

Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12



October 2012

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President's Report

'Of all Maltese communities in Australia, the best organised community is that in the State of Victoria'

– The Hon Dr Tonio Borg,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malta.

It gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report for the year ending 30 September 2012 for the Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV). During the past year the Executive and Council have been meeting regularly on a monthly basis to discuss issues of relevance to the Maltese community in Victoria. The following report addresses some of these issues and highlights some of the activities that occurred throughout the year.

It is to be remembered that the work of the MCCV involves several aspects:

Firstly, the Council is comprised of several affiliated organisations – currently the number being 46 – whose aim it is to represent a wide spectrum of the Maltese community. The functions of the individual organisations vary from organising purely social activities, to those involved in more specialised work, including maintenance of culture, language and literature.

Secondly, the MCCV is heavily involved in providing a professional welfare service. This is achieved through grants given by the State or Federal government for the purpose.

Thirdly, the MCCV also supports activities including fund-raising, provision of educational material through talks, provision of speakers at Council meetings, exhibitions and other activities throughout the year.

Finally, and importantly, the MCCV has the role of representing Maltese in Victoria with federal and state authorities in Australia and with the Government of Malta.

Welfare Programmes

The welfare programs of the Council have been active throughout the year.

Two major programs are under the control of the Council:

- The Home and Community Care (HACC) Program enables Maltese elderly to attend for one or more days a week, either at the Centre in Parkville or that in Sunshine, where activities and meals are provided.
- The Community Aged Care Packages (CACPs) enable us to organise home visits by members of staff on a regular basis to assist Maltese elderly to remain living independently in their home or community rather than having to reside in a hostel or similar care facility.

Voluntary Home Visiting Scheme

Another welfare function introduced this year is the voluntary home visiting scheme, whereby selected visitors pay a visit to elderly Maltese who indicate a wish to speak in Maltese and have contact with Maltese persons.

A committee was set up consisting of Mrs Rosemary Attard (Director of Welfare), Joe Borg, Lewis Zammit, Albert Agius and myself to organise a home visiting program particularly for those living alone at home or in nursing homes. This program is now functioning, albeit with a small number of clients and volunteer visitors.

Details of these programs will be highlighted under their respective headings below.

Overseas Visitors

This year we have had visitors from overseas, as follows:

- On 11 October 2011: The *Hon Dr Michael Frendo*, Speaker of the House of Representatives and a Parliamentary delegation from the House of Representatives, consisting of the Hon Dr Francis Dimech and Hon Dr David Agius from the Government Nationalist party, and the Hon Dr Lucian Busuttil and the Hon Mr Joe Mizzi from the Opposition Labour Party.
- On Thursday 20 October 2011 a reception was organised for His Lordship *Bishop Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo*. He spoke about the role of organisations and their importance to the community.
- On 25 October, 2011, the Deputy Prime Minister, the *Hon Tonio Borg* visited the Maltese Centre to discuss a Bill setting up the Advisory Council and Cultural Institute. Present also at this meeting held at the Maltese Centre were the High Commissioner for Malta, HE Francis Tabone and the Consul General Mr Charles Mifsud. He also met with members of the MCCV Executive and Presidents of the various organisations in Victoria.
- *Fr Mark Grima elected as MSSP Superior General*. Fr Grima has been working at the MSSP mission and the Theological College in the Philippines. A reception was held at the Maltese Centre on Saturday 11 August to welcome him and introduce him to the Maltese community.

Awards and Scholarships

This year for the first time, the MCCV has organised two systems of awards and scholarships. The first one is the Bishop Joe Grech Scholarship, and the second is the MCCV Community Awards. Certificates for these awards were presented to successful candidates at a reception held on 11 July.

The **Bishop Joe Grech Fund** was set up to encourage maintenance of Maltese culture among the younger generation of Maltese Australians. A fund-raising committee was set up by the MCCV consisting of the President (Prof Maurice Cauchi), Mr Chris Said, Mr George Saliba, Mr Paul Borg and Ms Edwina Mallia as secretary. Funds totalling about \$33,000 were raised and a scholarship to the value of \$1000 was offered for the first time this year. Ms Rita Catania was successful and was presented with a certificate at the reception held on 11th August.

The **MCCV Community Awards** were set up to recognise exceptional contribution to the Maltese community. A subcommittee of the MCCV Executive was selected consisting of the MCCV President, MCCV PRO Dr Edwin Borg-Manché and Georgina Borg.

The committee received nominations in confidence and made recommendations as follows:-

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Scholarship and Education: | Dr Joe Abela |
| • Culture: | Manuel Casha |
| • Welfare Services | Frank Calleja and George Cini |
| • General services | Joseph Montebello and Benny Soler |

Certificates were presented to the persons at a reception held on 11th August 2012

Other Activities

- **25th Anniversary of Rosary Home**: On Sunday 30th October 2011, on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Rosary Home, the Dominican Sisters celebrated the 25th Anniversary

of the blessing and official opening of the Rosary Home Aged Care Facility in Keilor Downs. To mark this occasion, the President presented the Sisters with a gift for the chapel.

- **Honorary Consul:** On his visit to the Maltese Centre in Parkville, on the 25th of October, 2011, the Hon Tonio Borg announced that Dr Edwin Borg-Manche will be taking the post of Honorary Consul, replacing Victor Borg. Our congratulations go to Dr Borg-Manche on this occasion.
- **Federation of Maltese Living Abroad (FMLA):** call for nominations and elections were held in December 2011. Prof M Cauchi, was elected President and Edwin Borg-Manché and Emmanuel Cilia were elected members.
- **The George Cross 70th Anniversary Commemoration:** The MCCV cooperated fully with the initiative of the Consul-General of Malta for Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud in organising this function. Three members of the MCCV Executive (namely, Georgina Borg, Paul Borg and Edwin Borg-Manché) formed part of the committee set up for this purpose. Edwin Borg-Manché developed a website to promote the events being organised, which was launched on 1st February 2012 (www.maltagc.net.au). Several activities were organised including an exhibition of photos held at the Maltese Centre.
- **Book Launch: "Health Issues Today" by Prof Maurice Cauchi:** This book was launched on 31 March 2012, by the Consul General, Mr Charles Mifsud. It deals with medical issues of interest to the layperson. All income from the sale of the book went towards the Bishop Joe Grech Fund.
- **Presidents' Meeting:** a meeting of Presidents of the various affiliated associations was held on 21st March 2012, with the aim of enabling the various Presidents to discuss issues of mutual interest. See also editorial relating to the responsibilities of affiliated associations (appended below).

Bereavements

Condolences expressed during meetings to the families of the following:-

- Frank Bugeja, long-time member and serving President of the Maltese Ex-Services Association of Victoria.
- Joseph Schembri, a founding and executive member of the La Vallette Association for many years.

Other Events

Fire in the boardroom: Good Friday will be remembered for an unfortunate incident: We were woken up in the middle of the night because of a fire which destroyed the board room and practically everything that was being displayed in an exhibition for the occasion. While it was a great blow to our services, the damage was contained to one room only. The insurance company accepted the claim and the boardroom has been restored and is now fully functional again.

Fund raising: Bishop Joe Grech Fund: Several fund-raising activities were organised by the committee. A concert was organised on 19 February. This was very well attended. Fr Rob Galea gave a very popular concert, supported by Manuel Casha and his guitar group. Another fund-raising luncheon was organised on Sunday 22 July, when Ms Joan Drago entertained those present with a whole series of songs, old and new, English and Maltese. Mr Vince Calleja entertained those present cracking jokes for which he is well-known.

Maltese Cyclists visiting Melbourne for fund-raising purposes. Discussions have taken place to help up to 50 cyclists and organisers to visit Melbourne in November as part of a fund-raising scheme.

Donation of Painting: A watercolour painting was donated by Mr John Gordon-Kirkby, a former Royal Marine, showing a 1957 view of the Grand Harbour with HMS Surprise at her moorings.

George Cross Exhibition at the Maltese Centre: On Sunday 21st April, this exhibition was opened at the Maltese Centre by the Hon Craig Ondarchie MLC (representing the Premier of Victoria). This was part of the George Cross 70th year anniversary celebrations.

Advisory Council of Maltese Living Abroad: In a press release of 22 July 2012, the constitution of the Council was announced. Two members of the MCCV Executive (namely, Prof Maurice Cauchi and Dr Edwin Borg-Manché) were nominated as representatives for Victoria. The first meeting of the Council took place in Malta in September.

Guest Speakers

During the year, a number of guest speakers attended at Council meeting to inform the associations about issues of importance to the community.

- **Ms Sandra Mooney** from the newly formed *Nisġa* group which was set up to enhance and encourage cross-cultural and intergenerational story telling through the arts and social technology. Ms Mooney was formerly a member of the 'Maussies' group.
- **Maurice Blackburn Lawyers:** A public talk by lawyers from Maurice Blackburn was organised, dealing particularly with asbestos claims and related personal injuries matters.
- **Ms Jodie Farrugia**, a professional Theatre director and Community Artist was the guest speaker when she put a proposal on "Community Partnership for Australia's Maltese heritage" and funding project put to the Arts Victoria Heritage Fund for a project on how to explore, communicate and document Maltese heritage stories relating to migration.
- **Youth Committee:** Rita Catania and Rita Ellul attended the Council meeting on behalf of the Youth Committee to update the Council about recent events, including the presentation of a new logo and family of logos for the Generation Australian-Maltese (GAM). Several activities have been planned, including the group's Facebook page and the MCCV website.
- **Dr Helen Light:** discussed the possibility of providing storage space for the safekeeping of artefacts donated by immigrants. She has received a grant for this purpose and we are encouraged to collect any material which may be of importance in the history of Maltese immigration.
- **Rev Dr Victor Shields:** gave a talk on *Migration and Cultural Grief* on 15 August at the Maltese Centre in Parkville.

Some Issues of Concern

- **Maintenance of Maltese language at VCE level:** This issue was discussed repeatedly at Council meetings and brought to attention of readers through the MCCV Newsletter and website. The problem relates to the fact that unless 15 students from all over Australia sit for this examination, there will be no more examinations in Maltese at this level set up in future. This would be a considerable blow to those children hoping to get into tertiary institutions. Low attendance at Bingo: this is concern not only because of lack of revenue for the Centre, but also because it might

necessitate stopping the activity completely, thus depriving those who get pleasure in meeting other members of the community.

- **The MCCV Constitution:** this was discussed on several occasions with a view to a revision/updating in due course to reflect the current needs of the MCCV and affiliated organisations.

The MCCV and the Affiliated Associations

The respective roles and responsibilities of the affiliated associations vis-à-vis the Council, and in particular the importance of attending at Council meetings were highlighted in an editorial printed in the March/April 2012 edition of the MCCV Newsletter.

It is clear that both the MCCV and the associations have obligations towards the community. In the first place, the Council of the MCCV has the duty to ensure that the Constitution of the Council is not ignored, and that it executes its duties accordingly.

It may be stated that these obligations fall broadly into the following categories.

Firstly, the Council has an active welfare service to oversee. This includes the supervision of the work of the welfare employees who run programs to the benefit of the community, especially the aged and the infirm.

Secondly, it is involved in general issues relating to the community. These include issues such as maintenance of Maltese language and culture, as well as encouraging the transmission of knowledge through publications, talks, lectures, participation on ethnic and SBS radio and so on.

Thirdly, the MCCV, as an umbrella organisation is the body best suited to represent the Maltese community with the authorities both in Australia and in Malta. In this way, we try to speak with one voice, which of course would make us much more relevant than if everyone put different and even conflicting points of view.

It is to be emphasized that the MCCV can do this only with the tacit compliance of the affiliated organisations. As an umbrella organisation, the Council does not represent itself but the various members within it. It is therefore crucial for the affiliated organisations to appreciate their role within such an umbrella organisation.

The aims of the individual organisations vary considerably, and this is as it should be. Some organisations were set up as a social organisation, to encourage persons living in a relatively close proximity to come together and through a dinner dance or an outing, maintain their contact with each other and have a good time. Other organisations were originally set up to celebrate their village festa, to which aim they often add social activities for their members. Still others have a more specific aim, such as the maintenance of Maltese language, or Maltese history. A very few are more professionally based, and serve to encourage networking with each other.

These are all worth-while aims, and it has always been the aim of the MCCV to encourage the setup of such organisations, and to help with any issues as best it can.

However, one must emphasise, that being affiliated with the MCCV imposes certain other obligations, over and above the duties mentioned above. Affiliation with the MCCV means that the various organisations believe in a common philosophy as promulgated in the Constitution. One would hope that they share with the MCCV the need to help fellow Maltese wherever they happen to be in Victoria. They share the hope that our culture, if not our language, will outlast us. They see the need to look after our elderly and infirm and the home-bound.

It is for this reason that the Constitution stipulates that the MCCV Council should meet not less than 10 times every year to discuss issues of relevance to the community in general and not just issues relating to one's specific organisation. Organisations should consider their wider obligations in this respect and ensure that their voice, and particularly their points of view are heard and their ideas followed through. It is also to be hoped that they might, as far as possible, provide some assistance with the various voluntary work performed under the aegis of the MCCV.

Relations with representatives of Maltese Government

The MCCV acknowledges the assistance and cooperation of the representatives of the Government of Malta. We have always found assistance and support from both H.E. Mr Francis Tabone, High Commissioner, as well as the Consul General, Mr Charles Mifsud. Moreover, we have had the benefit of an Honorary Consul on the Executive for a very long time, first in the person of Mr Victor Borg, and more recently with the appointment of Dr Edwin Borg-Manché. We thank all these persons for their continued interest and assistance in smoothing any issues relating to our interactions with the Maltese government.

Acknowledgement of Effort

The Council could not function without the assistance of several persons who selflessly devote themselves to the running of the Council and the Centre itself.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Executive which has been very supportive to me over the year. In particular, I am indebted to the Vice-Presidents: *Gejtu Deguara* for taking on the extra duties of manager of the premises at Parkville, and to *Victor Borg* for his valued advice and assistance. *Paul Borg*, our treasurer is the bed-rock on whom we depend for the health of the MCCV finances, providing us with professional, precise, up-to-date financial reports on a monthly basis. He is also responsible for managing the bingo session on Friday evenings.

Thanks also to our Secretary, *Edwina Mallia*, and in her absence, the Assistant Secretary, *Marilyn Pace*, for dealing with correspondence, and other administrative duties; to our Public Relations Officer, *Dr Edwin Borg-Manché*, who is responsible for setting up and administering the MCCV website as well as editing and publishing our popular bi-monthly Newsletter, which publications have now reached quality levels unheard of previously; and to our Welfare Officer, *Rosemary Attard*, who has prepared monthly welfare reports presented at the Council meetings.

My thanks also go to our Chaplain *Fr Edwin Agius* MSSP for the spiritual guidance that he provides on the Executive Committee and at Council meetings.

I would also like to thank also those affiliated organisations who take their duties seriously and ensure that delegates from their organisation attend regularly at Council meetings. Without their cooperation the functions of the Council would come to a standstill.

I would also like to thank the members of the Welfare group, namely the Welfare Programmes Co-ordinator, *Michael Caruana*, the Community Aged Care Coordinator, *Jeffrey Saliba* as well as the Community Development Worker, *Paul Lia*. They run an excellent welfare program to help Maltese in need of our help.

I thank the Administrative Secretary, *Carmen Mamo*, for her excellent performance of her duties and support of the Council.

There are also a large number of volunteers, too many to name individually, who provide an essential service to the Council. Among these one must mention:

- The Ladies Auxiliary group who have been active for decades in providing assistance to the Council, not only in preparation for receptions on various occasions, raising funds, but also in running social activities on Tuesdays.

- *Alfred Asciak* and those assisting him for their unstinting efforts in continuing to organising and preparing the Centre for the various functions, including Good Friday, Christmas and several other occasions throughout the year.
- All those other volunteers who lend a hand when required and without whose assistance the MCCV would not be able to be run so smoothly.

Relations with Religious Institutions

The Council would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Maltese religious institutions to the Maltese community in general and the MCCV in particular. Our relations with the MSSP have always been very cordial and have been crucial to our success in establishing our centre in Parkville. This close cooperation has continued ever since.

We would also like to acknowledge the service given by the Diocesan priests, as well as the Dominican and Augustinian Sisters and members of the various other religious orders. Their service to the community is well appreciated.

Finally, I hope that we will continue to work together to provide a focus for all Maltese in Victoria, and to provide welfare and other social functions for the benefit of all. As the Maltese community grows older, their needs seem to increase, and we strongly believe that there will be a need for a Council for a long number of years to come. By working closely and effectively together we can achieve our common aims to the benefit of the large Maltese community in Victoria.

Maurice Cauchi
President, MCCV

30 September 2012



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.

Welfare Programmes

It is often stated by members of our community that the Maltese elderly are becoming socially isolated and that more needs to be done. It is an undeniable fact that in every community there are individuals who do become socially isolated for various reasons but the most common is old age and frailty. Many people are attending seniors groups for much longer due to better health but unfortunately once they are no longer able to attend then these same people are left on their own and fall into the socially isolated category.

Over the years we have tried different ways to reach out to these people and due to their isolation it is difficult to find them out. During this year we explored the possibility that seniors groups will refer those who no longer attend their regular session to the Planned Activity Groups run by the Maltese Community Council of Vic Inc. We are still to see results.

Planned Activity Groups

Through the funding that we receive under the Home and Community Care (HACC) programme from the Department of Health (Vic) the MCCV runs four days of Planned Activity Groups in the north west region of Metropolitan Melbourne – three days at the Sunshine premises covering clients from the local government areas of Brimbank, Hobsons Bay and part of Melton.

The majority of our clients for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are from the Brimbank area which has the highest concentration of Maltese especially over 65 second being from Hobsons Bay followed by Melton.

The participants for the Thursday group are from the northern suburbs and cover the LGAs of Hume, Moreland, Moonee Valley, Darebin. At present we have two 91 year olds and the youngest is 65.

In July the staff attended a refresher course in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) which has to be undertaken annually. Premium Health provided the training.

In September and November the HACC staff attended two sessions of training on the Active Service Model (ASM). ASM is now being gradually implemented by getting staff up to standard and an ASM plan has been submitted to the DH. These sessions helped us all come to understand how the ASM can be presented to the clients. It empowers the clients, within the programme constraints, to become more independent and to take responsibility of some of the day's activities.

Early December 2011 the MCCV Ladies Auxiliary held the annual Christmas Luncheon for the PAG clients with invitees from residential facilities. The numbers were encouraging as about a 100 people attended. The Ladies Auxiliary as usual prepared a splendid meal and our HACC staff assisted as required, working together for a common cause – a celebratory meal for the elderly. Mr Freddie Xuereb kept his annual appointment and provided music for the day. Some staff members joined Freddie and led the group in singing Maltese Christmas Carols. Fr Edwin said Mass for the group at the start of the day and administered the Anointing of the sick to all present, something much appreciated by all.

On 24th February 2012, the MCCV President, Prof Maurice Cauchi, the Treasurer, Paul Borg and the Programmes Coordinator, Michael Caruana attended a meeting with the Department

of Health HACC Programmes and Service Adviser (PASA) at the Department's offices in Collingwood to discuss how the Maltese elderly can better utilize the PAG programme. It was agreed that the MCCV tries to work in partnerships with mainstream agencies and Maltese seniors groups to refer prospective clients to the MCCV.

On 7th August 2012, the Department of Health and the Department of health and Ageing did a joint quality review of our programmes. The assessors initially met with the MCCV President and with the CACPs coordinator and Programmes Coordinator. Then the assessors went through our Policy and Procedures documents, client files and spoke to clients and staff over the phone. We are now waiting for the report so that an improvement plan can be prepared and approved by both departments.

Emergency Relief

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) funds the MCCV for Emergency Relief on a minimalist service agreement. This allows the MCCV to assist a number of people from time to time when they are struggling to either pay bills or put food on the table. The MCCV does not give out cash but food vouchers. Those who seek help are on Centrelink payments and due to various reasons but especially illness, find it hard to make ends meet. If the assistance sought is beyond the funding agreement the person is referred to mainstream agencies.

Other Community Services

During the year we help members of the community in several ways. One of the most common requests is the filling in of forms – Centrelink, Maltese Pensions, Victorian Taxi Directorate for half price fares, assistance with social housing to mention a few. During the year we receive phone calls from interstate both from individuals who are Maltese or of Maltese descent and also from organisations that are catering for members of the Maltese community in that particular state. It is encouraging to see that the work of the Maltese community Council is valuable to more than just the Victorian Maltese community.

The Future

The first few months' priority will be to put into action the plan that comes out of the Quality review, which will mean that the appropriate Policies and Procedures will have to be written and approved. This does not take away from our commitment to be there for the Community in their need.

I envisage that we continue to build partnerships with both Maltese seniors groups, local government agencies and mainstream agencies to reach out to those elderly Maltese who can become socially isolated. It is important that in particular, the Maltese associations refer to the services of the MCCV any member who is no longer able to attend their functions.

I thank the MCCV President, Prof Maurice Cauchi and all the MCCV executive committee members for their support and the trust they put in all our staff and in me.

A word of gratitude to all the broadcasters in Maltese on both the community radios and SBS, they are always ready to put on air any notices that we need to pass on to our community.

Michael Caruana

Welfare Programmes Coordinator

Community Aged Care Packages (CACPs)

Currently the MCCV is funded for 25 packages of care and services two clients from Catholic Homes, making it a total of 27 clients, all of whom are Maltese born. The age range of our clients is between 76 and 95 years old.

Staff numbers have been stable this year and there have been no changes.

Client Service

We provide specialized care packages for our Maltese-speaking clients. When starting a new client, the coordinator meets with the client and any representatives of the client, such as relatives or friends. At this meeting, the CACP program is explained to the client, client needs and times of care are discussed, work environment is assessed and a care plan is drawn up.

Family members are always encouraged to be present at the intake process as any concerns 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 the MCCV unique in providing this kind of culturally specific support to the Maltese Community.

We provide care from Monday to Friday between 8am and 5pm. Maltese Care Packages' service includes transport to shops, medical appointments and social activities, light household tasks, personal care and social support. We endeavour to limit the number of support workers that service a client, but when support workers are on holidays or sick, it is not always possible to provide consistency. We understand this can be difficult for our clients, but it is clearly explained at the initial meeting that this may happen, and all clients and their family members understand. The Coordinator makes contact with the client at least once a month, either by phone or by making a home visit. Every six months, or sooner if a client's needs have changed, the client's Care Plan is updated. We encourage all our clients to have a Personal Alarm for safety reasons. The Coordinator is on call 7 days a week from 7am to 7pm.

The MCCV encourages all its clients and their stakeholders to contact the coordinator about any queries or concerns they may have regarding a person's care. Information on complaints procedures and feedback is given to all clients.

We also provide advocacy for all clients when needed. Whether dealing with Centrelink or Hospitals or any organization, we support the client in dealing with the beaurocracy.

During this past year, some of our clients regularly attended the Maltese Day Centre, both at Parkville and at our Sunshine office. We also held our pleasant Christmas lunches again, one for the clients and one for the support workers, and we are looking forward to organizing this again this year.

Support Workers

We are fortunate to have many dedicated support workers. Most support workers are employed on a permanent part-time basis, and three are full-time.

All our support workers are of Maltese descent and therefore understand the language and culture of our clients. All our support workers are encouraged and supported to complete Certificate III in Home & Community Care, a recognized aged care qualification, and are then

paid at a higher rate if they complete the qualification. We also organise first aid courses for all workers.

It is essential to stay competitive with wages, both for staff recruitment and retention. We also provide stability and security for our workers that many other organizations do not. As permanent part-time or full-time workers, they receive pro-rata sick and holiday pay that ensures a certain income security. Most organizations only hire on a casual basis, so when their support worker is sick they don't get paid.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank to all CACP support workers for their dedicated work in the field, many of whom go above and beyond the call of duty.

Conclusion

This year has seen the continuation of a vital service being provided to the Maltese Community in Melbourne. Many clients and their families have expressed the view that their ability to stay at home is only possible through our support. We will continue to provide that support to as many Maltese elderly as we possibly can.

Jeff Saliba

Community Aged Care Coordinator

Community Development

2012 was a very fruitful year in the area of community development. Apart from the work that was accomplished during this year, we also were successful in receiving the Healthy Ageing Grant for the next three years from the Department of Health & Ageing. This grant will now replace the previous fund, which was the Community Partnerships Programme (CPP).

We have continued our work with residential facilities for the benefit of the ageing members in our community. The cluster programme is growing and currently we are working very closely with Cumberland Manor in North Sunshine. The work with this facility began in March and this partnership is getting stronger with closer collaboration in many aspects that can benefit members of our community. The cluster programme was initiated when we saw the growing need in our community of aged care facilities that cater for the cultural, religious & culinary needs of those Maltese that are looking at entry into aged care.

With the Maltese community ageing rapidly many issues started to immerge such as reverting back to speaking Maltese only, limited number of Maltese speaking workers at residential facilities and through the programmes we held at Cumberland Manor we have provided the staff with training and resources that make them better able to cater for the Maltese Community. A number of resources were created to assist the staff in providing better culturally appropriate care such as:

- The Maltese Resource Directory with information on Malta, Maltese recipes & a calendar that lists all Maltese feasts.
- A set of Maltese/English flashcards with phonetic translations.
- A Maltese cultural activity booklet with ideas on how to hold a traditional Maltese activity

On the 29th of June we completed this programme with the staff at Cumberland Manor holding a traditional Maltese *Imnarja* for their residents and visitors. This work will continue on for years to come.

Another very important partnership that we have continued with is that with Carers Victoria. The aim of this partnership was to highlight the needs of carers, educate carers on their rights and what services are available to them as well as creating a support group for Maltese carers.

The following is a breakdown of the work that was done with Carers Victoria:-

- Conducted 20 workshops and presentations
- Produced a radio announcement that was broadcasted on Maltese radio programmes
- Produced a DVD about caring in Maltese.
- Produced a poster about caring in Maltese/English
- Had 6 meetings with Carers Victoria as well as other partnered ethnic groups
- Organised and held an interview on SBS radio with the CEO of Carers Vic. and myself
- Various articles on the work we are doing with carers Victoria

Currently we are preparing for the new Healthy Ageing Grant. Our project is called *Building a Permanent Bridge*. The aim of this project is:

- To continue and strengthen the Maltese Cluster Programme with residential facilities so that our elderly will have facilities to live in where they will be better catered for in the areas of Maltese culture, food & their religious needs.
- To organise and hold information sessions and seminars for members of our community on issues that affect or will affect them in the future. We will also hold sessions that will give them information and inspire them to live better, healthier and more active lives.
- We will work with mainstream organisations with the purpose of representing and putting forward the needs of the Maltese community and collaborating with them for the greater benefit of our community.

We hope that we will further consolidate the work we have done with residential facilities with our cluster programme. We hope also that we will better represent the needs of the Maltese community in the wider community and through what we have planned for the next year we will better prepare.

Paul Lia

Community Development Worker

Maltese Language Classes

This year marks the eight year since the present Education committee have undertaken the task promote the maintenance of the Maltese Language and Culture within the Maltese Community of Victoria.

The MCCV Maltese Language classes offer three levels of tuition - Beginners, advanced and conversation classes to adults and family accompanied children. The current MCCV tutors are Laura Schembri, Edwidge Borg and Georgina Scillio. Ms Scillio is a qualified teacher. Both Ms Schembri and Ms Borg have a LOTE certificate from RMIT. Ms Borg and Emma Navarro act as emergency teacher.



Students at end of Semester

For the 2011-2012 year, a review of class textbooks was undertaken. The school buys all resources from Malta through a local representative. Teachers and students use books borrowed from the MCCV library. Students are encouraged to become members of the library. The library computers are utilised during class as part of technological learning

Twenty-six students registered for classes in classes Semester 2 2011 and thirty-two students enrolled for Semester 1 2012. Ten students progressed to the Advanced class.

In July, Mrs Bonnici, Ms Borg and Ms Scillio organised a professional development session for the new Victorian school of Languages teachers. In attendance were Ms Emma Navarro, Paul Lia and Sandra Bartolo. Francis Bonnici prepared scope and sequence template for the teachers to use in their lesson preparation. She demonstrated the application of the template in relation to interaction between year level developments of topics.

In September 2012, students and tutors formed part of the Language Immersion Morning organised by the Maltese Historical Association. During this annual event, students from the Victorian School of Language and Maltese Language Classes participated in cultural activities such as traditional Maltese games, cooking, music and lectures in customs and traditions.



On the weekend of 19-20 November, The Federation of Maltese Language School organised a Professional Development National Conference in Sydney (see group photo above).

The tutors from the MCCV Maltese Language Classes Laura Schembri, Georgina Scillio and Edwidge Borg as well as Education Committee member Frances Bonnici and Victorian School of Languages Emma Navarro attended this seminar.

In March 2012, two adult students from the Maltese classes, Sylvia Barry and Ray Azzopardi were amongst the recipients of the annual Maltese Historical Association Award. Each student received a \$50 prize gift voucher. Both Ms Barry and Mr Azzopardi were also recipients of book prizes from the MCCV Education Committee.



MCCV Book prize presentation by Ms Georgina Scillio to Mr Ray Azzopardi (left) & Ms Sylvia Barry (right)

Georgina Scillio continues to run the weekly Maltese news quiz. The quiz centres on the MTV Maltese News shown on SBS TV on Sunday mornings. This quiz encourages students to make use of electronic media to further their language vocabulary and expand their knowledge of current Maltese expressions and idioms. Students actively participate in this task.

A regular update of the Wikispace intranet, for students attending MCCV language classes, is regularly undertaken. The Wikispace contains language resources, news and events on line.

Students this year are participating in a small skit titled "Fuq il-Buses". This parody is written and produced by Georgina Scillio and will be performed by the students at the Lejla Musiko-Letterarja organised by the Maltese Literature Group which will be held in September 2012 at the Maltese Community Centre.

Edwidge Borg

Coordinator MCCV - Maltese Language Classes

Public Relations

On Tuesday 22 November 2011 Malta's Parliament unanimously approved the enactment of the *Council for Maltese Living Abroad Act 2011*. The passing of the Act marked a historic milestone and ushered in a new and exciting era in the relations between the Government of Malta and the Maltese diaspora around the world. It further strengthens the concept of 'Greater Malta'.

Appointment of the Advisory Council

On 22 July 2012 the Government of Malta announced the appointment of the advisory Council from representatives from Maltese communities living abroad. The setting up of this council fulfills a promise made by the Government during the Convention of Maltese Living Abroad that took place in Malta in March 2010.

The MCCV made a significant contribution to this important development in Maltese diaspora relations. At the abovementioned Convention, the then MCCV President Mr Victor Borg and MCCV PRO Dr Edwin Borg-Manché submitted and presented a joint research paper on the responsibility of the Maltese government in its engagement with the Maltese diaspora. In early 2011, during the consultation process of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Dr Tonio Borg, with Maltese communities overseas, the MCCV presented a detailed submission on the Minister's Information Paper to the Hon. Dolores Cristina who represented Dr Borg during her visit to Melbourne with President Dr George Abela in March last year.

One of the functions of the Council is to monitor the standard of living of such communities and strengthens the links between them and the political, cultural, economic and social aspects of Malta. Other functions are to protect the rights and interests of these communities, while also upholding their Maltese cultural and linguistic identity and to promote Malta's immigration history and culture overseas, in particular the learning of the Maltese language.

The Council will provide advice to the Government on every legal bill that may impact the interests of Maltese living abroad as well as every administrative measure that is of particular interest to Maltese communities.

The Council has the responsibility of keeping a registry of non-governmental organisations overseas established by Maltese communities and another registry of prominent Maltese citizens that have distinguished themselves abroad.

Council Membership

The advisory Council will be presided by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Dr Tonio Borg, and consists of representatives appointed following consultation with Maltese communities from the following countries and regions:

- Victoria and New South Wales in Australia
- Other States in Australia
- United States of America
- Canada
- Europe (other than the United Kingdom), and
- United Kingdom.

The Council also includes five people who have significant experience working with Maltese communities living abroad. The Council represents these communities in meetings with the Government of Malta and every other public authority.

MCCV President Prof Maurice Cauchi and MCCV PRO Dr Edwin Borg-Manché were appointed members of the Council to represent the Maltese community of Victoria.

The other members of the Council are:

- Mr Lawrence Dimech and Mr Gaetano Pace from New South Wales, Australia
- Mr Frank Scicluna from other states in Australia
- Mr Larry Zahra and Mr Louis Vella from United States of America
- Mr Joseph Scerri from Canada
- Mr Bernard Scerri from United Kingdom
- Mr Franklin Mamo from Europe

Five Maltese community experts living abroad that were chosen by the Prime Minister after consultation with the Opposition are:

- Mr Roderic Bovingdon (Australia)
- Fr Alfred Vella (Migrants Commission, Malta)
- Mr Joseph Muscat (Gozo)
- Ms Carmen Galea (Canada)
- Ms Rosalie Rivett (United Kingdom)

The first meeting of the Council of Maltese living abroad was held in Malta in September 2012.

MCCV Newsletter

Six editions of the MCCV newsletter *MCCV News* were published during the past year. The newsletter 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.

MCCV Website

The MCCV website continues to be well received both in Australia and overseas. During the past 12 months we had about 14,000 visitors from around the world who viewed the website, which is about double the number of visitors last year. The most popular news story has been that about the Maltese Dominican Sisters celebrating Rosary Home's 25th anniversary published in November 2011 which has had over 3,250 hits. The most downloaded document was the MCCV Newsletter 113 May-Jun 2012 with 450 downloads.

Edwin Borg-Manché

Public Relations Officer, MCCV

Library

The cataloguing of all library books and other reading material has been completed and recorded in our database software program Athenaeum Light, a fully functional library package oriented towards schools and smaller libraries. The number of books and other resources listed in our database as at the end of August 2012 stood at 6,658.

During the past 12 months, the number of people attending the Maltese Centre on Friday nights has decreased considerably as did the number of those using the library during those nights. However, on a more positive note, a number of young people have been using the library for their projects and the two new Computers with internet facilities, courtesy of the Federal department of Families, Housing, Community Services and indigenous Affairs, has been frequently used by a number of people attending the Centre.

Books Donated to the Library during 2012

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

Book	Donor
La Bidu, la Tmiem	Malta Consul General
Inkomplu Insajru	Ms Karmen Tedesco
Il-Maltin. Snajja' u Xogħol	Ms Sarah & Mr Michael Catanja
L-instrument u l-eżilju matul l-aħħar Gwerra	Dr Paul Borg Olivier
Festa Santa Marija, Mosta	Mr Gejtu Deguara
Konvenzjoni għall-Maltin li jgħixu barra minn Malta	H.E. Francis Tabone
Love letters from Malta	Ms Edwina Mallia

We express our gratitude to all those who generously donated books and other library resources to the MCCV Library.

Waltzing Matilda

Our library holds copies of past editions of the popular Maltese television program, *Waltzing Matilda*, which has been running uninterruptedly for 18 years. The program had its last production presented by Mrs Josephine Zammit Cordina on 27 July 2012. It is not clear at this stage whether the program will continue with a different presenter. We express our thanks to Ms Josephine Zammit Cordina, her husband Harry and staff, Mr. Joe Montebello and all those who contributed to the show.

Charles J Belli & Gejtu Deguara
Library Co-Ordinators

Youth Group

The MCCV has been endeavouring to set up a youth committee for many years with limited success. This task has continued to be rather challenging but is starting to bear some fruits.

Three years ago another attempt was made at starting up a youth committee with about half a dozen young people. However, within the following year the numbers dropped to 4 and then to 3. One of the three committee members, George Grima had even started the Youth Welfare program out of the MCCV Sunshine premises with one applicant benefitting from it during the 6 months that this program ran for.

Generation AusMalts

During the past year the committee has been run by two very dedicated young ladies, both sharing the name Rita – Rita Catania and Rita Ellul. They have been working very hard and systematically and have successfully set up a Facebook page for the Maltese youth. The name chosen is GAM which stands for *Generation AusMalts*. It was decided that the way to communicate with the youth in this day and age is via the social media. The Facebook page is under the control of these two dedicated ladies and is continuously under scrutiny by them. They have put up lots of information and kept us up to date with the Maltese Olympic Team as well as the Australian Olympic team during the London Olympics.



Their first activity is being held on Friday 6th September, to go and watch the play “Angela’s Kitchen”, by Paul Capsis and Julian Meyrick at Malthouse Theatre. Angela is Paul’s grandmother. In 1948, Angela left Malta. Having gathered up five children, she sailed out, leaving poverty and war behind. Her destination: Australia. The 22 people booked for this event will be meeting for drinks prior the start of the play and then afterwards meeting with Paul Capsis.

To celebrate Malta’s Independence Day on 21 September, the youth committee organised a Maltese dinner at St Katherine’s restaurant. Their last activity planned for the year will be the Children’s Christmas Party in December.

I would also like to mention that Rita Catania was the recipient of the inaugural Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship, a well-deserved award for her engagement with the Maltese community in Melbourne.

Malta Discovery/Malta Study Tour

The Malta Discovery/Malta Study Tour will be departing on 23 November 2012. There are 32 participants this year, including 23 from the Australian Catholic University who will be undertaking this tour as a unit in their Teaching course. There are 8 persons going for 4 days to Rome during the second week in Malta. The preparations for this year’s Malta Discovery/Study Tour started over a year ago with talks being held with Dr Michael Buchanan of the Australian Catholic University. In November 2011, Michael and I went to Malta to check out and develop an itinerary which would be most advantageous for the students. There we met with several personnel to put together an academic programme for the students.

Meetings were successfully held with Mrs Dolores Cristina, Minister for Education, Dr Valerie Sollars, Dean of the Education Faculty at Malta University, Ms Anne Quinane, Australian High Commissioner for Malta, various accommodation properties, Heritage Malta and members of the Catholic Education Directorate.

Preparations for next year’s Malta Discovery/Study Tour have already started.

Edwina Mallia

Hon Secretary – MCCV

Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Fund

The Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Fund was set up in memory of the late Bishop Joseph Grech of Sandhurst. The aim of the Scholarship Fund is to enable young persons of Maltese origin to continue in the footsteps of the late bishop, and in particular to encourage interest in Maltese culture.

Members on the committee include, Professor Maurice Cauchi, Mr Christian Zahra, Mr Paul Borg, Mrs Edwina Mallia, Mr George Saliba, Fr. Edwin Agius and Mr and Mrs Vella, relatives of the bishop. The first meeting this year was held on 24 January when it was decided to organise a fundraising dinner with the participation of Fr Robert Galea and Mr Manwel Casha and his group. This was a great success.

At the following meeting, in May, an application including terms and conditions for the Scholarship was prepared. This information was disseminated to the Maltese community via the community radio media, the MCCV website and letters to affiliated associations. The youth committee assisted in putting together the final application form and other information.

Another fundraising event was proposed for July with the participation of Joan Drago, soprano, Vincent Calleja, comedian and others. Raffles at these fundraising events were always very fruitful, the enthusiasm and assistance in the raising of funds by Mrs Maria Cordina was acknowledged by presenting her with a small gift.

Donations from various people and organisations are continuously being received. Among the affiliated organisations special thanks are due to Newport Maltese Association, Malta Star of the Sea House Inc, and Reskeon Maltese Association among others. We also thank the Kiama Branch of Knights of the Southern Cross (NSW) Inc., for their donation for this fund though the services of HE Francis Tabone, High Commissioner. The encouragement and help by Mr Charles Mifsud, Consul General of Malta in Melbourne is also noted.

From the applications received by the closing date Mrs Rita Catania was chosen as the recipient of the Bishop Joe Grech Scholarship for 2012. Mrs Catania was chosen by a selection committee made up of Fra Richard Divall, Mr Charles Mifsud and Prof. Maurice Cauchi. The scholarship amount awarded was \$1,000 and will help the winner of this scholarship to cover expenses involved in her trip to Malta. It is hoped that this trip will strengthen her ties with Malta and will enable her to be in a better position to promote Maltese culture among the younger generation.

Paul Borg, as treasurer of the fund, advises that the Scholarship Fund is healthy and to date stands at \$35,000.

Edwina Mallia

Hon. Secretary to Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Fund Committee

Ladies Auxiliary

The main aim of the Ladies Auxiliary (LA) group of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV) is to assist and support the MCCV in its provision of 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.

During the year birthdays and special days are also celebrated. Shrove Tuesday with homemade pancakes and jam, St Patrick's Day when the prize on the last green ticket is doubled, and at Easter, *figolli* and Easter eggs are shared and enjoyed by everyone.

November and December are busy months for the Ladies Auxiliary. They prepare and organize the Aged Christmas Luncheon with the welfare staff. The Tuesday's bingo group is invited to attend the 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. The LA also provides light refreshment for the Children's Christmas Party.

In October 2011 students from the Victoria University Australia Community Centre for Diabetes provided modified Maltese recipes for a small group of people. The Tuesday bingo group and other guests were invited to participate in tasting the modified menu. The food was delicious and very well presented.

On several occasions the ladies auxiliary volunteered to help during fund raising functions and during VIP visiting the Centre.

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, *Member*
- Inez Mifsud, *Member*

Marlene Xerri
President

Men's Group

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.am to 2.pm. 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 traditional Maltese *pastizzi* and beautiful fresh home-made salad rolls. Topics of discussion include Maltese current affairs, family visits overseas, football and Australian Rules 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 and recent holidays especially to their homeland.

Activities which are available include billiards, card games and board games, such as, draughts.

During the colder months, hot meals are available for purchase from the kitchen. These include, *pastizzi*, *ravjul*, *qassatat* and the ever famous "*ħobż biż-żejt*", or a freshly made sale roll with either 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 9am – 2pm or Friday 3pm to 9pm.

John Pace

Men's Group Co-ordinator

Appendix A – Community Highlights in 2012

Sunday 19 February 2012

Well-attended fundraising concert dinner a success

The Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Fund Committee held a well-attended Fundraising Concert Dinner last Sunday at the Maltese Centre in Parkville to raise funds for the Fund. Members of the Maltese community in Victoria packed the hall for an evening of entertainment provided by special guest, the internationally acclaimed singer and songwriter of Christian music, Fr Robert Galea, supported by Manuel Casha's band of musicians known as Girgenti.

In attendance as guest of the Committee was Monsignor Francis Marriott, who was appointed Administrator of the Diocese of Sandhurst following the passing away of Bishop Grech. Also present were the President the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Professor Maurice Cauchi, and other members of the Executive Committee, members of the Bishop Joe Grech Fund committee, as well as members of the family of the late Bishop Joseph Grech.



Fr Robert Galea (above left) entertaining the audience (below) with a Maltese singalong.

Above right: Manuel Casha (far right) leads his band of musicians *Girgenti*.



Sunday 15 April 2012

70th Anniversary of George Cross Award commemorated in Melbourne

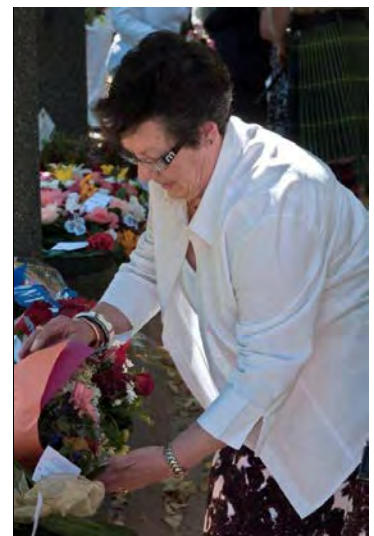
On a glorious sunny autumn morning in Melbourne, the 70th anniversary of the award of the George Cross to the people of Malta was commemorated in a moving ceremony held at the Shelter of Peace near the Shrine of Remembrance in St Kilda Road. This event is organised annually by the Maltese Australian Association (MAA). It also marked the beginning of a two-week program of special events commemorating the 70th anniversary organised by the Consul-General for Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud and his committee.



A panoramic view of the march up the forecourt to the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne.



Above left: Shelter of Peace Monument with Shrine of Remembrance in the background.



From left: Consul General Mr Charles Mifsud; Victorian Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Daniel Andrews; and MHA President Mrs Frances Bonnici laying the wreath.

Photos by Edwin Borg-Manché and Nino Xerri

Tuesday 17 April 2012

Consul-General's Talk on Malta and the George Cross Award

On Tuesday 17 April the Maltese Historical Association held its monthly event at the Maltese Centre in Parkville as part of a program of events in Melbourne commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Award of the George Cross to Malta. The program was organised by the Consul-General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud and the Malta GC Committee.

Another speaker was Mr Ian Speer, aged 92 years, who had joined the RAAF in October 1939 and was posted to serve during the Second World War in Number 10 Squadron RAAF operating out of England. The Squadron flew large aeroplanes that could land on the sea known as the Sunderland. One of the tasks entrusted to his Squadron was to transport to Malta Lord Gort with the George Cross medal in his briefcase. It was taken to Malta in an aeroplane flown by Captain Tom Stokes who was Australian and had a business in Melbourne, which is still run by his family today.



Consul General Mr Charles Mifsud making the presentation.



Mr Mifsud with Mrs Frances Bonnici and Mr Ian Speer



Clockwise: Mr Joseph Borg, Mr Emmanuel Spiteri, Mr John Catania and Mr Gejtu Deguara relate their wartime experiences in Malta.



Photos by Martin Bonnici

Saturday 21 April 2012

George Cross Award Exhibition launched at the Maltese Centre

On Saturday 21 April about 400 people packed the hall at the Maltese Centre in Parkville to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Award of the George Cross to the people of Malta at a reception organised by the Consul-General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud, and the Malta GC committee that he chaired.

Mr Mifsud welcomed the distinguished guests, who included the Hon Mr Craig Ondarchie MLC (representing the Premier of Victoria, the Hon Mr Ted Baillieu, and the Minister for Multiculturalism and Citizenship, the Hon Mr Nicholas Kotsiras), the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly the Hon Mr Ken Smith, the President of the Legislative Council the Hon Mr Bruce Atkinson MLC, the Secretary of the Victorian Parliament's Friends of Malta Group the Hon Mr Telmo Languiller MLA, the Hon Natalie Hutchins MLA. Also present were the MSSP Regional Provincial in Australia, Fr Mario Zammit; the President of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Professor Maurice Cauchi; the two MCCV Vice Presidents, Mr Victor Borg and Mr Gejtu Deguara; other members of the MCCV Executive Committee and the Presidents and committee members of several MCCV-affiliated associations.

Mr Ondarchie officially declared the George Cross exhibition open. The Exhibition remained open at the Maltese Centre until Sunday 29 April.

The winners of, and participants in, the competition that the organising committee held with the theme of "Malta and the Award of the George Cross" were announced and prizes were presented.

The George Cross organising committee consisted of Mr Mifsud as chair, Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, Ms Georgina Borg, Mr Paul Borg, Mrs Frances Bonnici, Mr Mario Bonnici, Mr Martin Bonnici, and Ms Sandra Mooney. SBS Senior Broadcaster, Ms Marlene Galea, assisted the committee in promoting the events.



Above: Mr Ondarchie addressing the packed MCCV hall. Below left : some of the distinguished guests with the Consul General and Mrs Mifsud (far left); Below right: winners and participants of the GC competition.



Photos by Martin Bonnici

Sunday 29 April 2012

Maltese Ex-Services commemorate George Cross Award 70th Anniversary

In the final event in the two-week program of events commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Award of the George Cross to Malta, the Maltese Ex-Services Association led by its President, Mr Emmanuel Spiteri, held a ceremony at St Paul's Chapel in Parkville.

Fr Noel Bianco MSSP celebrated Mass at 2.30 pm in a packed chapel. Among those present were the Consul-General of Malta. Mr Charles Mifsud and his wife Mrs Anna Maria Mifsud; the MCCV President Professor Maurice Cauchi and other members of the MCCV Executive; members of the Knights of St John of Malta; members of Religious Congregations; presidents and members of Maltese associations; and members of the Maltese community in Melbourne.

After Mass, the congregation gathered around the George Cross monument situated between St Paul's Chapel and the Maltese Centre for the Commemorative Ceremony. After the playing and singing of the national anthems of Malta and Australia, Fr Bianco read out a prayer and blessed the monument which was inaugurated 20 years ago.



Above: MCCV President Prof Maurice Cauchi addresses the gathering

Below right: Prof Cauchi lays a bouquet of Australian native flowers on the George Cross monument.



Photos by Martin Bonnici

Sunday 22 July 2012

Fund raising luncheon for Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Fund

A luncheon was held at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville as part of the ongoing process of raising funds for the Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Fund. The committee, under the aegis of the MCCV, has been active over the past year to set up this fund to encourage young persons of Maltese background to maintain their Maltese culture.

The President of the MCCV, Prof Maurice Cauchi, addressed the sizeable number of persons attending the luncheon on the aims of the Fund. This was followed by entertainment provided by well-known personality, Vincent Calleja, who, in a lighter vein, produced a series of funny stories and jokes which kept everybody laughing.

The second part of the entertainment consisted of a concert given by the inimitable Joan Drago, pictured left, who started with the serious but well-known songs, continued in a folkloristic fashion, joined by many of those who were present.



Saturday 11 August 2012

MCCV honours six prominent Maltese community members and welcomes the new MSSP Superior General

The MCCV honoured six prominent members of the Maltese community in Victoria with the inaugural MCCV Community Awards at a reception held at the Maltese Centre in Parkville. The program also included welcoming the newly elected Superior General of the Missionary Society of St Paul, Fr Mark Grima mssp, and presenting the first Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Scholarship Award.

Following a welcome address by MCCV President Prof Maurice Cauchi, Fr Mark Grima, in his brief address, said that it was always a joy for him to be visiting Melbourne and meeting the Maltese community. This is the fourth visit but his first one as the Superior General. He said he was awestruck not just with the attendance but also with the love for the Maltese community and for our heritage.

The six awardees of the 2012 MCCV Community Awards were:

- *Dr Joe Abela* – for his contribution to Scholarship and Education
- *Mr Manuel Casha* – for his contribution to Culture
- *Mr Frank Calleja* – for his contribution to Welfare Services
- *Mr George Cini* (in absentia) – for his contribution to Welfare Services
- *Mr Joseph Montebello* – for his involvement in general within the community
- *Mr Benny Soler* – for his services to the community through his work within the MCCV.

The inaugural Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship was awarded to the successful candidate, *Mrs Rita Catania*. Born in Australia of Maltese parents, Rita has been involved in the Maltese community for a long time, most recently as a co-founding member of the MCCV Youth Committee. She has been involved with the Maltese language classes, where she made several presentations.



Fr Mark Grima addressing the gathering.



Prof Maurice Cauchi making his welcome address.



Prof Cauchi presenting the award to Mr Frank Calleja.



Prof Cauchi with Mr Benny Soler.



Mr Victor Borg presenting the award to Mr Daniel Abela, nephew of the late Dr Joe Abela.



Prof Cauchi with Mr Joe Montebello.



Prof Cauchi presenting the award to Mr Manuel Casha



MCCV PRO, Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, reads out the citation for the award of the inaugural Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship to Mrs Rita Catania (second from right), standing between the MCCV President Prof Cauchi and MCCV Secretary Mrs Edwina Mallia.

Photos by Emmanuel Brincat

Thursday 6, Saturday 8 & Sunday 9 September 2012

The celebration of the Feast of Maria Bambina in Melbourne

By Paul Vella, PRO, Reskeon Maltese Association

'Il-Vitorja' or Victory Day on 8th September is one of Malta's most important days in its history, coinciding with the feast of the birth of Our Lady, or Maria Bambina. A National Day in Malta, on that day the Maltese commemorate the end of the Great Siege in 1565 with victory over the Ottoman Empire, the end of the French occupation of Malta in 1800 and the fall of the Fascist regime in Italy in 1943.

The 8th of September also has a religious significance since it is connected to the nativity of Mary and celebrated universally by the Catholic Church. Just as religious feasts are held in three parishes in Malta and one in Gozo, the feast of Maria Bambina is also celebrated by the Maltese community in Melbourne every year. This year it was once again organised by Reskeon Maltese Association on behalf of the Missionary Society of St. Paul.

Mass at the Maltese Centre

On Thursday, 6th September, a Mass was celebrated in the main hall of the Maltese Centre, Parkville, by Father Edwin Agius, mssp, Rector at Parkville, attended by around 120 members of the Maltese Community. Concelebrant was Fr Mark Demanuele, mssp, who was on a visit to Melbourne from Gozo.

The Homily was delivered by Fr Agius. Singing during Mass was led by Emmanuel Farrugia, accompanied on the organ by his wife, Margaret. Readers were Phyllis Vella and Mr Charles Mifsud, while Mr Guy Deguara read the Prayers of the Faithful.

After Mass the St. Albans Melita Band presented a concert in the hall, which was decorated for the occasion by Alfred Asciak.

Vitoria Dinner Dance

On Saturday, 8th September, Reskeon organised the *Vitoria* Dinner Dance at Firenze Receptions, Fawkner, which was well attended by around 220 members and friends. Distinguished guests were the Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud and Mrs Anna Maria Mifsud; Fr Edwin Agius, Fr Dr Victor Shields and Fr Mark Demanuele, all of the 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 Vice-President, Mr Victor Borg and Ms Bridget Petty and the MCCV Treasurer, Mr Paul Borg and Ms Pauline Demanuele.

Entertainment was provided by 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, similar to that of the Maltese *Festas*.

Feast Day Celebrations

On Sunday, 9th September Reskeon organised the Feast of Maria Bambina on behalf of the Missionary Society of St Paul, at St Mary Star of the Sea Church, West Melbourne.

This year it was a nice and warm Spring day and hundreds of members of the Maltese community attended for this Feast. Among those present were the Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud and Mrs Anna Maria Mifsud; the President of MCCV, Prof. Maurice Cauchi and members of the MCCV Executive; Dr Clemente Zammit and Mrs Mary Zammit; members of the Sovereign Military and 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, Mellieħa, Naxxar and Xagħra, Gozo. Also present were Sisters from Religious Orders, members of the Society of Christian Doctrine and the Chief Representative in Australia of the Bank of Valletta plc, Mr George Portelli and Mrs Portelli.

Rosary was recited at 2.30 pm by Mr Emmanuel Farrugia, which was followed by a Concelebrated Mass. Prime Celebrant was Fr Mark Demanuele, mssp, and concelebrants were Fr Edwin Agius, mssp; Fr Dr Victor Shields, mssp; Fr Karm Borg and Fr Dom Degiorgio. Master of ceremonies was Emmanuel Farrugia. The music and singing was provided by the Maltese Choir of Victoria under the direction of Mr Charles Schembri and Ms Lydia Gusman.

First Reader was Mr Charles Mifsud while Dr Edwin Borg-Manché did the second Reading. Fr Edwin Agius read the Gospel. The Homily was delivered by Fr Mark Demanuele. Prayers of the Faithful were read by Ms Anoinette Bajada.

The Sacrificial Offerings were brought to the Altar by Charles and Vivian Tabone and Victor and Doris Vella.

During Mass two collections took place: one going towards the Missionary Society of St Paul and the second one going towards the Church of St Mary Star of the Sea.

After Mass, Fr Edwin Agius thanked all those present and the Reskeon Maltese Association for organising the Feast on their behalf. Special thanks went to Fr Max Pollak, Parish Priest of St. Mary Star of the Sea.

This was followed by a procession with the beautiful Statue of Maria Bambina in the streets

around the church accompanied by the Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society under the direction of Mro. George Aquilina, members of a large number of Maltese associations carrying their respective banners and followed by a large crowd from those attending the Church service.

The Procession was followed by the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

This year we were celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the arrival of the Statue of Maria Bambina in Melbourne and the foundation of the Maltese Own Band to participate in the same Feast.

Thanks to all those Reskeon members who on Thursday, Friday and Saturday helped with the preparation for the Feast and then on Monday for putting everything back in its place.



Fr Mark Demanuele and Fr Edwin Agius welcomes those present for mass at the Maltese Centre.



Mass on Thursday at the main hall of the Maltese Centre.



The concelebrants at Mass on Sunday, from left, Fr Dom Degiorgio, Fr Edwin Agius mssp, Fr Mark Demanuele mssp, Fr Karm Borg and Fr Dr Victor Shields mssp.



The end of the procession with the statue.



Fr Mark Demanuele during the homily.



The end of the procession with the statue.



The brass band at the Vitoria Dinner Dance.



On the dance floor.

Photos by Paul Vella

Appendix B – Maltese Historical Association

The committee of the Maltese Historical Association met in early February to outline a program for 2012. The committee was unanimous in its decision to revert to a monthly rather than by-monthly presentation as most guest speakers who were contacted, accepted our invitation.

We started the year with a Book Launch. Dr Lou Drofenik B.ED., M.ED., Ph.D. (La Trobe), author of the book *Beloved Convict* invited the MHA to be publishers of her book. The committee accepted this invitation. In February, Professor Maurice Cauchi launched this publication.

In March Mrs Maria Catania, a committee member of the MHA, gave an interesting presentation about her native town in Malta known as Casal Pawla / Rahal Gdid / Paola. Maria gave an interesting talk stating that Paola was inhabited by different communities such as the Phoenicians, the Romans as well as the Knights of St John. Professor Maurice Cauchi presented the 'Maurice Cauchi Award' to the top VCE LOTE Maltese student for 2011, Ms Nicola Vella. Mr Charles Mifsud, the Consul General who was present for the lecture presented two bursaries to two students from the MCCV classes on the same night.

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 in April. A bouquet of flowers was presented on behalf of the MHA. The Consul General Mr Charles Mifsud was the guest speaker for this month. This lecture was part of the festivities organised by the Consulate of Malta to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Awarding of the George Cross.

Our guest speaker for the month of May was Mr Joseph Borg, a past president of the MHA. His topic was *From Megaliths to Microliths*. Joe spoke about two different eras in the history of Malta where different buildings were being constructed on the islands. Periods of significant architectural growth were during the occupation by the Neolithic temple builders and the Knights of St John.

In June, Professor Maurice Cauchi presented '*Mare Nostrum – Malta and the Mediterranean*'. Professor

Cauchi looked at the role of the Mediterranean Sea on the history of Malta. He emphasised that out of all the islands in the Mediterranean none had such an illustrious history as Malta.

Mr Jonathan Hili was the guest speaker for July. His presentation was called *Ambivalence – Malta and the French Revolution*. Jonathan explained how during the 18th century Malta not only shared a close diplomatic relationship with France but was associated with this kingdom economically, culturally and politically.

There was no monthly presentation for the month of August. However, the committee planned two other activities. In the beginning of the month, the committee organised the eighth Language Immersion Morning for the students who attend the Maltese classes at the VSL Taylors Lakes Secondary College. Activities were planned for the different levels – primary and secondary. Students participated fully in the activities; listened to the Maltese language being spoken during the morning and enjoyed a lovely Morning Tea.

Mr Lewis Zammit, a committee member organised an excursion to the National Gallery where a group of about 14 people, members and friends of the association visited the Napoleon Exhibition towards the end of the month of August.

In September the MHA holds its Annual General Meeting for its financial members.

A presentation planned for October will be given by Mr Charles Mifsud, Consul General for Victoria with the topic *Maltese Folklore*. In November, our guest speaker will be the association's secretary Mr Manuel Cilia and he chose to speak about the hunting passion of the Maltese – *Il-Kaċċa*. The Bursaries will be presented to the VSL students of Maltese also in November.

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

Frances Bonnici
President

Appendix C – MCCV Committees and Memberships

(* Denotes Chairperson or joint Chairpersons)

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; Maria Calleja; Joe Sammut; Charles Borg

MEMBERSHIP & COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria
Radio 3ZZZ Board of Management

Mr Eddie Micallef
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>	