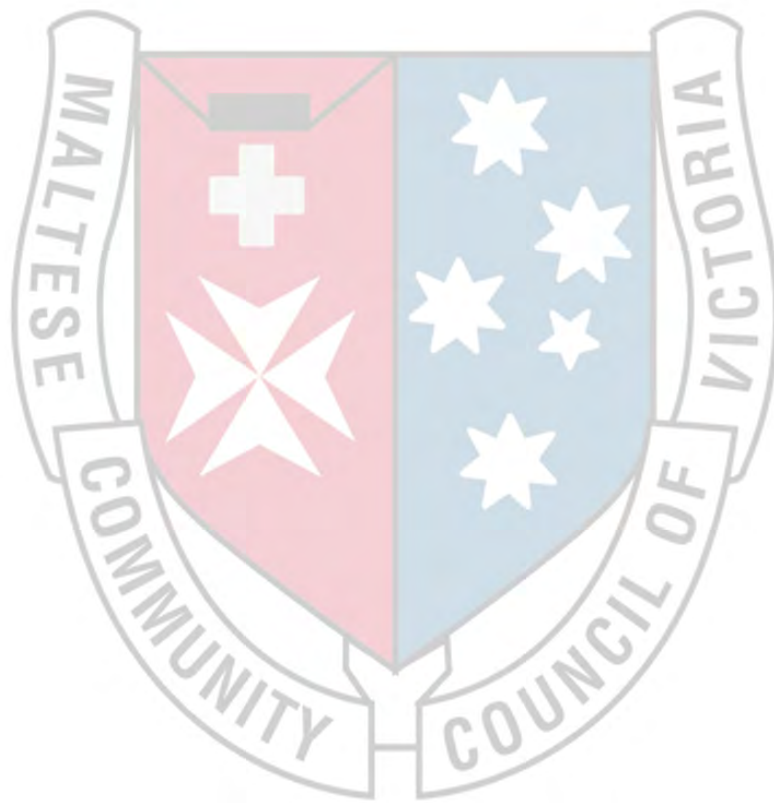


Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.



Annual Report 2009/10

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President's Report

I am pleased and proud to present the Maltese Community Council of Victoria ("MCCV") Annual Report for the year ending 30th October 2010.

This has been a busy and productive year for the MCCV particularly in identifying and catering for the needs of aged members of our community. Their numbers are constantly on the increase and the shortage of places in aged care facilities has placed considerable stress on our welfare programme and our full-time employees.

The MCCV continues to stress the need for aged persons to plan for their future accommodation. Quite often, the necessity for placement arises from a death of one of the partners and/or their admission to hospital.

The MCCV maintained a strong link with a number of aged care facilities, particularly those in the western suburbs, to ensure that these facilities are sensitized to the particular needs of the Maltese aged. These needs generally extend beyond their physical well-being and include their spiritual needs. We are fully aware of the discomfort and reduced self-confidence felt by the aged, when they are no longer able to enjoy an independent life or have access to religious services

During the past year the MCCV fulfilled its obligation to ensure that those agencies, which members of the Maltese community may turn to for services, are fully aware of the culture and needs of our aged community members. These members often contact the MCCV to find out more about available aged care facilities and suggest places to visit and enquire as to availability of accommodation.

It is acknowledged that family networks which had previously supported many of the aged are often unavailable in this country and expectations are generally shattered. The Council's Welfare Programmes have attempted to address these issues.

WELFARE PROGRAMMES

The MCCV has been fortunate to maintain the Community Partnership Programme, (CPP), the Home and Community Care (HACC) Programme and the Community Aged Care Packages (CACP). The CPP Programme enables Council to raise awareness of those in the aged care industry to be acquainted with and sensitized in respect of our culture and language and the specific needs of the aged Maltese community members. Our workers have presented a number of residential facilities with a Maltese cultural package.

We have worked closely with Carers Victoria. Our Welfare manager, Michael Caruana, is fully extended in this programme and is constantly requested by some of its providers to address them and their staff. The MCCV continues to run day programmes for the Maltese aged from its premises at Parkville and Sunshine. There are generally waiting lists for people to be taken into the programme.

The MCCV is grateful to the many volunteers who assist in the Welfare Programme. We are encouraged by their efforts and commitment in assisting members of their own community.

The HCCP Programme, funded by the Department of Health, has enabled the MCCV to deliver a number of programmes within the community, including the *Fit and Fed from the Centre of the Med* programme to educate the aged in a possible change of lifestyle and help healthy cooking. This programme encourages the aged to take stock of their illnesses, particularly diabetes, which affects a large number. Our community development officer, Paul Lia, who is responsible for this programme, has been very innovative and a 1940s Social Dance was oversubscribed.

The MCCV recently produced a CD, in the Maltese language, dealing with problems of gambling. This followed an intensive community education programme alerting members of the tragic circumstances for those who are addicted and put themselves and their family at risk.

Diversion programmes have been tried by our workers and hopefully there will be many who take up other means of socialising and establishing friendship within the community. This would be of great assistance to them in dealing with loneliness and/or self worth.

The Community Aged Care Packages (CACPs) Programme, under which the MCCV was funded with 32 places, enables Council to provide specific services in people's home. These include personal care, home help, transport, meal preparation and home respite. The MCCV has been charged with contracting the provision of carer services, including in people's home.

Our welfare officer responsible for this programme, Jeff Saliba, is constantly on the search for the best services that may be contracted in order to ensure that our clients' needs are well met and provided for.

More details about of our welfare programmes appear below in the relevant sections of this report which provide full details of services being delivered by the Council.

MALTESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

The MCCV is fortunate and thankful to the Maltese Historical Association and the Maltese Literature Group for their efforts in promoting the Maltese culture and language.

Due to a lack of resources and the preference shown by a number of our member associations, the MCCV had, some two years ago, decided to introduce an annual social calendar to replace the Maltese Cultural Festival, which attempted to run several cultural activities over a period of two weeks. A number of associations, such as, the Maltese Historical Association, the Maltese Literature Group, the *Klabb Għannejja Maltin* have come to the fore, delivering a number of presentations to the community. These presentations have been very well received by the Maltese community and many

of their friends, some of whom had for the first time been exposed to the Maltese language and culture in very favourable circumstances.

The MCCV is indebted to all the associations who took part in making their presentations which were enjoyed by all those who attended.

One should also recognise Lillian Calleja's contribution to the promotion of Maltese culture by organising a special programme of activities aimed at young members of our community.

The MCCV appreciates the efforts and dedication of the volunteer teachers who deliver the language classes and encourage young members of our community to learn the Maltese language and culture.

Unfortunately the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) status of the Maltese language as an academic subject in Australia is at risk. If schools do not present a minimum of 15 students for the 2011 Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) exam, Maltese will be gradually removed from the list of languages offered at that level by the Australian Education Department. At a Professional Development Seminar held on the weekend of 25-26 September 2010 by the Federation of Maltese Language Schools (FMLS) at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville keynote speaker Mr Frank Merlino, the Principal of the Victorian School of Languages, spoke about the issue of the small candidature taking up Maltese at senior levels and encouraged the Maltese schools to enrol more students to undertake the Maltese examination offered by the Board of Studies of Victoria.

THE MALTA DISCOVERY TOUR

The 2009 Malta Discovery Tour that MCCV Secretary, Edwina Mallia, led was most successful. Thirty-two students from Victoria University joined the tour, which had been planned well in advance. It was encouraging to note that a number of students were not of a Maltese background, but had obviously been attracted by their close association with other students, whose parents were born in Malta, or whose relatives are still resident in Malta.

Victoria University subsidised their students' fares to the extent of some \$2,000 each on condition that they complete an assignment consisting of the presentation of a paper related to their trip on their return. By way of encouragement the MCCV donated a prize of \$500 to the student with the best presentation. George Grima won the prize, which was presented to him by the MCCV President at a special function organised by the University.

Unfortunately this programme has been suspended for this year, but hopefully it will be back on the agenda in 2011. The MCCV appreciates the efforts of Edwina Mallia in encouraging the young to travel to Malta and experience the language, culture and cuisine which the country has to offer. Her contacts with the Government of Malta and the University of Malta have ensured a wide ranging experience to all the students who attended and who were most appreciative.

The group also stopped in Rome and had an opportunity of visiting the Vatican and many other places of interest on their return.

MALTA CONVENTION OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

The MCCV is grateful to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Dr Tonio Borg, and the Government of Malta for organising the Convention, which was well attended and a great success.

The Prime Minister, the Hon. Dr Lawrence Gonzi, the Leader of the Opposition, Dr Joseph Muscat, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Dr Tonio Borg, the Minister of Education, the Hon. Doloress Christina, and other Government representatives together with a number of Government Department officials were among the Maltese leaders who addressed the Convention. It was most encouraging to observe the readiness and interest of these public figures to address the needs of the Maltese community resident overseas and the proposals arising from the conference.

A number of MCCV Executive Committee members attended the Convention as well as a representative of our affiliated associations. The Convention, which was run over a period of one week, covered the following topics:

- The challenge of change - Education, Culture, Heritage.
- The Elderly in the Community.
- Youth, towards the future.
- Consular and Citizenship.

Professor Maurice Cauchi, Immediate Past President of the MCCV, presented a keynote paper on *Ageing: The Current Situation in Australia*, Paul Borg, MCCV Treasurer, on *The Care and the Elderly in Australia*, and Victor Borg, MCCV President, on *The Challenge of Engaging Maltese-Australian Youth in Maltese Community Life in Australia*. Another keynote speaker at the Convention Marlene Galea, Senior Producer of the SBS Maltese Program in Melbourne, presented a speech with the title of *Iż-Żgħażaġh Awstraljani Maltin – Għarfien lil ta' Qabilhom – Direzzjoni Ġdida (Australian Maltese Youth – Recognition of their Predecessors – A New Direction)*. Damien Digby, President of the Maltese Australian Business and Professional Association of Victoria (MABPAV) and Emmanuel Cilia representing the Maltese Historical Association also made brief presentations at the Convention.

A keynote paper presented by Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, MCCV PRO, on *The Critical Role of Government in Maltese Diaspora Engagement* generated considerable interest at the Convention, particularly given that the research established that the number of Maltese living outside Malta exceeds half a million. In this paper, the results of research on 'diasporas' as well as on diaspora engagement models used by governments around the world were presented. These benchmark models adopted by other governments were found to go way beyond any model hitherto considered by the Maltese Government for the engagement with the Maltese Diaspora. A copy of this research paper may be downloaded from the MCCV website.

It is very pleasing to note that, at the opening of the Convention, the Hon. Dr Tonio Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs recognised the need for upgrading the Maltese Diaspora engagement model. Dr Borg acknowledged that the interests of Maltese living abroad should be at the forefront of the government policy-making process. The Deputy Prime Minister announced the Maltese Government's intention to establish a permanent institution to look after the interests of the Maltese living abroad. While the exact form of this institution was yet to be determined, he recognised that it was time to set up an institution, agency or council to revise the progress of plans and initiatives in favour of the Maltese Living Abroad on a regular basis. He went on to state that the Government was considering the option of having it established by law.

The MCCV is most appreciative of the welcome extended to all the delegates who attended the Convention, and the opportunity to establish new networks on a world wide basis. The number of delegates from Australia outnumbered by far those from the rest of the world and the Victorian contingent comprised about three-fourths of the Australian attendees.

The MCCV must also acknowledge the hospitality extended to the delegates by the President of Malta, His Excellency Dr George Abela, the Prime Minister of Malta, the Hon. Dr Lawrence Gonzi, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Dr Tonio Borg. The President of Malta hosted the final session at the majestic President's Palace in Valletta.

It is pleasing to note that a number of foreign ambassadors, including the High Commissioner for Australia in Malta, Her Excellency Ms Anne Quinane, were in attendance during the opening and closing ceremonies. Her Excellency also hosted a reception for all the delegates and participants at her official residence in Naxxar, making us extremely proud of her efforts and encouragement, and we are sincerely grateful to her for her involvement, which was appreciated by all.

During the conference a number of delegates, particularly those who attended the conference in the year 2000, were all of the opinion that every effort should be made to establish a worldwide organisation to represent the interest of the members of the Maltese community living overseas. It was generally accepted that the Federation Of Maltese Abroad (FOMA), which came into being following a resolution unanimously passed at the 2000 Convention, had generally been inactive and had no contact with the delegates who had voted for its formation and the Maltese associations overseas.

As a result, three delegates attending the 2010 Convention were charged with the responsibility of calling for expressions of interest from delegates to participate on a committee tasked with formally establishing a worldwide organisation to represent the interests of the Maltese Diaspora resident overseas. Eleven delegates subsequently indicated their preparedness to form part of this committee under the chairmanship of Professor Maurice Cauchi, who was unanimously selected as Chairperson. Of the other ten members, there are three from Victoria, namely Edwin Bonello, President, Melita Social Club, Edwidge Borg, Past MCCV President, and Damien Digby, MABPAV President.

One of the first decisions made by the organising committee was to re-name the organisation as *Federation of Maltese Living Abroad* (FMLA). The Committee has been charged with the responsibility of drafting a constitution as well as calling on overseas organisation to register as members of the new federation. It is pleasing to note that a large number of MCCV-affiliated associations have registered their membership.

It is noted that two newsletters have to date been prepared and published under the editorship of the Secretary, Albert Vella, who lives in Toronto, Canada. This FMLA activity augurs well for the Maltese community spread around the globe. There are undoubtedly many issues to be taken up by the committee and the work done so far is very encouraging.

SPECIAL EVENTS

On 23 February 2010 the Hon. John Brumby, Premier of Victoria, attended at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville to launch the book *Under One Umbrella: A History of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria 1958-2008*, which was researched and written by Prof. Maurice Cauchi. The Premier was extremely complimentary of the contribution made by members of the Maltese community in this State both in his Foreword to the book and in his speech at the launch.

The MCCV is grateful to the Victorian Multicultural Commission for the grant towards the expense of publication of the book. Everyone is encouraged to obtain a copy of the book which is extremely well researched and of a very high standard. The MCCV appreciates the efforts of Prof. Maurice Cauchi, which ensured that the history of the Maltese Community in this State is well documented, particularly for the benefit of the members of the general Australian community and those members of the Maltese community, who will hopefully take on the role of community leadership in the future.

OVERSEAS VISITORS

Throughout the year we have had a number of distinguished visitors from interstate and overseas.

- On 30 November 2009 Her Excellency the High Commissioner of Australia in Malta, Ms Anne Quinane, visited the Maltese Community Centre at Parkville and met with the MCCV President and Executive members. At the time of her visit she was about to leave for Malta to take up her appointment as the new High Commissioner.
- On 29 May 2010 the MCCV hosted a welcome reception for the Hon. Dr Joseph Muscat, Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Malta Labour Party. Dr Muscat was also accompanied by the Hon. Dr George Vella, Shadow Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Hon. Charles Buhagiar, Shadow Minister of Public Works. Dr Muscat was welcomed by the MCCV President, Victor Borg, and members of the Executive and was well received by a large number of guests present.

- On 8 September 2010 Fr Hilary Tagliaferro OSA, on a visit from Malta, and Fr Edwin Agius MSSP, concelebrated Mass on the occasion of the Feast of Maria Bambina attended by about 125 members of the Maltese Community at the Maltese Centre Parkville. Fr Hilary spoke of his involvement in the Millennium Chapel in Paceville, Malta, the work undertaken by him on a spiritual level, and his interest, involvement and contribution to football coaching in Malta. Fr Hilary was visiting Australia to attend a major United Nations conference focusing on global health and the Millennium Development Goals held at the Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre from 30 August to 1 September 2010.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA

The MCCV wishes to thank His Excellency Mr Francis Tabone for his continued support and efforts as the senior representative of the Government of Malta in Australia. We wish to particularly thank him for his frequent visits to this State and the information which he passes on directly to the MCCV and other Maltese Associations.

On 21 August 2001 His Excellency Mr Francis Tabone launched an exhibition of paintings of Malta created by the renowned Australian artist Brian Kewley at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville. Mr Tabone presented Mr Kewley with a book about *Malta Fortress 360 Degrees* as a token of appreciation.

NEW MALTESE CONSUL-GENERAL FOR THE STATE OF VICTORIA

On 30 January 2010 the MCCV hosted a reception to welcome Mr Charles Mifsud, the newly appointed Consul-General for the Republic of Malta and Mrs Anna Maria Mifsud. Mr Mifsud arrived in Melbourne on 1 December 2009. He has been very well received by members of the Maltese community. Since his arrival he has been extremely helpful and his interest in the Maltese language and history has been most encouraging.

Mr Mifsud is also very experienced in the celebration of Maltese *festas* and, together with his wife, took no time in being part of the Maltese community in this State. He has been extremely receptive of the Maltese community generally and has formed a close working relationship with the MCCV and Maltese associations.

The MCCV wishes him well in his term of office and is appreciative of his various contributions since his appointment.

THE RELIGIOUS

The MCCV continues to work in close partnership with members of the Missionary Society of St Paul (MSSP). The MSSP, under the leadership of Fr Mario Zammit, continues to provide guidance and support to members of the Maltese community.

The MCCV wishes to thank Fr Dennis Carabott, a long time chaplain of the Council, for his contribution. At the start of 2010 Council welcomed, Fr Edwin Agius MSSP, the Victorian Provincial of the Order as his replacement on the Executive Committee.

This year the MSSP is celebrating the centenary of its formation under the founder, Monsignor Depiro. Centenary celebration are scheduled to take place on 28 November 2010 at Saint Leopold Croatian Catholic Centre in Ardeer. MSSP Superior General, Fr Bernard Mangion, visiting Melbourne for the occasion, will preside over a short celebration programme, which will be followed by Holy Mass celebrated by His Grace Archbishop Denis Hart, Archbishop of Melbourne, as the Principal Celebrant, with several MSSP priests concelebrating. The Society extended an open invitation to the Maltese community in Victoria. We feel certain that the community will once again show its great appreciation for the work of the MSSP in this country and the many roles it fulfils in the advancement of the community by turning up in great numbers.

The MCCV acknowledges the contribution that continues to be made by:

- Bishop Joseph Grech, Bishop of the Diocese of Sandhurst, particularly for his leadership to the religious in this State,
- Rev Dr Victor Shields MSSP, who presents a series of lectures during his annual visits to Victoria and New South Wales,
- the Maltese Diocesan priests in this State, who continue to provide for the needs of the various parishes in which they are appointed,
- the Dominican Sisters of Malta under the leadership of Sr Doris Falzon and her community in Keilor Downs, and
- the Augustinian Sisters of the Order of the Servants of Jesus and Mary providing pastoral care through their North Sunshine and Avondale Heights communities.

We are also thankful for their work and contribution. We are fortunate to have a number of other Maltese nuns represented in this State who also contribute to the well being of the community.

FEAST OF MARIA BAMBINA 2010

The traditional feast of Maria Bambina in Melbourne was once again organised by Reskeon Maltese Association on behalf of the Missionary Society of St. Paul.

- On 8 September, Fr Edwin Agius, MSSP, and Fr Hilary Tagliaferro, OSA, on a visit from Malta, concelebrated Mass at the Maltese Centre in Parkville.
- On 11 September, a well-attended Vittoria Dinner Dance was held at Firenze Receptions, Fawkner. The Malta-Gozo City of Brimbank Concert Band played marches for the occasion.
- On 12 September, a Mass was concelebrated at the recently renovated St. Mary Star of the Sea Church in West Melbourne by eight priests: Fr KarmBorg, Fr Edwin Agius, Fr Denis Carabott, Fr Emmanuel Adami and Fr Dr Victor Shields, all MSSP, Fr Dominic Degiorgio, Fr Hilary Tagliaferro, OSA, and Fr Niranjana Kanmury, a priest from India.

Afterwards, a procession with the beautiful statue of Marija Bambina was held in the streets surrounding the church, accompanied by the Maltese Own Band Philharmonic

Society and the St Albans Melita Band. The procession was followed by the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS

There are presently 40 Maltese associations affiliated to the MCCV. There are a number of associations which are constantly contributing to MCCV initiatives and many members of their Executive Committee are involved on the various MCCV committees.

It is pleasing to note that some five associations have established elderly citizen groups within their membership, which meet generally at a venue close to their membership base. The services which they provide are essential for the well-being of the elderly and their regular social contact and support is to be commended. The MCCV thanks these associations for their efforts, commitment and support.

SAD FAREWELLS

On 4 May 2010 **Fr Stanley Tomlin**, a former MSSP Superior General, died peacefully in Malta aged 83. He was a learned and dedicated priest of great vision elected Superior General of the Missionary Society of St Paul in 1979, an office he held for 12 years. Fr Tomlin and his Council had approved and encouraged the partnership between the Missionary Society of St Paul and the MCCV. It was mainly through his efforts, and those of the late Fr George Scerri and of Rev Dr Victor Shields that agreement was reached for the construction of the Maltese Community Centre on the MSSP property at 477 Royal Parade Parkville. I was fortunate on my latest visit to Malta in March 2010 that I spent some time with Fr Tomlin, who read out extracts from the book which he was writing about the building of the Community Centre at Parkville.

On 12 August 2010 **Prof. Guido DeMarco** passed away in Malta aged 79. Prof DeMarco was a great leader who gave exceptional service to his country and the Maltese people in various roles: President of Malta (1999-2004), Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Justice and Home Affairs and Deputy Leader of the Nationalist Party. The Maltese in Victoria had the opportunity to welcome him on his visits to Australia on a number of occasions in his capacity as Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of Malta. Prof DeMarco was a renowned criminal lawyer and held the chair of Criminal Law at the University of Malta for some time. He also held the position as President of the United Nations General Assembly.

On 16 September 2010, **Mr John Gauci** passed away aged 83. He was a founding member and former president of the Reskeon Maltese Association, formed in 1976 to cater for the Maltese lining in the two northern suburbs of Reservoir and Keon Park, and founder and former President of the Reskeon Seniors Group, established in 1996. John Gauci gave many years of devoted service to his organization, the MCCV and the Maltese community generally. He was a tireless worker, particularly at the time of the construction of the community centre, and took part in many fund raising activities for this purpose. His passing is a great loss to the local Maltese community.

YOUTH OF MALTESE DESCENT

The MCCV has for many years attempted to establish a youth group within the MCCV structure. Unfortunately the young people who became involved appeared to get disheartened and ultimately the groups got disbanded.

The MCCV is encouraged to note that, with the assistance of our secretary, Edwina Mallia, a new group has been established. The group has met on a number of occasions and I am informed that it is shortly to establish a link with young Maltese people through the social networking internet tool called *Facebook* and other electronic means of communication so prevalent today among the younger generations. One will expect that nominations for executive positions on the MCCV Council will eventuate in the near future.

The MCCV wishes the group every success and thanks its founding members for their interest and commitment.

MCCV NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE

The MCCV wishes to acknowledge the contribution of Mr Charles Belli, who in his capacity as the Public Relations Officer, established and produced the MCCV Newsletter and website. Unfortunately, Mr Belli had to resign his position on the Executive Committee on grounds of ill-health in late 2009.

In February 2010 Dr Edwin Borg-Manché was co-opted as member of the MCCV Executive Committee in the role of Public Relations Officer. As editor, he took over responsibility for production of the MCCV newsletter and enhanced its content and layout. The professionally designed newsletter is available for download from the MCCV website.

The next major project for the Public Relations Officer is the review, re-design and re-development of the MCCV website currently scheduled for re-launch in early 2011. The MCCV wishes to thank Dr Borg-Manché for his great contribution.

LADIES AUXILIARY

Since its establishment in 1969, the Ladies Auxiliary of the MCCV has made a great contribution to the Council. It has for many years assisted in raising funds for the community, especially at the time of the construction of the Maltese Community Centre.

While auxiliary members are advancing in years, like many of us, they continue to meet regularly at the centre at Parkville. They also assist, from time to time, with catering for functions organised at the centre and regularly make financial presentations to the Council.

The MCCV is very grateful to Mrs Marlene Xerri, the current President, who has held office for a number of years and to members of her group who continue to inspire us with their efforts.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The publication of the book *Under One Umbrella*, researched and authored by Prof Maurice Cauchi, has been widely circulated within the community in Australia and overseas. It is a proud record of the achievements of the MCCV over the last 50 years. With its assistance, members of the Maltese Community in this State currently enjoy a high status and excellent reputation within Australian political circles and those in Malta.

The MCCV has provided to the Maltese community in this State an established structure and, in the areas of welfare, education and cultural maintenance, has provided a sense of security and confidence among its members.

The MCCV has over the years been a great advocate for the Maltese community and has lobbied strongly on its behalf particularly in obtaining appropriate grants in the areas of welfare, culture, maintenance and education.

It has been of some encouragement to my Council to observe a number of young Maltese youth coming forward and taking part in informal get togethers organized by community members and readily identifying as people of a Maltese background. On reflection one must admit that we may have placed too much emphasis on knowledge of the Maltese language which in many ways may have disenfranchised and discouraged a number of young people from joining Council and its affiliated membership.

It is very pleasing to note that young people of a Maltese descent are annually graduating as members of various professions and trades. The MCCV is hopeful that the newly established youth group will be better able to take us into new directions.

POSSIBLE FUTURE PROJECT

I am hopeful that the MCCV will shortly establish a Maltese Diabetic Association, much needed within our community, which regrettably has been badly afflicted with this disease. There have been a number of unsuccessful attempts made in this direction, as can be seen from the welfare reports included as part of this report and the encouragement of the members to consider a change of life style particularly in improving their health.

A WORD OF THANKS

Council wishes to acknowledge the great contribution of the Maltese broadcasters on the local radio stations SBS, 3ZZZ, Stereo 97.4, Radio North West and 97.9FM Melton. In many respects, they have provided a reliable and meaningful conduit to the Maltese community. They have kept us informed with news and current affairs from both Malta and Australia and provided an invaluable resource to the community. Their efforts are much appreciated.

Finally, I wish to thank members of my Executive for their continued support to me personally and to the Maltese community generally. Many of our Executive members are of long standing and their contribution has been quite remarkable and outstanding.

The MCCV would not be in its present position were it not for their efforts and team work, which clearly reflects their love for their fellow countrymen and country of origin.

This is my last term as President of the Maltese Community Council. As members of the Executive, we have given it our all. We have not always been successful, but our efforts have been selfless and on many occasions involved a number of personal sacrifices.

I leave this office in the comfort and knowledge that those who take over will continue the work of the Council and undoubtedly take new directions in the interest of the Maltese community. I have been honoured to lead the community for so many years and I wish to finally thank members of the Maltese community for the appreciation which they have shown for the work of the Council and the supporting role which they have played when called upon to do so.

Farewell and best wishes,

Victor G Borg

President, MCCV

27 October 2010

Welfare Programmes

The programmes that the Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV) runs aim to assist the elderly to remain independent and part of the community network that they are used to.

In 2006 the UK government adopted a working definition for dealing with exclusion for elderly people:

“Exclusion among older people is experienced when a person lacks one or a number of those factors important for a good quality of life. A shorthand definition is an experience characterised by deprivation and the lack of access to social networks, activities and services that results in a poor quality of life.”

– Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (UK), 2006

We are living in a time when ageism is a fact of life, a time when a person's chronological age defines their status in life rather than their ability to continue to contribute to society and their willingness to be involved in everyday activities even though it may be at a slower pace.

HACC AND OTHER SERVICES

The planned activity group sessions are funded by the Department of Health under the Home and Community Care (HACC) programme. During the year at least 60 elderly participated in the programme. The main aim is to keep these people socially integrated as much as possible in the community and for this reason we have held activities that involved members of the Maltese community who are not part of the Planned Activity Groups.

At various times meetings were held with the Programme and Service Adviser (PASA) from the Department of Health assigned to the MCCV. These meetings serve both the department and the MCCV to ensure that the funded programme is within the parameters of our Service Agreement. During these meetings the manner in which the MCCV delivers its services was discussed. Each PASA assigned to the MCCV (having had three changes in one year) has been helpful and appreciative of our programme.

This year the Department of Health introduced the Active Service Model (ASM), which aims to give the older individuals more say in the way they receive a service and more flexibility. As a funded agency, the MCCV is required to prepare an action implementation plan for the next twelve months. The action plan was submitted after a two-hour session with our PASA to ensure that it is achievable and meets the parameters established by the Department of Health for the introduction of ASM. The first aim is for our staff to familiarize themselves with the model and see how it can be implemented in our case to better empower our clients.

The Multicultural Dementia Planned Activity Group under the auspices of the Macedonian Community Welfare Association was funded on a recurrent basis. Unfortunately, we do not always get the desired level of response to make use of this service as much as we would like. While we have promoted the programme in various

ways, for some reason families and carers looking after dementia sufferers do not come forward.

The MCCV Welfare Programmes Coordinator visits every prospective client to carry out a service-centred assessment and to get a better picture of the person's needs. In some instances clients were also referred to their Local Council for HACC home help or shopping assistance. Some of our Planned Activity Group (PAG) clients were referred for assessment by the Aged Care Assessment Teams. Most of these referrals were successful and clients received more assistance according to their needs.

During the course of the year we assisted many people with completing forms for Centrelink and Maltese Government pensions, carer's allowance and a myriad other forms or claims. In some cases we even advocated on behalf of our clients in cases of public housing and excessive bills with some success.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

A number of activities to educate our community on health issues were an integral part of the Community Partners Programme, which is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. These activities are covered under the *Community Development* section below.

The need to educate the community on health and other issues is something that we aim to keep our focus on. It is important that affiliated associations and others as well take advantage of these educational activities that we provide. While the MCCV boasts over thirty affiliated associations, the leaders of these associations need to encourage their members to avail themselves of these opportunities.

2010-2011

The MCCV proposes to undertake a feasibility study with a view to establishing a system similar to one that is currently working in Malta. Those elderly and frail who live on their own in Malta are given the opportunity to live at home during the day and to spend the night at a particular supervised location, such as, a renovated convent or other building. Should the results of the feasibility study indicate a reasonable response from the elderly, the MCCV would seek funding for a pilot project from a government department.

The coming year will have its challenges in community work. With the continued support of our staff, we endeavour to make our clients feel included in our community activities and to keep assisting older members of our community to be as independent as possible.

I thank the Executive members of the MCCV for their support and trust they put in all the staff and in me.

I wish to thank the broadcasters on all ethnic radio stations for supporting and publicizing our activities.

Michael Caruana

Welfare Programmes Coordinator

Community Aged Care Packages (CACPs)

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV) 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.

CLIENT SERVICE

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.

Our association with Catholics Homes provided two more Maltese clients whom we service. Currently we are funded for 25 packages of care and we service five clients for Catholic homes, making it a total of 30 clients, all of whom are Maltese. The age range of our clients is between 72 and 95 years old.

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. We provide specialized care packages for Maltese speaking clients.

When taking on a new client, the coordinator meets with the client and any other person the client may wish to be present, such as, a son or daughter. At this meeting, the CACP program is explained to the client, preferred days and times of care are discussed and the coordinator gathers all the information he needs to then go back to the office to organize the care for the client. Involving family members in the intake process is beneficial, as any concerns about safety and well-being are discussed and valuable input and support provided.

As MCCV employs Maltese-speaking support workers, clients who can only speak Maltese have the help of support workers who speak their language. This makes MCCV a unique organization in the Melbourne Metropolitan area.

We provide care from Monday to Friday between 8.00 am and 5.00 pm. MCCV's service includes transport to shops, medical appointments and social activities, light household tasks, personal care and social support, which is very important for many of our clients.

We try as much as possible to limit the number of support workers who visit clients, but, when support workers take annual leave, it is not always possible to provide consistency. We understand this can be difficult for our clients, but they are very understanding and are usually accommodating.

The Coordinator makes contact with individual clients at least once a month, either by phone or by making a home visit. At least every six months, a client's Care Plan is reviewed and updated, if the client's needs have changed. We encourage all our clients to have a Personal Alarm for safety reasons. The Coordinator is on call 7 days a week from 7.00 am to 7.00 pm.

The MCCV encourages all its clients and their stakeholders to contact the coordinator about any queries or concerns they may have regarding a person's care. We welcome this, as we believe that open communication makes for a more effective service. If we do not know about a particular problem or concern, we cannot do anything about it! Sometimes what the MCCV can do to help a client is to contact, for instance, the Public Advocate or a Counsellor, if more specialized support is needed.

During this past year, eight of our clients regularly attended the Day Centre either at Parkville or at our centre at Sunshine.

PERSONAL CARE AND SUPPORT WORKERS

There were some staff changes in this last year. Two of our full-time Personal Care Workers have moved on and were replaced by three part-time workers. We are currently in the process of searching for at least one more part-time worker.

We are very fortunate to have so many dedicated support workers. Most support workers are employed on a permanent part-time basis, and one is full-time. All our support workers are of Maltese descent, which is very important to our clients.

During the past year our staff attended compulsory first aid training sessions.

It is essential to stay competitive with wages, both for staff recruitment and retention. Most care organizations only hire their support staff on a casual basis. Because we at the MCCV hire on a permanent part-time or full-time basis, we provide a security for our workers that they appreciate. They accrue sick leave and annual leave on a pro rata basis. There is also a difference of \$1 in the hourly rate between qualified and unqualified staff, encouraging more people to obtain aged care qualification.

CONCLUSION

The past year has seen the continuation of a vital service being provided to the Maltese Community in Australia. A number of clients and their families acknowledged that their ability to stay at home was only possible as a result of our support. We will continue to provide that support to as many Maltese elderly as we possibly can.

Jeff Saliba

Community Aged Care Co-ordinator

Community Development

This past year was very fruitful in the area of Community Development in the Maltese Community. We continued working with a number of residential facilities and other aged care service providers to make MCCV and mainstream services more easily available to the Maltese community. This was achieved through our Maltese Cultural Programme, funded through the Community Partnerships Programme (CPP) Grant by the Department of Health and Ageing.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAMME

From our prospective, the Community Partnerships Programme enables the building of a bridge between the Maltese community and mainstream aged care services, such as, residential facilities, respite services and specialised organisations, such as, Carers Victoria. Also through this programme, we are endeavouring to raise awareness of the culture, language and needs of the Maltese community among staff in the aged care industry.

We are also working with a group of residential facilities to create 'clusters' for Maltese elderly with the aim of having facilities that can cater more fully for members of the Maltese community. We hope that our efforts to fill the void that a lack of Maltese-specific aged care facilities has created will have significant impact.

Within the past year over 20 residential facilities, have benefited from our 'Maltese Cultural Package'. This package was circulated to residential facility personnel to raise staff awareness of Maltese cultural values and needs, with the ultimate goal being that elderly Maltese in residential care benefit by receiving culturally appropriate care in mainstream residential facilities and respite services.

COLLABORATION WITH CARERS VICTORIA

We are also working, in conjunction with Carers Victoria, to assist and raise awareness of the needs and problems faced by carers in caring for their loved ones and themselves through several information sessions. These sessions are designed to assist members of the Maltese community to learn more about their rights, services available and on how to live life more fully. We had a great response from Maltese carers and their feedback about the sessions was very positive. The subjects that have been addressed so far were:

- Carers and their Needs,
- Caring for those who Care, and
- Humour in Caring.

We envisage that a support group for people of Maltese background will be created with those who regularly attend these information sessions.

We are also working with Carers Victoria to create a radio spot in Maltese to be played on Maltese radio programmes so that Carers Victoria services and the information on needs of carers will be more widely disseminated among members of the Maltese community. This is done with the aim of reaching more people through the Maltese radio programmes that are the main source of entertainment and news for elderly members of the Maltese community.

RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

We have also held visits to residential facilities for Maltese elderly, who still live at home, to give them a first hand feel of life in a residential facility. The aim of this is to dispel false notions of fear that many have of life in a residential home. Many of the elderly that attended were very satisfied with what they saw. There were also a few that wanted information on having respite at the facility, with the scope of moving there permanently in the future.

In the same line as these visits we also held an entry into residential aged care information session called 'It's Good to Know'. This was attended by members of the Maltese community, many of which were considering the options available for their ageing loved ones. We also had a number of residential facility representatives who attended in order to give information to those who were interested in their respective facility.

The main speaker was Mr. Paul Borg, Financial Controller of Rosary Home for the Aged in Keilor Downs, who spoke about the steps that need to be taken and things that need to be considered, when contemplating entry into residential aged care. At the end of the session, Sr. Doris Falzon, Director of Rosary Home for the Aged, was presented with a certificate for the completion of the Maltese Cultural Package by Rosary Home Staff. These activities have proven to be very beneficial to our elderly in assisting them to make an informed choice on entry into residential care.

MEDITERRANEAN DIET SEMINAR

At the end of last year we held our second *Fit & Fed from the Centre of the Med*, a 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 scope 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.

For this event we had 120 people in attendance. The main speaker was Ms. Anne Pantellersco, a Maltese Dietician, who spoke to those present about eating healthy for heart health. Mr. Anton Camilleri, a Maltese Chef, demonstrated to those present how to cook a healthy Maltese meal. The activity ended with those who attended partaking

in a Maltese traditional lunch. The activity proved to be very successful with those present requesting that we repeat such an event.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES

Although the Problem Gambling grant ended in April, we have continued to find ways in which we can educate the Maltese community on problem gambling and at the same time find ways to create alternative activities for our community.

This was the motive behind the 1940s social dance we organised in conjunction with the Maltese ex-Services Association. This event was held on 19 August and we had the pleasure of having the Victorian Police Show band as our entertainment for the event. All who attended were very satisfied with the day's event. We hope to organise another similar activities with other Maltese Associations in the future, with the hope that we can empower these associations to rediscover how to hold activities without gambling trips, similar to those held in the past by Maltese clubs.

CONCLUSION

In the upcoming year our plan is to build on what has already been achieved and create new initiatives in which the members of the Maltese community can access services such as aged care, create programmes that are needed by our community and also empower them to make informed decisions about their future and, most importantly, to remain or become active in our community for many years to come.

Paul Lia

Community Development Worker

Maltese Language Classes

The MCCV Maltese Language classes proved popular again with adults as well as adult accompanied children. Students get to know of these classes through different sources. The Maltese Consulate in Melbourne, the Federation of Maltese Language Schools website, appeals on local Maltese radio programmes, flyers distributed on various Maltese Community events and the MCCV website.

In the second semester we normally experience fewer beginner students registering. One factor could be that classes start in the middle of winter and there is reluctance on adult students to engage in mid week late evening classes after a day's work. Semester one students also take this opportunity to travel to the northern hemisphere and also to visit Malta during this period.

Laura Schembri and Georgina Scillio are enthusiastic tutors. They are constantly developing methods to engage students to learn and love the Maltese Language. Georgina is an experienced mainstream secondary school teacher and is actively involved with the Education Department LOTE studies. Laura Schembri has gained a certificate in LOTE Methodology at RMIT.

Students are encouraged to learn not only the Maltese Language but also gain insight into the Maltese Culture. They are invited to attend the Maltese Historical Association meetings and are given information about the Maltese Literature Group and also any important events happening at the Maltese Community Centre.

In August 2009 the Maltese Historical Association held its annual *Maltese Immersion Day* for all Maltese Language students in Victoria at the Maltese Community Centre. MCCV students were encouraged to participate. The Maltese Language Class tutors play an active part in assisting the Association hold this event.

At the end of each term students are encouraged to bring a plate of Maltese finger food to share and discover some of the Maltese cuisine.

The classes are sponsored by the MCCV and students pay a nominal enrolment fee of \$60 per semester. Families pay a heavily discounted fee. Each year in Semester two a student from each class is selected for their outstanding efforts and a voucher covering tuition for the next year is given as a prize. This encourages students to continue with their efforts to continue studying. Last year we had three classes in one semester but this was discontinued when the numbers made a third class not viable.

Advertising for enrolments for the 2010 year starts as early as mid-October, when registration forms are placed in the MCCV newsletter and on the MCCV website. Forms are made available on the MCCV notice board and details of all Maltese Language Classes held in Victoria are also advertised.

In Semester One of the 2010 scholastic year there were thirty registered students for beginners' class and seven returning students for the advance class. Enrolments were for one semester covering two terms. The semester covers 18 lessons and is run concurrently with the Victoria School term timetable. As usual we experienced an attrition rate. We had only one large family group. The rest of the students are adults and most are in full time employment and therefore work pressures cause many students to miss class. Unfortunately we cannot start any later than 6.00 pm during our weekday classes as we find that a later class is very tiresome.

This year a catered Maltese Dinner was held on one of the School Nights and students had the opportunity to sit down to a three-course Maltese cuisine which included pre dinner Maltese 'mezze'.



A skit written by Georgina Scillio and performed by her students was performed at the 30th Anniversary of the Maltese Literature Group. This skit was also performed on community radio.

The Education Committee overseeing the classes is composed of the Tutors, Classes coordinator as well as an independent advisor Francis Bonnici. The Coordinator of the Maltese Language classes Edwidge Borg is also the delegate to the Federation of Maltese Language Schools Inc.(FMLS) In that capacity Edwidge Borg was elected Vice President in 2008 and she attend various executive meetings interstate ,the FMLS AGM in SA as well as hosted FMLS executive meetings in Melbourne.

A paper on "Distance Education" was prepared by Edwidge Borg and submitted to the Malta Convention 2010. It outlined the advantages of live internet tuition of "Maltese As A Second Language" hosted by the Maltese Government.

Edwidge Borg

Co-ordinator, MCCV Maltese Language Classes

Public Relations

The main achievement in the Public Relations sphere for this year was the raising of the profile of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria on the international scene through strong participation and the presentation of several papers at the Convention of Maltese Living Abroad held in Malta in March 2010.

CONVENTION OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

In February 2010 Dr Edwin Borg-Manché was co-opted to the MCCV Executive in the vacant position of Public Relations Officer. His first task was to research and co-author with the MCCV President, Victor Borg, two keynote papers for presentation at the Convention in Malta.

The **first keynote paper**, which was delivered by Dr Borg-Manché, related to *“The Critical Role of Government in Maltese Diaspora Engagement”*. In this paper, the authors presented the results of their research on Diasporas generally and related issues as well as diaspora engagement models used by governments around the world. They concluded that these benchmark models go way beyond any model considered so far by the Government for Maltese Diaspora engagement. They argued that the Government has a pivotal role to play in bringing about effective Maltese Diaspora engagement and proposed the creation of a Maltese Diaspora Commission as the most appropriate means to this end in the Maltese context. The authors also proposed the assignment of the corresponding responsibility for ‘Maltese Diaspora Affairs’ to a newly established position of Parliamentary Secretary for Maltese Diaspora Affairs accountable to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The **second keynote paper**, which was delivered by Victor Borg, related to *“The Challenge of Engaging Maltese-Australian Youth in Maltese Community Life in Australia”*. As the first generation Maltese community in Australia is ageing and shrinking in size, the younger generations have shown little or no interest in continuing the Maltese language, culture and traditions. This paper dealt with the challenge that Maltese community organisations in Australia have been, and are still facing in engendering the interest and of the younger Maltese-Australian generations in the Maltese language, culture and traditions as well as their Maltese heritage. Recommendations were presented on what action should be taken to ensure that the Maltese communities in Australia do not become extinct in a matter of a couple of decades.

OTHER KEYNOTE PAPERS

Other keynote papers delivered at the Convention by MCCV Executive members were:

- *Ageing: The Current Situation in Australia* by Prof. Maurice Cauchi, Immediate Past President

In this paper, the author considered three major issues affecting elderly Maltese, i.e. those 65 years and older, who now form a third of the total Malta-born

generation: firstly he provided a summary of the demographic situation in Australia as emerged from the last census (2006); secondly, he presented a picture of the social life of elderly persons who are still active, based on surveys carried out recently in Melbourne; and thirdly and perhaps most importantly, he highlighted the needs of the immobile, frail elderly who form the most needy category and summarised the efforts of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria's role in tackling these needs.

- *The Care and the Elderly in Australia* by Paul Borg, Treasurer

In this paper, the author provided some information on an extremely complex aged care system that operates in Australia covering the range of care facilities and programmes that are available, government subsidies for those wishing to enter aged care facilities, as well as financial and health issues faced by residents of these facilities.

MALTA CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

Having the theme of "Strengthening Our Unity", the Convention opened on Sunday 14 March 2010 with a Concelebrated Mass presided by His Grace the Archbishop, Paul Cremona O.P at St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta.

This was followed by a Plenary Session marking the official opening of the Convention at the Exchange Buildings, Republic Street, Valletta with keynote speeches by the *Hon. Dr. Tonio Borg*, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, *Rev. Fr. Alfred Vella*, Archbishop's Delegate to Emigrants' Commission, *His Grace Archbishop Paul Cremona O.P.*, Archbishop of Malta, and the *Hon. Dr. Lawrence Gonzi*, Prime Minister.

Prof. Henri Frendo delivered an opening address titled "Setting the scene: the Retention of Maltese Identity Overseas".



Participants at the Convention of Maltese Living Abroad in front of the Auberge de Castille after the reception.

A lunchtime welcome reception was then hosted by the Hon. Dr Lawrence Gonzi, Prime Minister, in honour of participants at the Auberge de Castille, Valletta.

The morning sessions consisted of ministerial addresses and keynote speeches, while the afternoon session consisted of interventions from the floor.

The topics for each of day were as follows:

- Monday 15 March: *The challenge of change - Education, Culture, Heritage.*
The Hon. Ms Dolores Cristina, Minister for Education, Employment and the Family, delivered the Opening Address.
- Tuesday 16 March: *The Elderly in the Community.*
The Hon. Dr Joe Cassar, Minister for Health, the Elderly and Community Care, delivered the Opening Address.
Prof. Maurice Cauchi, Immediate MCCV Past President, and Mr Paul Borg, MCCV Treasurer presented their keynote speeches during the morning session.
- Wednesday 17 March: *Youth, towards the future.*
The Hon. Mr Clyde Puli, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth and Sport, delivered the Opening Address.
Mr Victor Borg, MCCV President, presented his keynote speech during the morning session.
- Thursday 18 March: *Consular and Citizenship.*
The Hon. Dr Chris Said, Parliamentary Secretary for Consumers, Fair Competition, Local Councils and Public Dialogue, delivered the Opening Address.
Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, MCCV PRO, presented his keynote speech during the morning session.

Other Convention highlights included:

- On Monday evening, a reception hosted by the Hon. Dr Tonio Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs in honour of participants of the convention at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Palazzo Parisio, Merchants Street, Valletta.
- On Tuesday evening, a visit to the Emigrants' Commission for an audio-visual presentation on '*Sacred Island*' followed by a reception at the Emigrants' Commission, Castille Place, Valletta.
- On Wednesday evening, a visit to Centru Nazzjonali Laburista in Triq Mile End, Hamrun where the delegates were addressed by the Leader of the party, Dr Joseph Muscat and other party officials.
- On Thursday evening, a visit to the Dar Centrali Partit Nazzjonalista in Triq Herbert Ganado, Tal-Pietà where the delegates were addressed by the Hon. Dr Tonio Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and other party officials.

- On Friday morning Malta Sightseeing Tours of the northern or southern parts of the island and in the afternoon a tree planting ceremony officiated by the Hon Mr George Pullicino, Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs at Ta' Qali National Park.
- On Saturday at lunchtime a Farewell Reception hosted by H.E. Dr George Abela, President of Malta in honour of participants at The Palace, Valletta, and in the evening a reception hosted by the Australian High Commissioner in Malta, H.E. Ms Anne Quinane at her official residence in Naxxar.

MCCV VIEWS ON THE FEDERATION OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

The position of the MCCV regarding representation of Maltese communities around the globe by the Federation of Maltese Living Abroad (FMLA) may be summarised as follows:

1. The FMLA should not be a federation of Maltese Community Councils (MCCs) as these umbrella organisations exist only in two countries, Australia and Canada.
2. The FMLA should be all inclusive, so that all associations of Maltese living abroad should be entitled to become members.
3. Individual associations affiliated with MCCs should have independent voting rights as members of the FMLA.
4. All associations of Maltese living abroad, regardless of the country where located, should have the same voting rights.
5. MCCs should not have exclusive FMLA membership rights to represent the Maltese community in the location where they operate.
6. It would be inappropriate for MCCs to be the only organisations in their location entitled to join the FMLA and be entitled to vote at FMLA elections or on any issues or resolutions affecting the Maltese living overseas.
7. Associations who choose not to join an MCC in their location -
 - a. should not be denied membership of the FMLA, as they too represent a group of Maltese people living overseas who are as much entitled to be represented by the FMLA as the MCC's members, and
 - b. have a right to be heard and represent their members in the Maltese Diaspora context.
8. MCCs should only have one vote, the same as any other FMLA member association. It would not be appropriate for the MCCs to be given some kind of a weighted vote for being an umbrella organisation, as this would amount to double-dipping. Instead, MCCs should encourage its affiliated associations to join FMLA and vote at elections and on any resolutions in accordance with the FMLA constitution once this is established.
9. From time to time non-MCC affiliated associations should be invited by the MCC in their location to discuss issues affecting the whole local Maltese community.

10. The MCCV believes that the larger and broader the membership of the FMLA in terms of the number and nature of Maltese associations is around the world, the greater FMLA's potential impact and influence is likely to be on Maltese Government policy affecting the Maltese Diaspora.

MCCV NEWSLETTER

In June 2010 Edwin Borg-Manché took over as Editor of the MCCV Newsletter from Charles Belli, who had been producing the newsletter for several years and whose valuable contribution to its continued publication is acknowledged and appreciated.

Improvements which were introduced to the content and layout of the newsletter have been welcomed by readers both locally and overseas. Further enhancements are planned for next year.

MCCV WEBSITE

In the age of the internet and instant communication, the MCCV website is a crucial means of publicising the MCCV services to the Maltese community in Victoria. It provides the MCCV with an internet presence, through which it is able to easily disseminate information about its services to the local Maltese community and hopefully inspire similar organisations serving the Maltese Diaspora in other parts of the globe.

During the year, as the webmaster of the MCCV website, Charles Belli looked after the updates to the website. Having taken over that role in September 2010, Dr Borg-Manché's plan for next year is to review, re-design and re-develop the website from the ground up, giving it a new 'look and feel', introducing interactive functionality, enhancing its content and ensuring frequent updating so as to make the site visitor's experience richer and more interesting.

Edwin Borg-Manché

Public Relations Officer, MCCV

Library

We thank the Maltese Government and all the individuals and their families who donated books to the MCCV Library. All donated books and reading material were entered and processed on the computer Athenaeum database and placed on the library's shelves to be available for readers and borrowers.

According to the latest data as at September 2010, the library now has 6,600 books on the shelves and in the restricted cabinets. For a third of these entries there are duplicate copies of the relevant material in the library. This means that there are 4,620 different items mainly in the Maltese language. The library also includes several audio visual items.

The number of items borrowed during the twelve month period was of 120 books by 30 members. Most of borrowed books were returned during the allocated time, but some items are still overdue, some for a long period. MCCV Vice President, Guy Deguara, has been contacting these borrowers with some good results. A list of overdue books is issued every six months and passed over to the Vice President for follow up.

The MCCV is very grateful to NEC Australia P/L for recently donating two new computers, two computer desks and three chairs for the library.

The MCCV Library is considered to be the largest collection of books, magazines, newspapers and other media in the Maltese language in the southern hemisphere. More publicity about its facilities and offerings is required in order to reverse the trend in the declining library membership.

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 Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc (MCCV) provide and extend welfare services to the Maltese Community at large.

The Bingo sessions on Tuesdays provides an outlet for a small group of women who come to the centre on a 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. The Bingo group together with the Welfare group celebrated Christmas break up on Thursday, 10th December 2009. Mr Charles Mifsud, Consul General for the Republic of Malta in Victoria accepted the invitation to join in the day's festivities. This was his first official engagement.

A raffle is held during the luncheon to help with the day's expenses as the Ladies Auxiliary sponsor and prepare the Christmas luncheon.

In June they also celebrated the 'Imnarja' feast at the centre. The meal prepared by the welfare staff was delicious and we all enjoyed the entertainment provided for the day.

During the year Birthdays and Special days are also celebrated, Shrove Tuesday with homemade pancakes and homemade 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.

In October 2009 the Ladies Auxiliary presented the MCCV a donation of \$2,000.00 for the welfare program.

The Ladies Auxiliary appreciates the support of all the committee members, their partners and volunteers.

Their assistance throughout the year is greatly appreciated.

Committee Members:

Marlene Xerri, President
Therese Tabone, Vice President
Mary Mclaughlin, Secretary
Pauline Farrugia, Treasurer
Mary Cefai, Member
Inez Mifsud, Member

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 group has been active for over 20 years and meets every Monday from 9.00am till early afternoon.

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. Football and AFL results are always a popular topic of conversation. They also enjoy reminiscing about their youth in Malta.

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 biż-żejt
- 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. No formal membership is required.

Further information may 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 - 2009

This is the fourth year that the Maltese Community Council of Victoria is organising the Malta Discovery Tour in conjunction with Victoria University.

This tour is proving to be very popular with young people and this year the group consists of 29 participants. To this effect the Victoria University has seen fit to send 3 staff members with the group to oversee the academic aspect of the tour.

The Victoria University has established it as one of their Study Tours giving it a unit name and thereby the students are eligible to earn credits towards their chosen subject. They also have the opportunity to apply for a university grant of \$2,000.

In recognition to the assistance given by Victoria University, the Maltese Community Council is sponsoring an award to the student who obtains the best results for the assignments linked to this tour. The award will be for a total of \$500.

The students taking part in this year's tour, as in previous years, come from various ethnic backgrounds but the majority are of a Maltese background. Their reasons for joining this tour are varied – Interested in History – great opportunity to see another country and increase my knowledge – Study – Experience and to learn about a part of Europe and a culture different to that of Australia – increase cultural awareness and understanding of Maltese people – to discover the centuries of art movements – excellent extension to my current studies – Family heritage – Interested in learning about Malta.

All students have experienced and learnt so much from this tour. They visited several places of interest accompanied by an English speaking guide at all times. This year the group stayed at The Marina Hotel in Sliema which faces Marsamxett Harbour and close to all amenities.

The group was made very welcome by the MSSP at their St Agatha's premises. We had a personal tour of the St Agatha's Catacombs and Fr. Victor Shields arranged for an afternoon tea for us in their refectory. On this same day Josephine and Harry Zammit Cordina came to St Agatha's with a cameraman and they filmed the students and interviewed some of them to appear on the Waltzing Matilda programme. A couple of the older students were also interviewed on radio for the Boomerang programme. The students were also featured in a news item on the Malta News TV.

After the completion of the Malta Tour some of the participants stayed on in Malta and others travelled to Rome for a few days. A private tour to the Vatican was organised as well as transfers and accommodation.

Some students have taken this opportunity to extend their stay beyond Rome to visit other countries.

This has been another successful and satisfying trip and the MCCV looks forward to many more.

For details of the itinerary and places visited, please refer to **Appendix G**.

Edwina Mallia

Tour Leader



Simon (tour member), Edwina Mallia (Group Leader)
at Xaghra Gozo



Tour members at Xaghra Gozo: Simon, Sarah,
Terese and Anne-Marie.



Victoria University Students enjoying dinner at an Italian restaurant in Rome.



Victoria University Students pay a visit to the Maltese Ambassador in Rome.

Appendix A – Community Events in Pictures

Saturday 30 January 2010

Welcome Reception for Mr Charles Mifsud, Consul General for the Republic of Malta in Victoria, held at the Maltese Community Centre, Parkville.



From left: Mr George Saliba, Vice President, Mr Victor Borg, President, H.E. Francis Tabone, Malta High Commissioner, Mr Charles Mifsud, Consul-General, Mrs Anna Maria Mifsud, and Fr Denis Carabott, MSSP

Above: Mr Charles Mifsud addressing the gathering



The gathering at the Welcome Reception



Mr Charles Mifsud and Mrs Anna Maria Mifsud



Mr Victor Borg presenting a farewell gift to Fr Denis Carabott

Saturday 20 February 2010

The blessing of the bronze portrait of St George Preca at St Paul's Chapel, Parkville



The bronze portrait of St George Preca



From left: Fr Noel Bianco, Fr Denis Carabott, His Grace Bishop Joseph Grech and Fr Edwin Agius.



The congregation attending the ceremony.

Tuesday 23 February 2010

The launch of Professor Maurice Cauchi's book *Under One Umbrella: A History of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc. 1958-2008* by the Premier of Victoria, the Hon. John Brumby MP at the Maltese Centre in Parkville.



The official party and guests stand during the playing of the Maltese and Australian National Anthems .



Prof. Maurice Cauchi.



MCCV President, Mr Victor Borg, welcomes the special guests to the Maltese Centre for the book launch.



The Premier of Victoria, the Hon John Brumby officially launches the book, *Under One Umbrella*.



From left: Mr Paul Borg, Mrs Rosemary Attard, Mr George Saliba, Mr Guy Deguara, MCCV President Mr Victor Borg, the Premier of Victoria, the Hon. John Brumby MP, Malta High Commissioner HE Mr Francis Tabone, Mrs Edwina Mallia, Prof. Maurice Cauchi, Mrs Marilyn Pace, Provincial Superior Fr Mario Zammit MSSP , Consul-General for Victoria Mr Charles Mifsud

Wednesday 17 March 2010

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria made a donation to the ANZAC Memorial Committee - Malta at the Exchange Building in Republic Street, Valletta, where the Convention of the Maltese Living Abroad was being held.



From left: Mr Paul Borg (MCCV Treasurer), Mrs Edwina Mallia (MCCV Secretary), Mr Nick Bonello (Chairman, ANZAC Memorial Committee - Malta), Mr Victor Borg (MCCV President), Prof Maurice Cauchi (MCCV Immediate Past President), Fr Denis Carabott MSSP (MCCV Chaplain) and Dr Edwin Borg-Manché (MCCV PRO)

Saturday 29 May 2010

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria held a welcome reception for the Hon. Dr Joseph Muscat MP, Leader of the Opposition and of the Malta Labour Party, at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville.



Mr George Saliba, the MC for the evening, welcomes the official guests to the Maltese Community Centre.



The Hon. Dr Joseph Muscat addresses the gathering.

April 2010

A ceremony to commemorate the granting of the George Cross to the Island of Malta by King George VI was held at the monument located outside the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville



21 August 2010

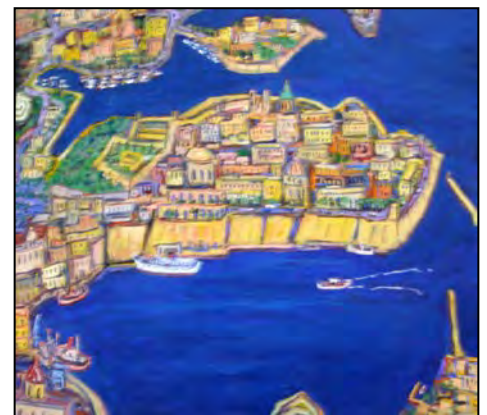
His Excellency Mr Francis Tabone, the Malta High Commissioner to Australia, inaugurated an exhibition of paintings of Malta created by artist Brian Kewley at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville.



HE Mr Francis Tabone, Malta High Commissioner, officially inaugurates the painting exhibition.



Mr Kewley addressing the gathering.



A painting of the fishing village of Marsaxlokk,



One of the paintings of the Grand Harbour exhibited.

Wednesday 8 September 2010

The traditional feast of Maria Bambina in Melbourne was once again organised by Reskeon Maltese Association on behalf of the Missionary Society of St. Paul. Fr Edwin Agius MSSP and Fr Hilary Tagliaferro OSA, on a visit from Malta, concelebrated Mass attended by about 125 members of the Maltese Community at the Maltese Centre Parkville.



Fr Hilary Tagliaferro OSA and Fr Edwin Agius MSSP



Dr Clemente Zammit reading



The Malta-Gozo City of Brimbank Concert Band playing marches for the occasion.



The banners and the statue of Maria Bambina in the hall of the Maltese Community Centre before the Mass.

Appendix B – MCCV Committees and Memberships

(Denotes Chairperson or joint Chairpersons)*

MCCV Executive Committee

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| President | *Victor Borg AM, MQR, LL.B. (Melb), LL.M. (Lond) |
| Vice President | Guy Deguara |
| Vice President | George Saliba |
| Secretary | Edwina Mallia |
| Assistant Secretary | Marilyn Pace |
| Treasurer | Paul Borg |
| Welfare Director | Rosemary Attard |
| Public Relations Officer | Edwin Borg-Manché LL.D. (Melit.), Dip.Bus. (Deakin) – <i>from Feb 2010</i> |
| Chaplain | Fr Denis Carabott MSSP – <i>until Dec 2009</i> Fr Edwin Agius MSSP – <i>from Jan 2010</i> |
| Immediate Past Pres. | Prof. Maurice Cauchi |

Centre Management

*Victor Borg; *Fr. Denis Carabott MSSP; George Saliba; Guy Deguara; Edwina Mallia; Paul Borg; Rosemary Attard; 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 (President); Theresa Tabone (Vice President); Pauline Farrugia (Treasurer); Mary McLaughlin (Secretary) Mary Cefai; Inez Mifsud

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; Josephine Gauci; Antoinette Kasjan; Carmen Mamo

Community Aged Care Packages (CACP)

Mary Boland; Diane Bucello; Joan Buhagiar; Doris Cauchi; Annie Demetriou; Carmen Gauci; Josephine Gauci; Rose Nuner; Vicky Sammut; Marina Scholz; 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

Men's Group

John & Marilyn Pace

Membership & Council Representatives

Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria
Radio 3ZZZ Board of Management

Eddie Micallef
Victor Borg

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 |
| Waltzing Matilda | Channel 31 |

Appendix D – Affiliated Associations

Association

Ex-Members of the Malta Police Force Ass
Hadfield Golden Years Social Club Inc
Klabb Ghannejja Maltin Inc
Lalor United Bocci Club
MABPAV
Malta Star of the Sea House Inc
Maltese Association Hobsons Bay Inc
Maltese Association Northern Suburbs Inc
Maltese Australian Association
Maltese Committee Centre La Trobe Valley
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
Melita Social Club Inc
Moreland Maltese Elderly Citizens Assoc.
Newport Maltese Association Inc
Newport Senior Citizens Group
Our Lady of Grace Association
Portarlinton 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. Helena Maltese-Australian Social Club
St. Paul's South Eastern Suburbs Assoc. Inc.
St. Sebastian Association Inc
Stella Maris Maltese Association
Sunshine George Cross Soccer Club
Tarxien Social Club
Tripoli Social Club
Western Suburbs Maltese Assoc. Inc.

President

Mr Vince Calleja
Mrs Rita Saliba
Mr George Aquilina
Mr David Ellul
Mr Damien Digby
Mr Raymond Cini
Chev Joseph Attard
Mr Lewis Debono
Mr Benedict Soler
Mr John Buhagiar
Mr John Zammit
Mr Emmanuel Spiteri
Mrs Frances Bonnici
Mr George Borg
Dr Victor E Sammut
Mr Solero Xuereb
Mr Ray Anastasi
Mr Joe Portelli
Mr Alfred Sammut
Mrs Joy Clinch
Mr Edwin Bonello
Mr Valentino Lewis
Mr Vince Calleja
Mr George Saliba
Mr Joseph Cutajar
Mr Charles Attard
Mr Caesar Vella
Mr Caesar Vella
Mr Lewis Stafrace
Mr Alfred Zahra
Mr Guy Deguara
Mr Victor Bartolo
Fr Noel Bianco
Mr Raymond Gatt
Mr Charlie Xerri
Mr Darren Farrugia
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

Appendix F – Malta Study Tour 2009 Itinerary

The Itinerary for the Tour was as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Sat 21 Nov | | Depart Melbourne EK 407 at 10.25pm |
| Sun 22 Nov | | <p>Arrive Malta EK 107 at 1.20 pm Pick up at airport to Hotel Marina Hotel Tigne Seafront Sliema SLM 15 MALTA Tel: (00356) 21336461 / 2 / 3 Fax: (00356) 21330650</p> <p>Welcome meeting Rest of day free</p> <p>8.00 am Breakfast – <i>Half Day Tour</i> 8.30 am Valletta by public transport. 9.30 am Casa Rocca Piccola - Home of The 9th Marquis 12.00 am and Marchioness de Piro The Malta Experience, The Audio Visual Spectacular 45 minutes. Walk to Upper Barracca Gardens – Magnificent view of Grand Harbour. 2.30 pm Visit to the Australian High Commission at Ta'Xbiex Evening Free</p> |
| Tue 24 Nov | 8.00 am 9.00 am 1.00 pm 2.00 pm Evening | <p>Breakfast – <i>Full Day Tour</i></p> <p>Depart hotel for Hagar Qim & Mnajdra Prehistoric Temples. Misq Tanks – prehistoric water storage wells. Wied – Zurrieq - Blue Grotto (<i>weather permitting optional boat trip, own expense</i>) Lunch at Wied iz-Zurrieq (<i>own expense</i>) Hal-Millieri Medieval Chapel followed by Bir- Miftuh Chapel Free</p> |
| Wed 25 Nov | 7.30 am 8.15 am 9.00 am 1.15 pm 2.00 pm 2.30 pm | <p>Breakfast – <i>Half Day Tour</i></p> <p>Depart hotel for Prehistoric Temples tour Hal Saflieni Hypogeum – underground temple Tarxien Temples – above ground temples, Ghar Dalam – Prehistoric water worn cave. Marsaxlokk and/or Marsascala fishing village. Lunch at Malta University Student Canteen (<i>own expense</i>) Tour of Malta University by Ms Angela Xuereb <i>Tutorial 1 venue to be advised</i></p> |
| Thu 26Nov | 8.00 am 8.45 am | <p>Breakfast – <i>Half Day Tour</i></p> <p>Depart hotel for Three Cities Tour - Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua</p> |

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| | | Malta at War Museum, Inquisitor's Palace, Collacchio, Main Square. <i>Time permitting Maritime Museum.</i> |
| Afternoon | | <i>Tutorial 2 venue to be advised</i> |
| Evening | | |

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|--|
| Fri 27 Nov | 8.00 am | Breakfast – <i>Half Day Tour</i> |
| | 8.30 am | Local Bus to Valletta |
| | 9.00 am | Meet guide outside City Gate Visit St John's Cathedral and museum Archaeological Museum, The Palace Armoury & Grandmaster's Palace. |
| | | Suggest lunch in Valletta – own expense |
| Afternoon | | <i>Free – suggest re-visit Archaeological Museum and/or Armoury or visit Fort St. Elmo War Museum or Lascaris War Room</i> |
| Evening | | |

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Sat 28 Nov | 9.00 am | Breakfast |
| | | <i>Free day – Shopping/Family</i> |
| | Evening | |

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------|---|
| Sun 29 Nov | | <i>For those who would like to attend High Mass at St. John's Co-Cathedral</i> |
| | 8.00 am | Breakfast |
| | 8.30 am | Public transport to Valletta |
| | 9.15 am | Mass at St. John's Cathedral – <i>45 minutes to 1 hour</i> <i>Followed by visit to the Flea Market - Monti</i> |
| | Afternoon | Free |
| | Evening | Free |

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|---|
| Mon 30 Nov | 7.15 am | Breakfast – <i>Full Day including lunch</i> |
| | 8.00 am | Coach to Cirkewwa to catch Gozo Ferry |
| | 9.00 am | Ferry departs Cirkewwa |
| | 9.25 am | Ferry arrives Mgarr Harbour, Gozo - Start our visit of the Island of Gozo – Ggantija Prehistoric Temples – Oldest temples Xaghra Ta' Kola Wind-Mill The Citadel – Old Capital of Gozo Ta' Pinu Sanctuary Dwejra – Fungus Rock, Inland Sea & The Window – <i>optional boat trip through The Window into the Mediterranean (own expense)</i> |
| | 4.30 pm | Xlendi Bay (<i>lunch included</i>) Xewkija Church Ferry back to Malta and local transport back to hotel |

| | | |
|------------------|-----------|---|
| | Evening | <i>Free</i> |
| Tue 1 Dec | 9.00 am | Breakfast |
| | 10.30 am | Walk to Sliema Ferries Grand Harbour Cruise (<i>weather permitting cost not included</i>) |
| | Lunch | |
| | Afternoon | <i>Tutorial 3 venue to be advised</i> |
| Wed 2 Dec | 8.00 am | Breakfast – <i>Full Day Tour (lunch not included)</i> |
| | 9.00 am | Meet guide at Roman Domus. – Roman Villa Walk to Mdina – The Silent City Walk through the streets of the old capital and on the bastions of the fortified walls. Visit St. Peter & St. Paul Cathedral (<i>time permitting Cathedral Museum</i>) <i>Lunch at Mdina (own expense)</i> |
| | 2.30 pm | Pick up by mini van from Mdina Gate Drive to Ggejna Bay, Ghajn Tuffieha Bay & Golden Bay Walk the Victoria Lines at Bingemma Popeye Village (<i>time permitting & own expense</i>) |
| | Evening | <i>Lecture – by Prof. Henry Frendo</i> |
| Thu 3 Dec | 8.00 am | Breakfast – <i>Full Day Tour including Lunch</i> |
| | 8.30 am | Depart hotel for tour of Western Malta Ghir il-Kbir – Inhabited cave Clapham Junction - Prehistoric Cart Ruts Dingli Cliffs Ras il- Wardija (Punic Site) <i>Maltese Picnic Lunch at Busketto Gardens</i> |
| | 1.00 pm | St Paul's Grotto in Rabat |
| | 2.30pm | St. Agatha's Catacombs Mosta Parish Church |
| | Evening | Free |
| Fri 4 Dec | 8.00 am | Breakfast |
| | | <i>University of Malta – Lecture/tutorial/research</i> |
| | Evening | Dinner included |
| Sat 5 Dec | 9.00 am | Breakfast – <i>Free Day</i> |
| Sun 6 Dec | 9.00 am | Breakfast – <i>Free Day</i> |
| Mon 7 Dec | | Breakfast |
| | | <i>University of Malta – Lecture/tutorial/research</i> |

| | | |
|-------------------|----------|---|
| Tue 8 Dec | 9.00am | Breakfast – <i>Free Day</i> Feast of the Immaculate Conception at Birgu - Holiday |
| Wed 9 Dec | 8.00 am | Breakfast <i>University of Malta – Lecture/tutorial/research</i> |
| Thu 10 Dec | 9.00 am | Breakfast <i>University of Malta – Lecture/tutorial/research</i> Or Italy (Depart for Rome at 3.00 pm)KM614 Depart Malta 5.00pm Hotel Diana – Via Principe Amedeo 4, 00185 Rome <i>Tel: 39 06 478681/ Fax: 39 06 486998</i> |
| Fri 11 Dec | 8.00 am | Breakfast – Bigi <i>Institute of Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage (ICMCH)</i> Italy Prestige Tour – Vatican City included in price Afternoon Free |
| Sat 12 Dec | 9.00 am | <i>Breakfast – Free Day</i> Italy Optional Hop on Hop off Pass \$33 per person 2.00pm Or Optional Ancient Walking Tour of Rome \$51 per person 7.15 am <i>Or Optional full day tour to Florence \$235</i> |
| Sun 13 Dec | 9.00 am | <i>Breakfast – Free Day</i> Italy <i>Optional Full day to Naples & Pompei \$169 per person</i> <i>Or optional visit Vatican for Papal Audience</i> |
| Mon 14 Dec | | Breakfast - <i>Free Day</i> Italy Optional Colosseum and Palatine Hill walking tour \$94 per person |
| Tue 15 Dec | 8.00 am | Breakfast – <i>Departure for Melbourne via Dubai</i> 11.00 am Transfer from hotel to airport |
| Wed 16 Dec | 11.05 pm | Arrive Melbourne |