

Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11



October 2011

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President's Report

It is a pleasure to present this annual report of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria ("MCCV") Annual Report for the year ending 31st October 2011.

The Council has now been working uninterruptedly since its very beginning in 1958, a span of 54 years over which time the demography and with it the needs of the community have changed very considerably.

In the beginning, the *raison d'être* of an organisation like the Council was to help the newly arrived migrants settle into the new and often threatening environment with as few hassles as possible. While jobs were easy to get, the needs were great, with families seeking accommodation, transport, and all those other requirements associated with moving house and family.

Today the needs of the community have changed dramatically. The young, healthy vigorous migrant has changed into a senior citizen, retired or unemployed, with an increased need for assistance, often requiring health support and even nursing home accommodation.

At the other end of the spectrum we have a large number of descendants in the second and third generation who consider themselves primarily Australians, who have all but lost their Maltese language skills, and teetering on the brink of losing all traces of Maltese culture.

These aspects represent the challenges that Council currently faces.

Welfare Programs and Activities

The Council is proud to be in a position to say that we run an active program which serves those members of our society who, for reasons of age or infirmity require such services. Our dedicated staff, together with a team of volunteers help with their needs, at the MCV centres in Parkville and Sunshine, and also through home visits. Such activities would not be possible but for the continued help from government through annual grants. These include the Community Partnership Programme (CPP), the Home and Community Care Programme (HACC), and the Community Aged Care Packages (CACP).

From February this year the MCCV started a referral service for young people who are in need of support. This programme is run by George Grima. He operates from the Sunshine premises, liaising with Michael Caruana and Paul Lia as is necessary. A full report on these activities is given under the appropriate section below.

We thank all the staff working with the Welfare Manager Michael Caruana, and under the guidance of the Director of Welfare on the Executive, Mrs Rosemary Attard.

Communication with our community

We consider it essential that we keep open the lines of communication between the Council and the community. With the ever-widening spread where Maltese reside these days, it is becoming difficult to expect them to concentrate in any one particular place.

Hence there is the need to try to reach them in ways which do not require their physical presence.

We have seen over the past couple of years the production of a first-class Newsletter which reaches all the affiliated organisations and beyond. We have also seen the production and recent updating of a website which is a fount of information for anyone who wishes to become and remain acquainted with activities of the Council. We owe Dr Edwin Borg-Manché a great debt for organising and continually overseeing these website activities.

Other members of the Executive have assiduously presented material of interest to the general community on radio, both SBS as well as community radio stations like 3ZZZ. We thank the staff and broadcasters on these radio stations for their cooperation and assistance.

Language Maintenance

As the number of persons in the first generation becomes smaller and smaller through natural attrition, there is a real risk that both Maltese language and culture will soon disappear. The Council is making every effort to encourage teaching of Maltese and regular classes are held at the Maltese Centre on a weekly basis. This year there was a risk of not even having the minimum number of students sitting for the VCE examination. If this were to be repeated over a number of years, we could lose this facility completely, a disaster similar to that when we lost teaching of Maltese at tertiary level several years ago.

The Council has liaised with the Victorian school of languages to encourage more children to learn Maltese. We have had discussions with representatives from the Victoria School of Languages (VSL) in an effort to increase the number of students sitting for the VCE examination in Maltese, to ensure that accreditation in this subject is not lost. A meeting was organised by Mr Joe Tasic, Acting Assistant Principal of VSL at Taylors Lakes on 17th October for parents to discuss this issue where members of the Executive were present.

We are thankful to all those teachers, all volunteers, who are prepared to offer their services to help with this project. Thanks particularly to Mrs Edwidge Borg for supervising this project.

In spite of all this, it is considered that Maltese language in Victoria is facing the grim prospect of being lost within the next decade or two.

Culture Maintenance

With regards to cultural maintenance, one need not be so pessimistic. Culture should survive even after language fluency has disappeared. Children and young persons keep showing an interest in things Maltese. Several initiatives have occurred to encourage this trend, among which we could mention the following:

- **Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Fund:** This fund was set up to encourage young persons of Maltese background to follow in the steps of the late Bishop Joe Grech and in particular to encourage the maintenance of Maltese culture among Maltese. Funds are being collected to enable us to send up to two persons every year to Malta to become more acquainted with the cultural riches there, with the hope that they will

become more involved in the Maltese community on their return. It is expected to make the first scholarship available by July 2012.

Members of this committee are: Prof M Cauchi (Chair), Mrs Edwina Mallia (Secretary), Mr Christian Zahra, Mr Paul Borg, Mr George Saliba, Fr Edwin Agius, and Mr & Mrs Jim Vella.

The selection committee will include members of the executive, as well as the Consul General for Malta, Mr Charles Mifsud, and Professor Richard Divall.

Thanks to the several persons involved in fund-raising, including Mrs Maria Cordina, Mr Christian Zahra, Associations and individuals who have made various contributions to the fund.

- **Youth Programs:** One function which continues to be of importance in this respect is 'The Malta Discovery Tour' organised by MCCV Secretary Edwina Mallia. Every year a group of persons are taken to Malta on a cultural tour and given the opportunity to appreciate the cultural wealth of the Maltese islands. This year the Australian Catholic University has set up a unit in their Education Faculty, with the help of Dr. Michael Buchanan. This will mean that the MCCV in conjunction with this university will be assisting students to go on the Study Tour to Malta for the forthcoming years.

A youth committee has been set up and there are three active members; George Grima who is looking after the Youth Welfare Programme and Rita Catania and Rita Ellul have set up a Facebook page which will go online at the end of the year. More details will be given further in this report.

MCCV Community Awards

A number of other issues have been initiated by the Council to highlight and encourage appreciation of work done within the community. Among these one could mention the MCCV Community Awards, a system of Awards that has been established to recognise those who have contributed significantly to the advancement of Maltese in Victoria.

Nominations for these awards may be made by any affiliated organisation or by the Executive Committee. The selection committee includes: Prof M Cauchi. (Chair), Ms Georgina Borg, Dr Edwin Borg-Manché. It is expected that the first nominees will be selected later on this year.

Awards will be given for demonstrated contributions in any one of the following categories:

- Scholarship and Education
- Culture
- Welfare services
- Youth
- General

Liaison with authorities in Malta

Visits to Malta. In July 2011, I visited Malta and had occasion to meet with the President, HE Dr George Abela. I also had useful discussion with both the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Dr Tonio Borg, and the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Dr George Vella. Discussions included the proposed Bill setting up of the advisory Council for Maltese Living Abroad and other issues.

Mr Victor Borg, Vice President of the MCCV, attended the Honorary Consuls Conference in Malta in June, where some 100 Honorary Consuls from all over the world attended.

Council for Maltese Living Abroad. During his visit to the Maltese Centre, the Minister for foreign affairs talked about the current Bill being passed in Parliament relating to Maltese living abroad, and particularly the Advisory Council for Maltese Living Abroad. He also touched on the setting up of a Cultural Institute to help spread Maltese culture abroad.

It is our hope that this will herald a closer partnership between the government and the Maltese communities abroad. A detailed submission on this issue was made by the MCCV earlier on in response to the Minister's Information Paper.

Community Issues

Diabetes Study. Meetings were held with the staff from the Australian Community Centre for Diabetes (ACCD) of Victoria University. A short survey was held to obtain a preliminary idea of the prevalence of diabetes. It was decided that emphasis of such studies should now centre on the second and subsequent generations who are now reaching the age when diabetes is likely to manifest itself. This study is continuing.

Migration Museum: I held discussions with Fr Alfred Vella, Direction Migration Museum, on his visit to Sydney in July 2011, particularly in connection with funds required by the Museum. Funds were raised for the Migration Museum being organised by the Emigrant's Commission in Malta. It is understood that work on this project has started.

Submission to Inquiry into Multiculturalism in Australia: In May 2011, the MCCV made a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration Inquiry. We emphasized the role of multiculturalism in the Federal Government's social inclusion agenda, the contribution of diaspora communities to Australia's relationships with Europe and the Middle East, the role migration has played and contributed to building Australia's long-term productive capacity, and made suggestions relating to potential government initiatives to better assist migrant communities establish business enterprises.

The Federation of Maltese Living Abroad: This Federation was set up and elections took place in July 2010. Professor Maurice Cauchi was elected President. The MCCV and several associations in Victoria have become affiliated with this Federation. Dr Edwin Borg-Manchè has provided a website which contains all newsletters of the Federation and other relevant material.

Australian Census 2011: In connection with census 2011, efforts were made through announcements on radio, newsletters and websites to ensure that Maltese emphasize their use of Maltese language at home. Several radio discussions, including talk-back discussions were held with SBS Maltese radio, as well community radio 3ZZZ.

The Maltese Herald: Mr Victor Borg and Mr Paul Borg attended a Dinner in Sydney to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of The Maltese Herald, newspaper.

Residential Care: A framework agreement has been signed between the MCCV and Mowby Pty Ltd, relating to working collaboratively to deliver culturally and linguistically appropriate residential aged care to the Maltese community.

Videos of *Waltzing Matilda*: several videos of Waltzing Matilda program provided by Josephine Zammit Cordina have been transferred to CD with the assistance of Glenn Johnstone.

Database of individual members: The MCCV is organising a database containing email addresses and other details of all those wishing to be informed of activities at the Maltese Centre.

Annual Events

A number of events have now become regular fixtures of the calendar of activities involving the MCCV. Some of these include:

Maria Bambina Feast: Annual celebrations of the Feast of Our Lady of Victories were held at St Mary's Church. The lead celebrant this year was Fr Victor Shield. Bambina Celebrations were held at the Maltese Centre after the Mass at St Mary's Church, where several persons attended

A series of lectures were held at the Maltese Centre by Fr Victor Shields for the general public, on various issues psychological and sociological interest. These have now become a regular feature whenever Fr Shields visits Melbourne.

Children's Parties: The Children's Christmas Party was held on 18th December 2010. This has become a fixture and aims at encouraging young children and their parents to attend, hopefully instilling in them an acquaintance with the Maltese Centre. Likewise, the Children's Carnival Party was also held this year. Thanks to Lillian Calleja and other committee members for organising these activities.

Visitors at Council Meetings

MCCV Council meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month. At these meeting the Executive comments on issues arising from month to month, and plenty of opportunity is given to the various delegates from affiliated associations to present issues for discussion and action.

From time to time we have asked various persons to come and address the Council on issues that are considered of interest to them. During the year the following have addressed the Council:

February 2011: Mr Christian Zahra spoke to the Council and suggested the setting up of a fund in memory of Bishop Joseph Grech.

June 2011: Mr Mario Attard attended the Council meeting to donate a model cannon made by his father from metal left over from WW2

July 2011: Professor Mario Garrett, a Maltese migrant, a psychology Professor at the School of Social Work at San Diego State University, California spoke about his work as Chairman of the Gerontology Department.

July 2011: Dr Helen Light, a former Director of the Jewish Museum spoke about her project relating to the collection and preservation of ethnic community artefacts that document the immigration history of Victoria stored in various localities within the ethnic community. She hopes to obtain funds to be able to provide storage, archiving and cataloguing facilities for this purpose.

August 2011: Jean-Claude Uhlenhaut, Regional Leader, Australia Investment and Trade Promotion Malta Enterprises, attended with Mr Charles Mifsud, Consul General for Malta, to discuss issues relating to Australian businesses setting up bases in Malta for commercial purposes.

August 2011: a meeting was held with Ms Anne Quinane, High Commissioner for Malta and Prof Maurice Cauchi, Mr Victor Borg, Dr Edwin Borg-Manché and Mrs Edwina Mallia. Discussions relating to various issues affecting Maltese/Australian relationships were held.

VIPs and Delegations

The Council is always happy to meet with visiting personages from Malta. The usual pattern is for these persons to first meet with the Executive to discuss issues of relevance to the community, and then they are given a reception which is followed by an opportunity for them to mingle informally with those attending the reception.

During the year several persons have visited the Council, as follows:

23 March 2011: Visit by HE Dr George Abela, President of Malta. Together with the Hon Dolores Cristina, Minister for Education, Employment and the Family. A Welcome Reception was held at Taylors Lakes Receptions also attended by the High Commissioner Mr Francis Tabone.

24 March 2011: Meeting with the Hon Mrs Dolores Cristina at the Maltese Centre attended by representatives of affiliated and non-affiliated organisations to discuss issues including the setting of the Advisory Council by the Foreign Minister and other issues. A submission was prepared by the MCCV which was discussed at this meeting.

11 October 2011: Meeting with the parliamentary delegation from Malta led by the Speaker of the House, the Hon. Dr Michael Frendo and included four MPs: the Hon. Dr Francis Zammit Dimech and the Hon. Mr David Agius for the government and the Hon. Mr Joe Mizzi and the Hon. Dr Luciano Busuttil from the Opposition.

20 October 2011: Welcome reception was held for His Grace Bishop Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo. On his visit to the Maltese Centre, he took the opportunity to meet the students attending Maltese language classes there.

25 October 2011: Visit by the Hon. Dr Tonio Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Discussions were held with the Executive and leaders of the Maltese community followed by a reception. HE Francis Tabone, High Commissioner and Mr Charles Mifsud, Consul General for Malta were also present. Afterwards, the guests were invited for dinner with the Executive.

Condolences

- **Bishop Joseph Angelo Grech D.D..** On Tuesday 28th December, the Maltese in Australia was saddened with the news of the sudden death of Bishop 'Joe' Grech. He was well known not only to Maltese, but also to catholic persons of various nationalities particularly the Italian community with whom he worked for several years. Thousands, including several members of the MCCV flocked to Bendigo cathedral for the funeral. He had been appointed Auxiliary Bishop on 10 February 1999 and Bishop of Sandhurst on 8 March 2001.

- **Mrs Nellie Borg.** The MCCV and its affiliated members conveyed their sincere condolences and deep sympathies to the MCCV Treasurer, Mr Paul Borg on the passing away of his much loved wife Nellie, who passed away on 28 August 2011.

Congratulations

The MCCV congratulates -

- **Mrs Lillian Calleja** on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in January 2011. She and her husband Vince have both contributed extensively over many years to the needs of the MCCV and the Maltese community in Victoria.
- **Mr George Saliba** on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in June 2011. For decades George has been involved as President of Newport Association, and more recently as President of the Newport Seniors Group. He has also held the office of Vice-President on the MCCV Executive for several years.
- **Dr Edwin Borg-Manché** on his appointment to the position of Honorary Consul for Victoria which was announced by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon Dr Tonio Borg, during his visit to Melbourne in October 2011.



MCCV Executive Committee – 2011-2012

Back row: *Mrs Marilyn Pace (Asst. Secretary), Dr Edwin Borg-Manché (PRO), Ms Georgina Borg (Asst. Treasurer), Mrs Rosemary Attard (Welfare Director).* Front row: *Mr Paul Borg (Treasurer), Mr Victor Borg (Vice President), Prof. Maurice Cauchi (President), Mr Gejtu Deguara (Vice President) and Mrs Edwina Mallia (Secretary).*

NOTE: Fr Edwin Agius MSSP (Chaplain) was unavailable when the photo was taken.

A word of thanks

I would like to thank members of the MCCV Executive Committee: the previous President and current Vice-President, **Victor Borg** for his help and encouragement throughout the year. **Guy Deguara**, Vice-President and manager of the centre has always been available whenever I needed any assistance, and has ensured the smooth running of the Centre. He is always found to be very active particularly during functions organised at the Centre. I also thank **Paul Borg** for his unstinting work as Treasurer, and also for running the weekly Friday Bingo; **Edwina Mallia**, who has the job of Secretary, overseeing the smooth working of the Executive, aided by **Marilyn Pace** have made my work so much easier; **Rosemary Attard**, the Director of Welfare and ensures communication between the welfare group and the Executive through regular reports; **Edwin Borg-Manché** who as PRO has done a sterling job in providing a newsletter and website of substance and interest; **Georgina Borg**, Assistant Treasurer who, as the youngest person on the committee is expected to provide an important link to the future; and finally, but certainly not least, **Fr Edwin Agius** representing the MSSP, which has played and continues to play such an important role both in the MCCV and in the Maltese community as a whole.

Secondly, I would like to thank the affiliated Associations without whom there would be no Council. They are filling a much needed niche within the community. In particular, the Maltese Historical Association, the Maltese Literature Group, just to mention two of them, are essential for keeping language and culture alive amongst the community.

I would like to thank the Welfare staff and their helpers who are doing such a good job, much appreciated by all those who benefit from their services.

There is a large number of volunteers who do sterling service to the MCCV. The Ladies Auxiliary has been active over the many years. Volunteers man the kitchen, help with the Bingo sessions, keep the library open on Fridays, provide refreshments when we organise receptions for visitors and in a hundred other ways. While it is always invidious to mention individuals, one cannot but mention Alfred Asciak who, with his helpers is to be found at the Centre practically every day, but particularly on festive occasions, decorating the Centre, preparing the well-appreciated Christmas crib, etc.

Fund raising has always been a necessary chore even though the Centre is now fully established. We thank all those who have helped us meet our expenses involved in running the Centre or providing for special projects like the Bishop Grech Memorial Fund.

The list is endless. Without their help the Centre would come to a standstill.

I look forward to another year of activity for the benefit of all Maltese living in Victoria.

Maurice Cauchi
President, MCCV

28 October 2011

Welfare Programmes

"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them."
- Walt Disney

HACC Programme

The Home and Community Care (HACC) programme Planned Activity Groups (PAG) aims to give the programme participants, who are all Maltese elderly, to see that their final dream comes true, spending time with members of the community and not being isolated and perhaps forgotten. The participants left Malta with a dream of settling in Australia and giving their children a better chance in life and that dream came true.

During the year the welfare programme included running PAGs three days a week from our Sunshine facility on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The participants for these days were from the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Brimbank, Hobsons Bay and Melton Shire.

On Thursdays the PAG was run at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville and catered for the residents of the Northern Suburbs, covering the LGAs of Moreland, Hume, and Darebin. This programme is very meaningful to our Maltese participants and the staff are a credit to the ongoing value of the programme.

The Department of Health (Vic) which funds our HACC programme is now implementing the Active Service Model (ASM) through its programmes, and PAGs are no exception. The philosophy behind the ASM is that the individual participants are assessed in a holistic way and their personal goals are taken into consideration as part of that assessment. Our staff encourage the participants in this programme to achieve goals that are realistic within a group setting, giving each participant more self-confidence. In order to provide better service to the participants the staff have undergone training and I had several meetings with our Programme and Service Adviser (PASA) to review what the programme has achieved and how we can move forward and continue to develop and improve the programme.

Our staff are also trained to recognise when participants are deteriorating and refer them to the coordinator. After a brief assessment the participant may be referred to ACAS for a further assessment, including whether the participant can access further services including our Community Aged Care Packages.

The ASM also added another requirement when assessing people who wish to attend our PAGs. Not only are the prospective participant's needs and goals considered, but now with the participants consent we can refer the participant to other welfare services if required.

During the year potential participants are referred to our service by hospital social workers, Aged Care Assessment Teams, by LGA assessors, general practitioners and family members. The programme also considers people who self-refer.

The Multicultural Dementia Planned Activity Group

It should be noted that the Multicultural Dementia Planned Activity Group under the auspices of the Macedonian Community Welfare Association still receives funding.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to locate five Maltese people suffering from dementia who are willing to participate in this programme.

Community Education

In an effort to help our ageing community continue to enjoy healthy living we conduct community education sessions. These sessions include the provision of seminars and printed material. Some of these sessions are funded under the Community Partners Programme.

In the last year we have undertaken a snapshot survey about diabetes in the older cohort of our community. The majority of respondents were members of various Maltese Seniors Groups and the results confirmed that this disease is prevalent among our community.

Students from Victoria University School of Nutrition and Dietetics held two sessions to trial Maltese recipes that they had modified to suit a diabetic diet. Both sessions went very well and the students found the feedback from the sessions encouraging.

Other Community Services

During the year several people approached us for financial assistance as they were experiencing financial difficulty. Minimal funding from the Department of Family, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs enabled us to assist these individuals with food vouchers.

We have also had people approach us for assistance relating to other welfare services (not age related). We have offered those people assistance with the completion of their Australian and Maltese pension forms, letter writing and reading.

The Year Ahead: 2011-2012

The coming years are going to be crucial for the continuation and provision of the welfare services that the MCCV offers to the Maltese Community. We are confronted with the ongoing problem of fewer people choosing to work in the aged care sector and for this community. Finding Maltese speaking staff is also problematic. As the population in general is ageing, the needs of those requiring our services are becoming more acute. We have noticed that participants are coming to the programmes more elderly and frail than ever before and programmes have to be tailored towards providing higher levels of care.

The challenge will increase and so will the resolve to help the members of our community to see their dream come true.

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

I wish to add a word of thanks to all the broadcasters of Maltese programmes who are always willing to publicise our events and services.

Michael Caruana

Welfare Programmes Coordinator

Community Aged Care Packages (CACPs)

Last year has seen the continuation of a vital service being provided to the Maltese Community in Australia. A number of clients and their families have expressed that their ability to stay at home is only possible through our support. The MCCV continued to provide that support to as many Maltese elderly as we possibly can.

Introduction

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria is funded for twenty-five Community Aged Care Packages (CACPs) to be distributed amongst the frail, elderly Maltese. The program's aim is to provide assistance to the Maltese elderly so that they can remain living independently in their home or community rather than having to access a hostel or other residential care facility. In order to facilitate this we offer a number of services to our clients (see below).

The Maltese CACP program also has an association with Catholics Homes that has provided two more Maltese clients that we service. The program is funded for 25 care packages. Along with our own clients we service the 2 Clients that Catholic homes broker our workers for, making it a total of 27 clients, all of whom are Maltese. The age range of our clients is between 71 and 89 years old.

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

Client Service

Clients receive an average of three to nine hours per week. Depending on their care needs the services may include transport to shops, medical appointments and social activities, light household tasks, personal care and very importantly for many of our clients: social support. We also provide support for family members and/or carers. As all our clients are Maltese-speaking, our services are specifically tailored for their cultural needs.

When initializing services for a new client, the program coordinator meets with the client and their representatives, such as a son or daughter. At this meeting, the CACP program, and the services it provides, is explained to the client. The preferred days and times of care are discussed and the coordinator gathers all the information he or she needs to form a care plan for the client. Involving family members with the intake process is beneficial, as any concerns about safety and well-being are discussed and they can provide valuable input and support. As MCCV employs Maltese-speaking support workers, clients who can only speak Maltese have the help of support workers who speak the same language. This makes MCCV a unique organization in the Melbourne Metropolitan area.

The Maltese CACP program provides care from Monday to Friday between 8.00 am and 5.00 pm.

It is important to limit the number of support different workers that attend to a client, this provides a sense of continuity and instils greater confidence for the client in their carer. However when support workers take holiday leave or are ill 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 the client at least once a month, either by phone or a by visiting them in their home. The client's Care Plan is also updated every six months, or sooner if a client's needs have changed. Our clients are also encouraged to have a Personal Alarm for safety reasons. The CACP Coordinator is on call 7 days a week from 7.00 am to 7.00 pm.

Clients and their stakeholders are encouraged to contact the program coordinator about any queries or concerns they may have regarding care. Open communication makes for a more effective service and leads for more effective problem solving. When specialized support is needed for a client the CACP coordinator will organize the appropriate service required, such as the Public Advocate or a Counsellor.

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

Support Workers

Most support workers are employed on a permanent part-time basis, and one is full-time. All our support workers are from Maltese descent, essential in maintaining a program providing services to a Maltese specific ethnic group.

This year, as in all years, Staff attended compulsory first aide training sessions. All staff members must have their first aide certificates and regular refresher courses are essential.

It is very important 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 encourage greater retention rates. 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.

We are very fortunate to have so many dedicated support workers.

Jeff Saliba

Community Aged Care Coordinator

Community Development

2011 was a great year in Community Development for the Maltese Community of Victoria. We have strengthened what we had previously developed and created new services for our community.

Culturally appropriate care

Our continued work with residential facilities in Victoria is beginning to produce results, which we hope, will be of great benefit to our community. Unfortunately in Victoria, we do not have a Maltese specific residential facility. The need for such a facility is being felt more earnestly now than ever before due to our ageing population as well as the great number of elderly Maltese who are reverting back to the Maltese language. We have found that both language and culturally appropriate activities and food are important to the Maltese elderly.

Over the past year we have worked closely with a number of residential facilities in areas highly populated by Maltese. Our goal is to try and ease this need by creating a 'cluster' of Maltese elderly in each of these facilities with two main purposes:

1. That elderly Maltese will be in the company of other Maltese with whom they can speak in their mother tongue, reminisce and find comfort and friendship in their common bonds
2. That they will reside in a facility that is able to provide culturally appropriate care, activities and food.

Through this programme, these facilities and their Maltese residents are benefiting from better provision of culturally appropriate services. On the basis of this success we plan to expand this programme to other facilities next year. In fact planning with various facilities to introduce this programme for next year has already begun.

Information sessions

We are working closely with Carers Victoria to reach out to those caring for loved ones of Maltese background. We have had regular information sessions that focus on how carers can better care for themselves as well as those they are caring for. Through these information sessions and visits at Maltese associations (passing on information on our work with Carers Victoria), our Maltese Carers Support Group has grown. We have also created a DVD in conjunction with Carers Victoria and other ethnic organisations on what defines a carer. We plan to further strengthen the work we have already completed with Carers Victoria.

Throughout the year we have also continued to work in the area of Problem Gambling. We conducted a 1940s theme social dance as a way to offer alternative activities for the Maltese community other than attending poker machine venues. We created the 'Gamble on an alternative' initiative in order to work with other Maltese associations in holding these activities. This year we also had a 'Mother's Day Dance' in conjunction with the MCCV's Ladies Auxiliary which was a great success we shall continue to work with other organisations in holding alternative activities to gambling.

We were also invited to attend the launch of the 'Alternative Recreation Guide' at Darebin Intercultural Centre. During this launch we spoke about our problem gambling project and our successful 'Gamble on an Alternative' Initiative. A number of organisations were very interested to hear further about this initiative.

With each new day we receive many calls for different forms of assistance from the Maltese community. In the coming year we plan to find more definitive ways to provide education, awareness of existing programmes and what assistance can be provided to those community members in need.

Moving forward we intend to grow on the success we have had with introducing programmes to residential facilities. We also intend to continue our focus on problem gambling and other areas of concern for the Maltese community.

Paul Lia

Community Development Worker

Maltese Language Classes

In 2011 the Maltese Language classes continued to promote the maintenance of the Maltese Language and Culture within the Maltese Community of Victoria.

This year marks the seventh year since Ms Laura Schembri started teaching Maltese at the MCCV. Ms Georgina Scillio, herself a qualified teacher and author of several printed and ebooks¹ has been teaching Maltese for more than four years at the MCCV. Ms Edwidge Borg continued to coordinate the Maltese Language Classes, acted as emergency teacher and ran a conversation class for advanced students.

The MCCV Maltese Language Classes programme is affiliated to Ethnic Schools Association of Victoria. This affiliation allows the school staff to participate in professional development classes free of charge and to network with other ethnic language schools as well attend local conferences.

Class textbooks and other resources review happens on an annual basis and any demands are resourced directly from Malta or through a local representative. Teachers and students use books borrowed from the MCCV library. Students are encouraged to become members of the library. The computers are utilised during class as part of technological learning.

Thirty eight students attended classes between Semester 2 2010 and Semester 1 2011. An average of six students progressed to the Advanced class. Past Advanced class students have an option of progressing to the Conversation class or repeating the Advanced class. The trend continued with students registering for Maltese Language class to cover their basic communication needs. Students who do not register to continue to the advanced classes either travelled to Malta on holiday or are unable to continue attending classes because of work pressure.

In 2011, first semester, a Conversation Class was established. This class allows advanced students to enhance their vocabulary and become more confident at reading and speaking Maltese in everyday situations.

Public Forum

On 17 October 2011 a public forum was held at Taylors Lakes Secondary College about "Saving the teaching and learning of Maltese in Victoria" organised by the Victorian School of Languages (VSL) in conjunction with the MCCV to bring the plight of the language in Victoria to the attention of the Maltese community.

The guest speakers at the meeting were: Mr Charles Mifsud, Consul-General for Malta in Victoria; Mr Frank Merlino, VSL Principal; Ms Edwidge Borg, Federation of Maltese Language Schools Vice President; Ms Maree Dellora, LOTE Manager - Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA); and Mr Victor Borg, MCCV Vice President. Mr Joe Tosic, Acting Assistant Principal of VSL, was the moderator.

¹ *The King is Coming!, The Divided Heart, and The Kiss*. - www.firsteditionbooks.com.au.

In his address, Mr Merlino said that the precarious status of the Maltese language is of concern to the VSL, which has been teaching the language since the 1970s. The language has been accredited in Victoria as a Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) for a long time. If it loses this status, it would be a disincentive to students to learn the language at the junior level. There will be more than 15 students sitting for the Year 12 exam this year, which means that we have three years to work very hard on finding additional students. In conjunction with the MCCV, the VSL is looking at ways of increasing VCE enrolments in the Maltese language.



(above from left): Ms Edwidge Borg, Mr Charles Mifsud, Mr Frank Merlino, Ms Maree Dellora, and Mr Victor Borg.

Annual Professional Development Seminar

The Maltese Language Classes of the MCCV hosted the Annual General Meeting and the Annual Professional Development Seminar of the Federation of Maltese Language Schools held on the weekend of 25th/26th September 2010. The MCCV sponsored the refreshment expenses.

Mrs Francis Bonnici, a qualified teacher and adviser to the Maltese Language Classes, presented a Workshop on preparing a Unit of work. Ms Anna Farrugia, a teacher with the South Australia Maltese Language School and Education graduate, presented a second workshop on another technique in the preparation of units of study. The workshops illustrated methods of using lesson preparation in the format approved by the Australian Education Curriculum Standards methodology.

All attendees to the professional development weekend participated actively in the workshops. The attendees were teachers and delegates from Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland (Mackay) and Canberra Language Schools. Attendees were impressed with the MCCV Library facilities. Guest speakers to the Seminar included the Consul General of Malta Mr Charles Mifsud and Frank Merlino, Principal Victorian School of Languages.

MCCV Language Class semester scholarship

Martin Lama (Beginners' class) and Carmel Noonan (Advanced Class), were awarded an MCCV Language Class semester scholarship each at the end of the second semester 2010. These students showed a lot of enthusiasm about learning Maltese by going a step further than just attendance of lessons and class participation.

Class attendance in the first Semester is again proving more popular than the second semester. The cold nights during the second semester might be a factor why adults who normally come straight after work for the lessons are not so enthusiastic about

attending late night classes. Tea and Coffee is now available to students attending classes.

Paper presented to Minister Cristina

Laura Schembri and Georgina Scillio supported Edwidge Borg when she presented a paper on behalf of the Federation of Maltese Language Schools to the Minister of Education, Employment and the Family, Mrs Dolores Cristina B.A (Hons) M.P., during her visit to Victoria on 24, March 2011. The paper sought information on the progress of proposals made by the government of Malta since 2007 and submissions made by the FMLS at the Malta Convention 2010. It sought financial assistance in running FMLS and VCE bursary payments. It sought clarification from the Minister of Education on the framework of the proposed Maltese Cultural Institute. The paper also proposed a Cultural representative in each state where there is a Maltese Language School to all local access to the Cultural Institute resources for Language/Cultural maintenance and promotion according to local needs. Edwidge Borg also sought further information on the progress of Live Online Maltese Language learning.

Use of electronic media

Georgina Scillio is currently running a weekly quiz to encourage her advanced student class to make use of electronic media to further their language vocabulary. The quiz based on the MTV Maltese News shown on SBS TV on Sunday mornings is very well participated. All teachers promote the use of electronic on demand programs on SBS and Malta based media. Students are frequently directed to radio podcasts, full radio programs as well as TV and news bulletins available on the internet.

In March 2011, Edwidge Borg participated in a Certificate IV Community Languages Teachers Training Program Quality Assurance Pilot Program held at Monash University Clayton. This conference enabled her to set up a Wikispace intranet for students attending MCCV language classes where language resources, news and events are posted on line to students. A strategic plan for the MCCV classes and a curriculum assessment according to a Quality Assurance Framework matrix formed part of the course work program.

Maltese cuisine

On the last lesson of each semester, students are encouraged to bring a plate consisting typical Maltese food and refreshments. This event is an informal lesson to encourage student to research Maltese cuisine and sample its delights.

Edwidge Borg

Coordinator MCCV - Maltese Language Classes

Public Relations

The key achievements in the Public Relations field for this year were the contribution that the Maltese Community Council of Victoria made as part of the community consultation on the proposed Council for Maltese Living Abroad Bill and the launch of the new MCCV website.

Council of Maltese Living Abroad Bill

On 16 March 2011 the President of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria submitted to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Tonio Borg, the MCCV response to the Information Paper issued in mid-January 2011 for consultation with the Maltese Diaspora on the proposed establishment of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad and the Maltese Cultural Institute.

In its submission the MCCV congratulated the Deputy Prime Minister on following through on the announcement that he made in his opening speech at the Convention of Maltese Living Abroad in March 2010 that the Government of Malta intended to establish a public institution to safeguard the interests, rights and aspirations of the Maltese living abroad.

MCCV Submission to the Deputy Prime Minister

The MCCV agreed with the Minister's proposal to establish the Council for Maltese Living Abroad ("the Council") by means of an Act of Parliament, as this would give it the necessary recognition as a permanent advisory body in the machinery of government tasked with promoting and protecting the rights, entitlements and interests of all Maltese living overseas. The MCCV viewed the passing of the intended legislation as a historic watershed in the relations and engagement between the Maltese Government and the Maltese diaspora around the world.

Part One – Council of Maltese Living Abroad

The highlights of the MCCV submission included the following:

- The MCCV agreed with the Government's aim to set up the Council for Maltese Living Abroad as an advisory body. Having the Minister of Foreign Affairs chairing the Council in an 'ex officio' capacity would give the Council a higher profile and influence. Given the advisory nature of the Council, it seemed sensible for the Minister not to have a right to vote on the Council.
- The MCCV recommended that representation on the Council should be proportional to the size of the Maltese community in the various continents and locations. Naturally, it should be the responsibility of the Council members to safeguard the rights and interests of all Maltese living abroad, including those not directly represented on the Council.
- As for the selection of Council members, the MCCV expressed the view that the eligibility criteria for Council membership should include the person's experience and interest in, and a track record of, involvement in a Maltese community overseas. The MCCV would not wish to see the appointment of people to the Council who may have lived overseas for some time but were not involved with the Maltese community in the area where they lived. The appointees must have the confidence of the local Maltese community they represent and have its support.

- On the appointment of the other Council members appointed by the Prime Minister, the MCCV generally agreed with this proposal. However, in its view, it is essential that these other members residing in Malta are fully aware of the prevailing conditions of the Maltese communities overseas. The MCCV expressed concern that someone may be appointed who lived overseas for a relatively short period of time, possibly years ago, without having been involved within the local Maltese community and, moreover, has little or no experience of the challenges facing, and prevailing conditions of, the Maltese living abroad today.
- As regards the term of office of Council members, the MCCV expressed the view that it would be appropriate that a definite term of office be established. The initial term should be two years, with eligibility for immediate re-appointment for another term of two years. Members should not hold office for more than two terms in succession. However, they would be eligible for re-appointment later on. It was also suggested that one-half of the Council members retire after the first term in order to ensure that there is some continuity and experience among serving Council members.
- The MCCV agreed with the proposal that the number of overseas members will always be greater than that of the other members.
- The MCCV suggested the addition of the following Council functions:
 - a) To establish and maintain a close working relationship and co-operation with the Federation of Maltese Living Abroad (FMLA);
 - b) To ensure that the history of Maltese migration is appropriately recorded and preserved, including the successful settlement of Maltese migrants in their country of adoption, and to this end, work together with, and provide assistance to, the Malta Emigrants Commission in establishing and maintaining its proposed Migration Museum in Malta as an important vehicle for the effective preservation of such history;
 - c) To ensure that the teaching of the history of Maltese migration becomes and remains a part of the compulsory educational curriculum of schools in Malta.

Part Two – Maltese Cultural Institute

The MCCV submitted the following suggestions on the establishment and management of the Maltese Cultural Institute ("the Institute").

FUNCTIONS OF THE INSTITUTE

- The MCCV expressed the view that the Maltese Cultural Institute should be established as a government agency in a joint initiative by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Culture and Education as proposed in the draft National Cultural Policy². The Institute should be aimed at the international promotion of Maltese culture and acting as a 'one-stop-shop' for artists, cultural operators and government entities working in culture and international development.
- The MCCV suggested that, in light of the draft National Cultural Policy, the functions of the Institute should include the following:

² Page 91.

- (a) to promote Maltese culture and identity internationally, acting as a single point of reference for artists, cultural operators and government entities;
- (b) to coordinate the government's actions relating to:
 - (i) the promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, with particular emphasis on educational programmes and formative exchanges and collaborations;
 - (ii) the development of, and collaboration on, initiatives supporting the international mobility of artists and of collections;
 - (iii) the building of cultural links with the Maltese Diaspora;
 - (iv) the facilitation of the establishment of networks and international collaboration frameworks for culture with an active Maltese participation; and
 - (v) the negotiation of the allocation of a cultural diplomacy fund to bring the proposed measures to fruition.
- (c) to devise and contribute towards bi-lateral and multilateral cultural collaboration agreements, negotiating the allocation of resources backing such agreements, and coordinating and monitoring their implementation;
- (d) to facilitate access and exchange opportunities to local and international artists, collections and cultural exhibitions;
- (e) to establish contacts with cultural, educational and scientific institutions, organizations and personalities from countries where Maltese have settled and promote proposals and projects to advance the knowledge of Maltese culture and language or otherwise aimed at cultural and scientific cooperation;
- (f) to disseminate through its branches overseas publications and information about Malta, Maltese culture and Maltese cultural, educational and scientific institutions;
- (g) to support initiatives for the cultural development of the Maltese communities abroad in order to encourage and facilitate their integration into the country of adoption and to foster the cultural relationship with their country of origin;
- (h) to ensure collaboration with Maltese students and scholars in their research and study activities abroad;
- (i) to promote and encourage educational and cultural initiatives to ensure that the Maltese language is maintained and encouraged among the younger generations within Maltese communities overseas.

STRUCTURE AND LOCATIONS

- The MCCV expressed the view that the head office of the Institute should be located in Malta with a network of Institute branches around the world, particularly in those locations where the Maltese Diaspora is concentrated, as recognised in the draft National Cultural Policy³. These branches could be housed at Maltese embassies, high commissions and consulates. Another possible location is at premises run by Maltese community organisations, where available and appropriate.

³ Page 63.

- Some consideration should be given to linking the Council for Maltese Living Abroad with the operations of the Institute, in order to avoid unnecessary overlaps and ensure full co-operation and exploitation of synergies between the two entities on matters relating to the promotion of Maltese culture and language overseas.

COMPOSITION

- The MCCV suggested that the membership of the Institute on the committees responsible for the management of the head office in Malta and its branches overseas should consist predominantly of prominent persons, particularly those who are involved in education and culture and have the right credentials and international contacts to represent academia, the arts and the professions in Malta and/or overseas.
- The MCCV suggested that the committee managing the head office in Malta should be chaired by a person appointed by the Prime Minister upon the joint advice of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Culture and Education. Some members on the committee should be appointed from Maltese living abroad, having relevant qualifications and experience.
- The MCCV also suggested that the committees managing the branches overseas could be chaired by the Ambassador, High Commissioner or Consul General at the relevant location, who could also act as the Branch Director. Membership on the local committee should be open to Maltese residents at the location, who are involved in education, the arts and the professions in that location.

Consultation Meeting With Minister Dolores Cristina

On Thursday 24th March 2011 the MCCV Executive Committee and leaders of affiliated associations were invited to meet with the Hon. Mrs Dolores Christina, Minister of Education, Employment and the Family, at the Maltese Community Centre. The High Commissioner for Malta in Australia, Mr Francis Tabone, and the Consul General for Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud, also attended the meeting. The aim of this meeting was to discuss the setting up by the Malta Government of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad and the Maltese Cultural Institute.



A copy of the MCCV response to the Information Paper issued by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Dr Tonio Borg, in mid-January 2011 for consultation with the Maltese Diaspora on the proposed establishment of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad and the Maltese Cultural Institute was presented to Minister Cristina and questions were put from the floor on various topics including education, scholarships, and pensions.

Deputy Prime Minister's Visit

On Tuesday 25 October 2011, prior to the MCCV-hosted welcome reception in his honour, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon Dr Tonio Borg, met with members of the MCCV Executive and leaders of affiliated associations. The High Commissioner for Malta in Australia, Mr Francis Tabone, and the Consul General for Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud, also attended the meeting.

Dr Borg was in Australia to represent Malta at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Perth in the last week of October. The Prime Minister, Dr Lawrence Gonzi, had to cancel his visit to Australia due to two important meetings of the European Council, the highest organ of the EU made up of all heads of government of the EU countries, due to the Euro zone crisis caused by some of its members not complying with the regulations.



In his address, the Deputy Prime Minister, spoke about the Bill establishing the Council for Maltese Living Abroad that was being published in Malta that day. He said that, keeping its promise given at the Convention last year, the Government is introducing the Bill for the establishment of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad and is doing so by agreement with the Opposition.

Dr Borg explained that the Council will be established by law as he wanted to achieve two objectives. The first objective is that, whoever happens to be the Minister, and whichever party is in government, the Minister of Foreign Affairs will be obliged by law to establish the Council. In order to remove the Council, the Minister would need to go back to Parliament. In this way, said Dr Borg, establishing the Council by law ensures continuity and permanence.

Dr Borg said that the second objective is to send a political message, not in a party politics sense, but in the sense that, just as Malta recognised the contribution that Maltese living abroad gave to their communities and the love that they still show towards their country of birth by granting them dual citizenship in a series of three consecutive reforms, today one no longer speaks of the emigrants of Melbourne or of Australia. Today, by virtue of their significant participation in the Conventions, the concept has been developed that there is only one Maltese race, some live in Malta and other live outside Malta. Dr Borg said that this change means that there should be no difference in treatment other than in those cases where it exists everywhere for valid reasons.



Dr Borg said that another objective of the Council is to ensure that not only the Minister of the day responsible for the Maltese living abroad is obliged to take their interests into account but every Minister and every director of a government department must do so to ensure that their actions do not adversely

impact the rights and interests of Maltese living abroad. In addition to setting up the Council, the Bill establishes a Directorate in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (instead of having just a Desk Officer) and the Director will be responsible for the safeguarding of the rights and interests of Maltese communities abroad.

On its composition, Dr Borg said that the Council will consist of 17 members, 12 representing the Maltese communities abroad and 5 appointed by the Prime Minister after consultation with the Opposition from people residing in Malta or abroad who are experienced in matters affecting Maltese communities abroad. This provision is intended as a safety valve to enable the appointment to the Council of someone who may have the relevant experience and capability to contribute but does not represent any community overseas.

Dr Borg said that of the 12 Council members representing Maltese communities abroad, Australia will take the largest slice with five members. There will be two members appointed from the State of Victoria, two from New South Wales and one from another Australian State other than those two States. It will also be possible to have one of the five appointed by the Prime Minister resident in Australia.

Dr Borg said that once a year the Council must produce a report which the Minister will table in parliament and will be discussed in two parliamentary committees: the Foreign and European Affairs Committee and the Social Affairs Committee.

Dr Borg said that the thorny question in drafting the Bill has been the selection of the Council members as the structures within Maltese communities abroad vary widely, making direct elections impossible. The government will select the members but the law binds the government to take into account the opinions and suggestions made by federations, community councils and Maltese organisations, where they exist. Dr Borg said that the appointments will not be a surprise and letters will be sent out to non-government organisations (NGOs) inviting them to submit their suggestions. Appointments will be for three years with eligibility for re-appointment for only one other 3-year term.

Dr Borg said that consultation with the Maltese communities was carried out through the Maltese embassies and high commissions overseas. An earlier version of the draft Bill was discussed with the Opposition through their spokesperson for Foreign Affairs, Dr George Vella, who proposed some amendments which were accepted. Dr Borg said that he was pleased to report that there is agreement with the Opposition on the Bill as published, although some more fine-tuning in Parliament could not be ruled out.

Dr Borg stressed that this Council established by law will in no way whatsoever diminish the importance of each and every voluntary Maltese community federation, community council or association that exists in all the continents where Maltese reside. The intention is to build on them and not take work away from them. It is important to view the work of the Council as complementary to that of these voluntary community organisations, just as it is critical that the social services provided by government are complemented by voluntary services.

As regards the establishment of the Maltese Cultural Institute (the Institute), Dr Borg said instead of passing another law about the Institute, a provision was included in the Bill that gives the Minister of Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the power to make regulations under the Act to establish the Institute for prior approval by Parliament to ensure transparency. The intention to establish the Institute, which involves three Ministries, is not as advanced as that of the Council, but once the Bill is passed, it will be easier to set up the Institute.

Dr Borg said that the Institute should be set up because at the moment there is an inefficient use of human and financial resources. The Ministry of Culture promotes Maltese culture overseas. The Ministry of Education promotes the teaching of Maltese overseas, among other things. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs promotes both culture and language and has 25 diplomatic and consular premises around the world which can be offered free of charge to Maltese organisations who wish to promote Maltese culture and language.

Dr Borg said that it is his intention that the Bill be approved in Parliament preferably before this year's end or, at the latest, early next year, so that the focus next year will be on the creation of structures to bring the Council to life. Dr Borg indicated that he has already sought a limited budget for the Council in the budget scheduled to be debated in Parliament in the next few weeks following his visit to Australia.

Bill passed by unanimous vote in Parliament

On Tuesday 22 November 2011 Malta's Parliament approved by unanimous vote an Act that establishes the Council for Maltese Living Abroad. The passing of the Act marks a historic milestone, and ushers in a new and exciting era, in the relations between the Government of Malta and the Maltese diaspora around the world and the further strengthening of the concept of 'Greater Malta'.

MCCV Community Awards

The criteria and rules for the MCCV Community Awards Program were prepared by the MCCV Assistant Treasurer, Ms Georgina Borg, endorsed by the Executive Committee, and approved by the Council on 5 October 2011.

The five Award categories are:

- Scholarship and Education
- Culture (Literature or Art)
- Welfare Services
- Youth (18 – 35 years)
- General Contribution

Under the Program, five persons will be nominated and selected for an award, one from each category. A certificate of appreciation will be presented to the successful nominees under each category.

Nominations must be supported by an MCCV-affiliated association or by the MCCV Executive Committee. Awards may be made posthumously in appreciation of services rendered to the Maltese community in Victoria under any of the categories. Self-nominations will not be allowed.

The MCCV Community Awards will be in place in 2012. A sub-committee of the MCCV Executive will be formed to administer the Awards.

MCCV Newsletter

Six editions of the MCCV newsletter were published during the past year. The newsletter, which was re-named *MCCV News*, was circulated by email to over 600 readers locally and overseas and is available for download from the MCCV website.

Detailed news reports were published in the newsletter on various MCCV and Maltese community events that took place during the year, including the following visits by distinguished persons from Malta:

- **March 2011** – the President of Malta, H.E. Dr George Abela and Mrs Margaret Abela, and his delegation, which included the Hon. Mrs Dolores Cristina, Minister of Education, Employment and the Family.
- **October 2011** –
 - the Hon. Dr Michael Frendo, Speaker of the Maltese House of Representatives, and the parliamentary delegation consisting of the Hon. Dr Francis Zammit Dimech, Chairman of the Standing Committee for Foreign and European Affairs, the Hon. Mr David Agius, Government Whip, from the Government side and the Hon. Dr Luciano Busuttil, a member of the Standing Committee for Foreign and European Affairs, and the Hon. Mr Joe Mizzi, Opposition Whip and spokesperson for energy, resources and oil exploration from the Opposition side.
 - the Bishop of Gozo, His Grace Mons. Mario Grech
 - the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Dr Tonio Borg.

New MCCV Website Launched

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.

As reported in last year's report, the major initiative undertaken by the MCCV PRO to review, re-design and re-develop the MCCV website from the ground up was completed in April 2011. The aim was to make the website more informative, interactive and user friendly and to make the visitor's experience richer and more interesting.

The new MCCV website.

The website was launched under a new domain address of **www.mccv.org.au** on Sunday 10th April. Among the key features of the new website are a new 'look and feel', interactive functionality, enhanced content, the ability to post comments on news items and to post feedback comments, social network bookmarking, website search facility, events calendar and a photo gallery. An individual webpage for each association affiliated to the MCCV was developed containing information about each organisation and their community events.

The new website was well received both in Australia and overseas. During the first three weeks there were about 650 people from 24 countries who visited the website. The photo gallery and Maltese Community events calendar were among the most popular pages. The MCCV Newsletter for March-April 2011 was the most popular document downloaded. By mid-November the website had accumulated 7,800 visitors and 60,000 hits and gets an average of 50 visitors per day.

It is hoped that the setting up of this new website will provide an effective vehicle for our internet-savvy younger generations to learn more about the MCCV, its history and activities and to become more interested in their ascendants' country of origin and its rich history and culture.

Edwin Borg-Manché

Public Relations Officer, MCCV

Library

The MCCV is thankful to the Maltese Government and all the individuals who donated books to our Library.

The MCCV Library's books and other reading material are now all listed in our library database. As at the 31st October 2011, the library's 6,650 books and other reading materials were listed in this database on the library computers.

Books Donated to the Library during 2010 and 2011

The following books were donated to the MCCV during the past year:

Book	Donor
• <i>Under One Umbrella</i>	Prof Maurice Cauchi (author)
• <i>Insajru ma' Karmen Tedesco</i> Vol. 4	Karmen Tedesco (author)
• <i>Insajru ma' Karmen Tedesco</i> Vol. 5	Karmen Tedesco (author)
• <i>Insajru ma' Karmen Tedesco</i> Vol. 6	Karmen Tedesco (author)
• <i>Malta's Parliament an official History</i> by Godfrey A. Pirota.	Dr Michael Frendo.
• <i>Maltese Settlement in Australia.</i>	Mr Albert Agius (author)
• <i>Maltese Achievers in Australia</i>	Prof Maurice Cauchi (author)

The following books were donated by Malta High Commissioner in Canberra:

- *Dun Karm - Studji ta' Oliver Friggieri*
- *Dun Karm - Il-Jien u lil hinn minn* by Oliver Friggieri
- *Rega sebaħ*, published by the Ministry of Education, Malta
- *Xoghol, Ġaħġiħ u Snajja li spiċċaw* by Guido Lanfranco
- *Drawwiet u tradizzjonijiet Maltin* by Guido Lanfranco

Waltzing Matilda on DVDs

Thanks to Mr Glen Johnstone, our Waltzing Matilda cassettes in our library shelves were converted and copied to DVDs. These consist of 104 CDs from the first program televised in July 1994 to July 2011.

New library computers

Two new computers courtesy of the Federal Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and indigenous Affairs are now set-up and operational in the library. The computers, 3 chairs, 2 desks and connection to the Internet were donated by NEC. The two computers have a very fast Broadband connection for the use of those attending the Centre and the students of the Maltese classes held at the Centre. We also installed the library database as a back-up on one of the new computers.

Since the installation of these computers a number of people attending the centre on Wednesdays and Fridays have been assisted in basic computer and internet use so they can become more confident using their home PC.

Charles J Belli

Library Co-Ordinator

Youth Group

Over the past few months the Youth Committee members continued discussing various ideas and commenced with strategy planning for engaging Australian youth of Maltese lineage.

Official Name for the Youth Group

A number of names were considered for the Youth Group, with the final choice being **Generation AusMalts** - simply meaning "Generation Australian Maltese" that could be shortened to 'GAM.' The idea was to select a name that would appeal to young people, a catchy acronym that encapsulates who we are and what we are about. The name also needed to have a reference to the words Australian and Maltese.

It was also important to bear in mind that we are targeting youth who are first and foremost Australian born, with a Maltese background, hence the wording order of AusMalts.

An official logo is now under consideration, again with the focus of being something representative of the group, being easily recognisable, using symbols/colours that are significant to both Australia and Malta.

Target Audience

The target audience for GAM is youth aged between 5 – 25 years. Considering a good percentage of these youth are most likely born of 1st and 2nd generation 'AusMalts,' (i.e. those in their early to late thirties), it is not so clear cut. Therefore, the targeted age range may be broken down as follows:

- Primary target: 5 – 18 years (being raised by 1st & 2nd generation Aus/Malts)
- Secondary target: 18- 25 years (being raised by 1st & 2nd generation Aus/Malts)
- Third target: 25 – 35/40 years (raised by Maltese born parents/grandparents)

MCCV Youth Page Content

The Committee developed a youth page for the MCCV website. The intention is to keep the page up-to-date and add more information as projects and events are developed. Currently, this information will act as an introduction for any young visitors to the site, looking for information about Australian-Maltese related activities, programs etc.

Social Media

Given that social media is now the one of the most popular forms of promotion, communication and interaction within today's society (particularly with the younger generation), a Facebook page was also established under the name *Generation AusMalts*.

This page is intended to be an informal online communication tool, as well as 'meeting place' for Australian-Maltese who want to find out more about their heritage, share their experiences with others, and a portal through which they can voice ideas and feedback.

This page will act as the main launching pad for Generation AusMalts, in an effort to 'spread the word' about the group throughout Melbourne and Victoria.

The Committee will also seek out other opportunities through which to promote the Facebook page via the following channels:

- A link from the MCCV website youth page
- Other formal and informal Maltese groups
- Maltese Language Schools & Centres
- Presentation to students by Committee or promotional flyer/letter to class teachers, parents of students, and students directly, provided they are of appropriate age.
- Media outlets such as Maltese radio programs and newspapers
- Events conducted by the MCCV, Maltese Associations and the Committee itself.

Face-to-face social activities will also be explored as a means of finding out directly from young people what they would like to know more about.

GAM Email Address

The following email address consistent with the name of the group and Facebook page has now been set-up for the Committee: generationausmalts@gmail.com.

Youth Welfare

Youth Committee member, George Grima, established the Generation AusMalts Youth Welfare Program, targeted at early school leavers, unemployed and existing or graduate students. The program covers youth mentoring, training and development, referral and welfare services.

Next steps...

Next year, the GAM Committee's focus will be to heavily promote the group and the group's Facebook page in order to gain some momentum in youth engagement and participation. Other priorities will include gathering a collection of ideas and feedback from those young people we are trying to attract, working with established Maltese community organisations and associations, such as, the MCCV, and the planning/execution of GAM's first event.

Rita Ellul

George Grima

Rita Catania

Youth Committee

Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Fund

On the initiative of Mr Christian Zahra, the Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Fund and Scholarship were established by the MCCV in March this year. The Scholarship is intended to provide young people of Maltese background who demonstrate some of the great qualities that Bishop Joe had shown during his life – compassion, a commitment to public service, a strong feeling of being Maltese while also embracing Australia and encouraging people to excel – to experience first-hand Maltese culture and history in Malta.

The first committee meeting was held on 8 March at the Maltese Community Council in Parkville. Committee members include: Prof Maurice Cauchi, (Chair), Mr Christian Zahra, Mr Paul Borg, Mr George Saliba, Fr. Edwin Agius, Edwina Mallia and Mr & Mrs Vella, relatives of Bishop Joe Grech.

The committee agreed to start advertising the fund at the function for the President of Malta on 23rd March 2011. Mr Christian Zahra volunteered to speak on how the concept of the fund for a scholarship came about and how it will work and most of all the need to raise funds. There was a good response from the invitees on that day and several people offered to volunteer to help raise funds.

Mr Zahra held two fundraising activities which raised a considerable sum of money. Mrs Maria Cordina also organised many fundraising functions and a sum of donations was collected. Several individuals and organisations put their hands in their pocket as did the MCCV, both directly and by fundraising.

The committee met regularly every 6 weeks to make arrangements for fund- raising activities and speaking on radio, at church and at functions. A tally of the funds donated was regularly updated and receipts especially stamped "Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Fund" were given to donors along with a letter of thanks.

At the April meeting a proforma application/information sheet was presented to the committee along with the selection criteria.

The fund is looking healthy and ready to assist the first participant who will be chosen in June 2012. The selection panel has been chosen amongst whom will be several members of the MCCV Executive as well as Mr Charles Mifsud, Consul General of Melbourne and Fra Prof. Richard Divall, Knight of the Sovereign Military Order of St John of Malta.

The committee looks forward to presenting its first or perhaps even first two participants in June of next year.

Edwina Mallia

Hon. Secretary to Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Fund Committee

Ladies Auxiliary

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV) Ladies Auxiliary's (LA) main aim is to support the MCCV in providing and extending 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 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 Ladies Auxiliary joined the welfare staff to organise the Mother's Day Luncheon. Mario Sammut from Moods Music provided entertainment to everyone's delight.

November and December are very busy months for the Ladies Auxiliary. They prepare and organise the Aged Christmas Luncheon and the Children's Christmas Party which are held at the Maltese Community Centre, Parkville. The Ladies Auxiliary provide light refreshment for the Children's Christmas Party.

The Tuesday's bingo group are invited to attend the elderly luncheon. A raffle is held during the luncheon to help with the day's expenses as the Ladies Auxiliary sponsor and prepare the Christmas lunch. The luncheon is enjoyed by everyone.

During the year Birthdays and Special days are also celebrated. Shrove Tuesday is celebrated with delicious home-made pancakes and home-made jam. St Patrick's Day is also celebrated with the prize on the last green ticket being doubled. At Easter, Figolli and Easter Eggs are always a favourite and shared and enjoyed by everyone.

The LA 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
- Inez Mifsud

Men's Group

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

The Men's Group has now been active for over 30 years, and it continues to provide an opportunity for men of Maltese background to meet on a weekly basis. The group meets every Monday, from 8.00am to 2.00pm. There are no membership fees and everyone is welcome.

The aim of the Men's Group is to offer friendship and social contact with those men who have found themselves isolated at home and from their community. Group members make new friends and are very supportive of each other.

On Mondays the group meets and chat over a cups of coffee or tea, eat some pastizzi and beautiful fresh home-made salad rolls. Topics of discussion include Maltese current affairs, family visits overseas, soccer and AFL results and other hobbies and topics of interest. Group Members also enjoy a trip down memory lane recalling memories of their youth in Malta.

Activities which are available include:

- billiards
- card games
- draughts.

During the colder months, hot meals are available from the kitchen. These include, *pastizzi*, *ravjul*, *qassatat* and the ever famous "*ħobż biż-żejt*", tea coffee, soft drinks and Kinnie.

The Men's Group at the Maltese Community centre is open to all men, not to just those of Maltese background. Further information can be obtained from John Pace at the Maltese Community Centre on 9387 8922 Monday 9.00am – 2.00pm or Friday 3.00pm to 9.00pm.

John Pace

Men's Group Co-ordinator

Discovery Tour of Malta

In 2010 I was approached by Dr. Michael Buchanan, a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Education at the Australian Catholic University. Dr Buchanan was interested in setting up a unit within the Faculty of Education incorporating the Malta Study Tour as had been done in previous years by the Victoria University of Technology.

After several meetings, Dr Buchanan established an elective study unit for November 2012. He introduced an elective unit for the students studying Education from the 2nd year of the course. The unit has become a part of the course and many students have shown interest in participating.

In November 2011 Dr Buchanan and I will be travelling to Malta to organise the Study Tour for next year. We have scheduled meetings with several interested parties, including the Minister of Education Dolores Cristina, Dr Rose Anne Cuschieri from the Catholic Education Office, Ms Anne Quinane, Australian High Commissioner to Malta, the Malta University and others.

Dr. Buchanan and I will be visiting Malta Heritage sites as hosts of Heritage Malta. We shall be going over to visit the island of Gozo and shall also inspect some accommodation to determine what is suitable for the students in respect of cost, position and amenities.

The MCCV looks forward to working together with the Australian Catholic University for all future tours to Malta.

Edwina Mallia
MCCV Secretary

Appendix A – Community Highlights in 2011

Thursday 6 January 2011

The Funeral of Bishop Joseph Grech DD, Bishop of Sandhurst

Members of the Executive of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria and representatives from its affiliated associations were among a large contingent from the Maltese community who bid farewell to their spiritual leader, the Bishop of Sandhurst Joseph Grech, at his funeral in Bendigo.



Above: The packed Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bendigo attending the Requiem Mass. Below: The grieving members of Bishop Grech's family paying their last respects.



Wednesday 23 March 2011

Malta's President given a warm welcome in Melbourne

The large Maltese community in Melbourne gave the President of Malta, H.E. Dr George Abela, a memorable warm welcome at a well-attended reception held at Taylors Lakes, a suburb in the west of Melbourne, organised by the Maltese Community Council of Victoria during his official state visit to Australia. On behalf of the community, the MCCV President, Professor Maurice Cauchi welcomed the President who was accompanied by his wife, Mrs Margaret Abela, and his delegation, which included the Hon. Dolores Cristina, Minister of Education, Employment and the Family.



(Above) A section of the audience.

(Left) H.E. Dr George Abela addressing the Maltese community in Melbourne.



Minister Cristina presents Prof. Maurice Cauchi with books for the MCCV Library as President Abela looks on.

Sunday 14 August 2011

Reskeon Maltese Association celebrates its 35th Anniversary

By Paul Vella

On Sunday, 14th August, Reskeon members celebrated the 35th anniversary of Reskeon Maltese Association and the 15th anniversary of the Reskeon Seniors Group with a free four course lunch at the Maltese Centre, Parkville.

Close to 170 attended. The celebrations started with a Special Mass celebrated for us by Fr Dr Victor Shields, mssp, at St Paul's Chapel. Fr Shields was the instrument in the founding of our Association in 1976 and he told us how it happened while delivering the Homily.

The singing during Mass was lead by Manwel Farrugia, accompanied by his wife, Margaret, on the organ.

Readings were done by Paul Vella, Sally Bartolo and Theresa Cachia, while the Sacrificial Offerings were done by Victor and Lina Pulis, and Caesar and Phyllis Vella.

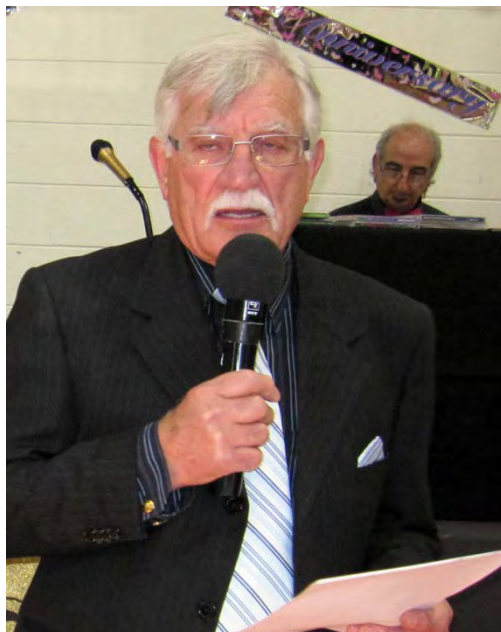
After Mass, all members went to the Hall of the Maltese Centre where they were seated at their respective tables.

MC for the afternoon was Vice-President, Mr Joe Cutajar. He welcomed all those present, especially the distinguished guests: Fr Dr Victor Shields, mssp; MCCV President, Prof. Maurice Cauchi and Mrs Agnes Cauchi; MCCV Vice-President, Mr Guy Deguara and Mrs Mary Deguara; MCCV Vice-President, Mr Victor Borg; Honorary Life Members of Reskeon Maltese

Association and Reskeon Seniors Group Inc., Dr Clemente Zammit and Mrs Mary Zammit; Life Member of Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group, Mrs Anne Gauci; Life Member of Reskeon Maltese Association Mr Laurie Bartolo and Mrs Theresa Bartolo; the Reporter and Cameramen of "Waltzing Matilda" Mr Joe Montebello and Mrs Mary Montebello; the Convenor and Broadcaster of the Maltese Programs on 3ZZZ, Mr Emmanuel Brincat and Mrs Mary Anne Brincat. Apologies for not being able to attend were received from the Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud and Mrs Anna Maria Mifsud; MSSP Rector at Parkville, Fr Edwin Agius; Fr Denis Carabott, mssp; MCCV Hon. Treasurer, Mr Paul Borg and Mrs Nellie Borg. The afternoon started by a brief history of Reskeon, delivered by President and Co-Ordinator, Caesar Vella. He spoke of the early days of Reskeon as well as the names of the first committee, with special mention of the late Mr John Gauci, first President and Mr Laurie Bartolo.

This was followed by a short speech by the President of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Prof. Maurice Cauchi (pictured below). He said that Reskeon was always one of the hard working associations in the Maltese Community.

A presentation on Reskeon prepared by Dr Clemente Zammit was run all afternoon on the big screen. Music was in the hands of capable DJ



Mario Sammut "Moods Music".

It was good to see with us our member and friend Mr Edwin Baldacchino and his son, Joseph, who sang a few songs for us.

A four course dinner was served: ante pasta, tortellini with Bolognese sauce, main course being roast chicken with roast potatoes and veggies, and dessert, Cassata ice cream. Red and white wine, beer and soft drinks were served all afternoon.

A special message for the occasion by the Prime Minister of Malta, Mr Lawrence Gonzi, and another message from the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Joseph Muscat, were read.

The afternoon finished by the cutting of the Anniversary Cake that carried the logo of Reskeon. President Caesar Vella and his wife Phyllis, invited Mrs Anne Gauci, wife of the late Mr John Gauci, first President of Reskeon, to cut of the cake. During the cutting of the cake, both committees of Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group were around the table.

The event was filmed by Mr Joseph Montebello for the "Waltzing Matilda" program.

Thanks to all those who helped to make this event such the success it was, especially those who worked hard in the kitchen: Phyllis Vella, Salvina Vella, Sally Bartolo, Joe Galea and Madeleine Vella among others, especially those who helped as waiters and those who stayed behind to help with the cleaning.

Thanks also to all those members who showed appreciation to the committees who prepared this event which was provided free of charge to all.



Above: Reskeon Maltese Association President, Mr Caesar Vella, (centre) leads the cutting of the celebratory cake.

Thursday 8 & Sunday 10 September 2011

The Feast of Maria Bambina celebrated in Melbourne

By Paul Vella

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

On Thursday, 8th September, a Mass was celebrated by Father Noel Bianco, mssp, in the Maltese Centre Parkville, attended by around 120 members of the Maltese Community. The hall was decorated for the occasion by Alfred Asciak. The Homily was delivered by Fr Bianco. Singing during Mass was in the hands of Emmanuel Farrugia, accompanied on the organ by his wife, Margaret. Readers were Laurie Armato, Guy Deguara and Sam. After Mass the St. Albans Melita Band presented a concert in the Hall. On the same night the Xaghra Association of Australia celebrated the same Feast at the Maltese Cultural Centre, Albion.

On Saturday, 10th September, Reskeon organised the Vittoria Dinner Dance at Firenze Receptions, Fawkner, which was well attended by around 250 members and friends. Distinguished guests were the Consul General of Malta and Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud (with apologies from Mrs Anna Maria Mifsud who was still in Malta); Fr Dr Victor Shields, mssp; Honorary Life Members of Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group Inc., Dr Clemente Zammit and Mrs Mary Zammit; Life Member of Reskeon Maltese Association, Mr Laurie Bartolo and Mrs Theresa Bartolo; The MCCV President, Mr Victor Borg and Briget Petty; Apologies were received from MCCV Treasurer, Mr Paul Borg.

Music was in the hands of Mario Sammut's Moods Music.

Later in the night the Malta Gozo City of Brimbank Concert Band played marches for the occasion which created the merriment for the night.

All those attending complimented the way the night was organised, the food and the atmosphere.

On Sunday, 11th September Reskeon organised the Feast of Maria Bambina on behalf of the Missionary Society of St Paul, at St Mary Star of the Sea, West Melbourne. Rosary was

recited at 2.30 pm which was followed by a Concelebrated Mass. Prime Celebrant was Fr Dr Victor Shields, mssp. Concelebrants were Fr Edwin Agius, Fr Denis Carabott, Fr Noel Bianco, all of the MSSP; Fr Emmanuel Bonello and Fr Karm Borg. The Homily was delivered by Fr Dr Victor Shields. Master of ceremonies was Emmanuel Farrugia. The music and singing was provided by the Wyndham Maltese Choir, directed by Ms Kathleen Borg.



It was a cloudy day with a bit of wind, but this didn't stop the 1000 plus of the Maltese Community to attend. Extra chairs were used so that our elderly had a seat. A number of Maltese associations attended with their banners and presented flowers to Our Lady.

Among those present were the Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles; the President of MCCV, Prof. Maurice Cauchi and Mrs Agnes and members of the MCCV Executive; Dr Clemente Zammit and Mrs Mary Zammit; members of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta and members of the Maltese Ex-Services Association of Victoria. A large number of Maltese Associations attended as well along with their banners, as well as the banners from the four villages and towns where the Bambina is celebrated in Malta and Gozo: Senglea, Mellieha, Naxxar and Xaghra, Gozo. Due to the strong winds outside, the procession took place with the beautiful statue of Marija Bambina inside the Church, accompanied by the Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society.

Tuesday 11 October 2011

Maltese Parliamentary Delegation in Melbourne

The Maltese community in Melbourne gave a warm welcome to the Hon. Dr Michael Frendo, Speaker of the Maltese House of Representatives, and his parliamentary delegation at a meeting held at the Maltese Centre in Parkville. The delegation was on a one-week visit to Australia as guests of the federal government and consisted of two members from each side of the House. The two MPs from the Government side were the Hon. Dr Francis Zammit Dimech, Chairman of the Standing Committee for Foreign and European Affairs and the Hon. Mr David Agius, Government Whip. Those from the Opposition were the Hon. Dr Luciano Busuttil, a member of the Standing Committee for Foreign and European Affairs, and the Hon. Mr Joe Mizzi, Opposition Whip and spokesperson for energy, resources and oil exploration. The visiting party also included Ambassador Gaetan Naudi, Diplomatic Counsellor to the Speaker.



From left: Mr Gejtu Deguara, Mrs Marilyn Pace, Dr Francis Zammit Dimech, Prof. Maurice Cauchi, Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, Dr Michael Frendo, Mrs Edwina Mallia, Dr Luciano Busuttil, Mr Joe Mizzi, Consul General Mr Charles Mifsud, Mr Victor Borg, Mrs Rosemary Attard, Mr Gaetan Naudi, Mr David Agius.



Left: Prof. Cauchi presents a copy of his book about the history of the MCCV to members of the delegation. Right: The Speaker, Dr Michael Frendo addressing the gathering.

Thursday 20 October 2011

Bishop of Gozo greeted at the Maltese Centre

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria hosted a welcome reception in honour of the Bishop of Gozo, Mons. Mario Grech, at the Maltese Centre in Parkville. Bishop Grech, who was on a month long pastoral visit to Australia, was greeted by members of the Melbourne Maltese community. Bishop Grech, who was previously the Parish Priest at Kercem, Gozo, was appointed Bishop of Gozo five years ago.



The Bishop of Gozo with members of the MCCV Executive Committee. From left: Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, Mr Paul Borg, Mrs Marilyn Pace, Prof. Maurice Cauchi, Bishop Mario Grech, Mrs Rosemary Attard, Mr Gejtu Deguara, Mrs Edwina Mallia, Mr Victor Borg.



Above: Mrs Stella Grech (centre) opening her birthday gift. Also in the photo from left: Mrs Edwina Mallia, Prof. Maurice Cauchi, Bishop Grech, Mr Charles Mifsud and Mr Geroge Grech. Left: Prof. Maurice Cauchi presents a memento to Bishop Grech.

Tuesday 25 October 2011

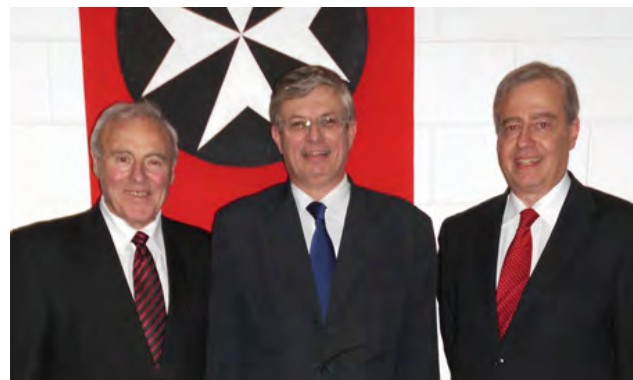
Deputy Prime Minister's Visit to Melbourne

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria hosted a welcome reception in honour of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Tonio Borg, at the Maltese Centre in Parkville. Dr Borg was in Australia to represent Malta at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Perth later in the week deputising for the Prime Minister, Dr Lawrence Gonzi, who had to attend an urgent European Union Summit.

During his address, the Deputy Prime Minister announced the appointment of Dr Edwin Borg-Manché as the new Honorary Consul for Malta in the State of Victoria, a position occupied by Mr Victor Borg for the last 30 years.



Deputy Prime Minister Dr Tonio Borg addressing the gathering at the Welcome Reception.



Above: From left, Mr Victor Borg, Dr Tonio Borg and Dr Edwin Borg-Manché

Left: Dr Tonio Borg presents Dr Edwin Borg-Manché with the warrant of appointment as Honorary Consul of Malta in Victoria

Sunday 30 October 2011

Dominican Sisters of Malta celebrate Rosary Home's 25th anniversary

The Dominican Sisters of Malta celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the blessing and official opening of the Rosary Home Aged Care Facility in Keilor Downs, a western suburb of Melbourne. A Eucharistic Celebration led by Auxiliary Bishop of the Western Region of Melbourne, His Grace Vincent Long, OFM Conv., was held in the chapel of the Home which was packed. The concelebrants at the Mass, who included several Maltese priests, were: Fr Charles Portelli, Parish Priest at St Mary of the Assumption in Keilor Downs; Fr Joseph Amal, Assistant Parish Priest; Fr Karm Borg; Dominican Fathers from Camberwell: Fr Dominic Murphy OP and Fr Anthony Walsh OP; members of Missionary Society of St Paul: Fr Denis Carabott MSSP, Fr Emanuel Adami MSSP, Fr Paul Kierce MSSP, and Fr Noel Bianco MSSP.



Clockwise above: Dominican Sisters with Bishop Vincent Long. Top right: Apostolic blessing certificate granted and signed by Pope Benedict XVI on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Rosary Home. Right: The relief of Our Lady Queen of the Holy Rosary, a gift from the Home's residents. Bottom right: Mr Paul Borg, Honorary Financial Controller and Sr Doris Falzon, Home Administrator. Bottom: Superior General of the Dominican Sisters, Sr Carmelita Borg, and Sr Doris Falzon cutting the cake.



Appendix B – Maltese Historical Association

The Maltese Historical Association of Australia had a good year in 2011 despite the fact that presentations were held bi-monthly. This decision was taken by the committee when it was noted that attendance was unfortunately declining.

After the holiday break, our first event for the year was in February. The speaker was Fr Victor Buhagiar and his topic was 'Fireworks in Malta: Their Evolution'. He explained the techniques used to make fireworks.

Some committee members of the association attended a meeting in March, for representatives of Maltese Associations where the guest was the Maltese Minister for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Ms Dolores Cristina. The meeting was held to discuss and make suggestions to the Information Note (dated January 2010) in which the Maltese Government proposed the establishment of a Council for Maltese Living Abroad as well as a Maltese Cultural Institute. A more detailed report was included in the April newsletter of our association.



Our guest speaker for the month of April was **Associate Professor Claudia Sagona** (above) and her topic was 'Looking for Mithra in Malta'. Dr Sagona spoke about the evidence she has found on the presence of the Mithraic cult in the Maltese islands and how objects with Mithraic iconography have recently been discovered. She also presented the MHA with a copy of her recent

book about this topic, which is now available in the Centre's library.

Members of the committee represented the association at the Commemoration of the Awarding of the George Cross to Malta and its people at the Shelter of Peace. A bouquet of flowers was presented on behalf of the MHA. Also in April, Lewis Zammit, a committee member, and his wife Susan represented the association in Malta on the commemoration of Anzac Day. Lewis laid a wreath at the Anzac Memorial on behalf of the MHA.

Our guest speaker for the month of June was Professor Maurice Cauchi. His topic was 'Mediaeval Malta: Exploding Myths'. According to his research, many historical facts about the mediaeval period which were traditionally taught to Maltese students were mainly based on myths.



Albert Agius (above) was our speaker for the month of August. His topic was 'They Booked their Place in Maltese History'. Albert gave brief histories of the lives of several prominent Maltese such as Gioram Cassar – the leading architect who designed St John's Co-Cathedral and Monsignor Mikiel Azzopardi who dedicated his life to helping children and the sick.

The Maltese Historical Association was represented at the Commemoration of Operation Pedestal held at the Shelter of Peace.

On 3 September, Nino Xerri, a member of the committee gave a presentation at Mill Park Library, on the occasion of Malta Day. He showed the audience of about 40 people some of his beautiful photos taken on his recent visit to Malta.

Mr Lewis Zammit, a committee member organised an excursion to the National Gallery where a group of about 15 people – members and

friends of the association visited the Vienna Exhibition.

Once again the committee of the MHA organised the Language Immersion Morning for students learning the Maltese language at different levels. This was a very successful event where different activities showcasing Maltese culture were organised for students from the Victorian School of Languages and the MCCV classes. The theme for the senior students was Maltese Folklore. The Consul General Charles Mifsud spoke about the theme in general,, Manuel Casha ran a workshop about the Ghana and Jonathan Hili spoke about the 'Festa' and how they are organised in Malta and in Victoria. Frances Bonnici, Edwidge Borg, Georgina Scillio, Marie Louise Anastasi, Laura Schembri and most committee members of the Maltese Historical Association ran and assisted in activities targeted towards the junior students. These activities included a Collage about a popular Maltese icon; Children's Games of the Past and a Writing Workshop to name a few. Where possible, the activities were conducted in the Maltese Language. Morning Tea was organised by the Association for the students and participants.

Our AGM was held in September. The new committee is as follows:

- President Frances Bonnici
- Vice President Emanuel Cilia
- Secretary Vacant
- Treasurer Mario Bonnici

The other committee members are Lewis Zammit, Charlie Portelli, Nino Xerri, Marija Cilia, Maria Catania and Agnes Cauchi. Dr Brian Zammit and Ms Pauline Zammit did not nominate for positions on the committee. We thank them for their excellent contributions to the association over the years.

In early November we visited the Taylors Lakes Secondary College where we presented the Bursaries to four students attending the Maltese classes. This is the eighth year that the Association rewarded students and this is done as an encouragement for them to continue to learn Maltese. The top student in the VCE LOTE Maltese Exam will receive the Bursary next year after the results are out. Two students from the MCCV classes are also rewarded.

Our final presentation for this year was given by Professor Mario Garrett. His topic was 'The Maltese Diaspora- from Australia to America'. He gave us an overview of the countries that Maltese people emigrated to during the last century. During the presentation, Professor Garrett touched upon some of the differences between Maltese in America compared with Maltese migrants to Australia.

We acknowledge the financial support of the MCCV, Bank of Valletta, Signature Travel of Ringwood and the Maltese Literature Group.

Frances Bonnici
President

Appendix C – MCCV Committees and Memberships

(* Denotes Chairperson or joint Chairpersons)

Centre Management – MCCV Executive Committee

*Professor Maurice Cauchi (president); Victor Borg (Vice President); Guy Deguara (Vice President); Edwina Mallia (Secretary); Paul Borg (Treasurer); Georgina Borg (Asst Treasurer); Rosemary Attard (Welfare Director); Marilyn Pace (Asst Secretary); Dr Edwin Borg-Manché (PRO); Fr Edwin Agius MSSP

Men's Group

John Pace and 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

MCCV Welfare Staff

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

Planned Activity Groups (HACC)

Pauline Fenech; Josephine Gauci; Antoinette Kasjan; Margaret Mallia; Carmen Mamo; Rose Nuner; Theresa Tabone

Community Aged Care Packages (CACP)

Mary Boland; Joan Buhagiar; Doris Cauchi; Annie Demetriou; Connine Fenech; Carmen Gauci; Josephine Gauci; Wayne Micallef; Vicky Sammut; Marina Scholz

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

MEMBERSHIP & COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria

Mr Eddie Micallef

Radio 3ZZZ Board of Management

Mr Victor Borg

Appendix D – Liaison and Outreach Activities

Government Departments

Dept. of Health and Ageing
Dept. of Health
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
Yarra City Council

Diplomatic & Consular Mission

Malta High Commission - Canberra
Consul-General for Malta - Victoria

Maltese Organisations

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

Other Organisations

Public Library of Malta
University of Malta
Bank of Valletta Ltd

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
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 / Organisations

Aberdeen Aged Care Facility
Arcare
Ardeer House
Baptcare
Carers Victoria
Catholic Homes
Cumberland Manor
North West Hospital
North-West Hospital Royal Park
Rosary Home
Royal District Nursing Service
St. Bernadette's Hostel
St. George's Nursing Home/Hostel
Western Hospital
Winteringham Hostel

Appendix E – Affiliated Associations

Association

Australian Nadur Association Inc
 Ex-Members of the Malta Police Force Ass
 Hadfield Golden Years Social Club Inc
 Klabb Ghannejja Maltin Inc
 Lalor United Bocci Club
 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
 (Acting)
 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
 Portarlington Maltese Pensioners Assoc Inc
 Reskeon Maltese Association
 Reskeon Seniors Group
 St Albans Good Friday Ass Inc
 St Bernadette Seniors & Social Club
 St. Gaetan's Society Inc.
 St. 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	Tony	Sultana
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	Sammuto
Mr	Solero	Xuereb
Mr	Ray	Anastasi
Mr	Joe	Portelli
Mr	Alfred	Sammuto
Mrs	Joy	Clinch
Mr	Edwin	Bonello
Mr	Valentino	Lewis
Mr	George	Saliba
Mr	George	Saliba
Mr	Joseph	Cutajar
Mr	Charles	Attard
Mr	Caesar	Vella
Mr	Caesar	Vella
Mr	Lewis	Stafrace
Mr	Alfred	Zahra
Mr	Guy	Deguarra
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 F – Ethnic Radio Stations

Stations Broadcasting Programs in Maltese

Name & Address	Contact Details	Program Time
SBS Radio PO Box 294 Sth Melb 3205	Mr: Joe Axiaq Title: Executive Producer Ph: 9949 2244 Fax: 9949 2385	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. 12.00pm – 1.00pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday 7.00pm - 8.00pm. Sunday – 7am
BROADCASTERS:	<i>Joe Axiaq; Marlene Galea; Tony Spiteri; Rita O'Dwyer; Antoine Said Pullicino</i>	
Radio 3ZZZ PO Box 1106 Collingwood 3066	Mr: Emmanuel Brincat Title: Maltese Programs Convenor Ph: 9415 1928 Fax: 9415 1818	Monday and Friday 5.00pm - 6.00pm Saturday 10.00am – 11.00am Last Wednesday of month 1.00pm – 2.00pm
BROADCASTERS:	<i>Emmanuel Brincat; Mario Sammut; Paul Vella; Lewis Stafrace</i>	
Stereo 97.4 PO Box 217 Sunshine 3020	Mr: Ray Anastasi Title: Co-ordinator Ph: 9318 0444 Fax: 9318 0866	Wednesday and Thursday 6.00pm - 8.00pm
BROADCASTERS:	<i>Mary Louise Anastasi, Ray Anastasi, Charlie Zammit; Carmen Zammit; Carmen Testa; Carmen Portelli; Michelle Galea; Joe Farrugia</i>	
97.9 FM PO Box 979 Melton 3337	Mrs: Miriam Vella Title: Broadcaster Ph: 9747 8500 Fax: 9747 0405	Tuesday 6.00pm – 8.00pm
BROADCASTERS:	<i>Miriam Vella and Robert Vella</i>	
98.9 North West FM PO Box 403 Glenroy 3046	Mr: Emmanuel Brincat Title: Producer/Presenter Ph: 9304 1244 Fax: 9304 1468	Friday 6.00pm - 7.00pm
BROADCASTER:	<i>Emmanuel Brincat</i>	