



## 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, on Wednesday 23 March, 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 Family.

Professor Cauchi highlighted the fact that more than 40 percent of the Maltese living in Australia reside in the state of Victoria. This meant that Melbourne is the state capital city in Australia with the largest Maltese community.

The significance of the President's visit, Professor Cauchi said, is that it "reinforces the concept so dear to us, that we were and we remained Maltese, just as much as the Maltese who live in Malta and never had the experience that we had."

"Since the last Convention of the Maltese Living Abroad held in Malta a year ago, the concept of 'Greater Malta', that is, Malta which includes all Maltese living abroad, wherever they live, has been accepted by everyone," added Professor Cauchi. "The visit to Australia by the President of 'Greater Malta' continues to strengthen this concept and unite us as one people," he said.

Professor Cauchi referred to the love and affection that the Maltese, who have been living in Australia for over 50 years, still strongly feel towards Malta and described the relationship by quoting what an emigrant had said some years ago: "I consider Malta as my mother and Australia as my wife."

Referring to the successes of the Maltese in Australia, Professor Cauchi said that the Maltese community is proud of its achievements in Australia, from the first



H.E. Dr George Abela making his address

generation of migrants, who had struggled to establish themselves, to their children and grandchildren, who achieved considerable success in society.

"It is hoped that, after this visit among us, the President will return to Malta as an ambassador for all Maltese living overseas," concluded Professor Cauchi.

President Abela started his address by underlining his personal connection with Melbourne and reminiscing about his childhood experience while living for a few short years in the Melbourne suburbs of Fitzroy and Collingwood. He felt that this experience had helped his family grow into what it is today.

Referring to the long sea voyages to Australia that, due to the economic situation in Malta, migrants in the 1950s and 1960s had to undertake with financial assistance, President Abela said he treasures his late father's passport, which has a rubberstamp of the ship, Asturias, on which his father had travelled to Australia.

President Abela indicated that leaving Melbourne till last during his state visit was

## MCCV launches its new website

On Sunday 10 April 2011 the Maltese Community Council of Victoria launched its new website with a new domain name of **www.mccv.org.au**.

Apart from having a fresher look and feel, the website has new features that enable site visitors to interact by:

- posting comments on news items,
- posting feedback comments on the Feedback page,
- sharing articles and information on social networking sites, and
- subscribing to the electronic version of the free bi-monthly MCCV Newsletter.

In order to ensure that inappropriate comments posted on our website are not displayed at any time, all comments are subject to a monitoring process and displayed only after they have been vetted by the website's administrator.

The website also includes:

- a Community Events Calendar, listing events organised by the MCCV, the MSSP and affiliated associations and by other organisations, which are of interest to the Maltese community,

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## The President's Column

### Inquiry into multiculturalism

Every now and again the concept of multiculturalism is brought into focus for discussion and hopefully further development. The Australian Government is currently setting up an 'Inquiry into Multiculturalism in Australia' to which the MCCV is making a suitable response.

Multiculturalism is the concept that allows all newly arrived migrants to develop into useful members of their new society at a pace to which they can adjust. It means that values that they bring with them, including their language and culture, are encouraged and not looked down upon like some old clothes to be disposed of as soon as they hit our shores.

Multiculturalism has served Australia, and some other countries like Canada very well. However, there are noises from several countries in Europe, including Germany, France and the UK, who are questioning the whole concept and wondering whether it has brought their country more problems than solutions.

Multiculturalism is intrinsically anti-racism. There are no superior or inferior races, only ones which have had better or lesser access to amenities and opportunities. It is a fact that newcomers are less likely to be as advanced in our way of life as the more established population. Most of us would remember that we too, when we first came to Australia in the early fifties and before, had a lot to catching up to do, and this we have done successfully, a process which takes years, and sometimes even generations.

Multiculturalism does not mean that we should change our laws to accommodate those of foreign lands, or to indulge in activities which in our new culture we consider to be barbaric and unacceptable. We should clearly be against such actions but should not damn all members of an ethnic group because of the actions of some.

*Prof. Maurice Cauchi, MCCV President*

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO MCCV News

The MCCV News is published by the Maltese Community Council of Victoria every two months to inform the Maltese community about activities, news and information that would be of interest to it.

Affiliated associations are encouraged to provide contributions, including notices for forthcoming community events, brief reports on recent community events that took place since the publication of the previous newsletter.

Contributions should be forwarded to the Editor either by email at [pro@mccv.org.au](mailto:pro@mccv.org.au) or alternatively by post to:

The Editor -MCCV Newsletter  
Maltese Community Council of Victoria  
477 Royal Parade  
PARKVILLE 3052

Contributions must be submitted by the following dates:

- July-August 2011 Newsletter: **Friday 24 June 2011**
- Sept-October 2011 Newsletter: **Friday 26 August 2011**

### Minister Cristina impressed with retention of Maltese identity

In her address to the gathering at the President's welcome reception on 23 March 2011, Minister of Education, Employment and Family, Dolores Cristina, thanked those present for the really wonderful welcome they had received. She said that, if asked what would be the dearest thing she would be taking back with her, it would undoubtedly be her memories of how, whenever they entered a room to meet with the Maltese community, she suddenly felt Maltese blood boiling, something really incredible. "Although I was expecting it, I did not expect it to hit me with such force," said the Minister. She felt sure that, if she had to walk the streets of Melbourne, she would be able to recognise the Maltese because for some reason or other they remained really Maltese, even apparently in their attitude.

Minister Cristina said that she really enjoyed meeting generations who were not born in Malta and yet they have a strong attraction towards Malta and their roots. In particular, she was delighted to see young children who greeted her in some places speaking Maltese in their sweet voices.

Minister Cristina formally passed on greetings from the Maltese Government and from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Tonio Borg, who could not make the trip due to the situation in the Mediterranean.

One of the reasons for the Minister's visit was to conduct community consultation meetings on behalf of Minister Borg relating to his project aimed at passing a law to establish the Council of the Maltese Living Abroad and set up the Maltese Cultural Institute. "Naturally this law is an expression not only of solidarity but also of what Professor Cauchi talked about, that you are really part of the Maltese people, even though you live so far away from us," said Minister Cristina.

Minister Cristina ended her address by making a hypothetical point. If she had to migrate to a new country, which she did not know what it would offer, even though it may be well-known for the opportunities that it offers, it would still cause her fear and trepidation, as many Maltese would have felt when migrating to Australia. However, if she had to arrive in that country and be greeted by members of the Maltese community, she would undoubtedly feel really at home and part of the large Maltese and Gozitan family.



Minister Cristina presents MCCV President with books for the MCCV Library.



# Notes from MCCV Council Meetings

## APRIL 2011 MEETING

The following items were discussed at the Council Meeting held on 6 April 2011:

### **Welcome Reception For The President Of Malta**

The Welcome Reception for Dr George Abela which was held on Wednesday, 23rd March 2010 at Taylors Lakes Receptions was a huge success. Over 300 guests were in attendance. Before the President arrived there was some entertainment by DJ Mario Sammut and singer Jay P. A speech by Prof. Maurice Cauchi, President of the MCCV opened the formalities of the evening. Speeches made by the President of Malta and Minister of Education Mrs Dolores Cristina in Maltese were very much appreciated and well-received. The President of Malta made a presentation to Prof. Maurice Cauchi on behalf of the MCCV. Minister Cristina presented books to be placed in the MCCV library. Presentations were made on behalf of the MCCV to Dr. George Abela, his wife and Minister Dolores Cristina. The evening progressed according to plan and several people had an opportunity to meet the President and his delegation.

### **Consultation Meeting With Minister Dolores Cristina**

On Thursday 24th March the Executive committee and Affiliated Associations were invited to meet with Mrs Dolores Christina Minister of Education at the Maltese Community Centre at 11.00am. The aim of this meeting was to discuss the setting up by the Malta Government, The Council of Maltese Living Abroad and a Maltese Institute. The submission of the MCCV regarding this was read and questions were put from the floor. There were also questions Education, Scholarships, pensions and other matters.

### **Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Fund Launched**

The Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Fund was launched on 23rd March 2011.

### **Honours List Of Maltese Achievers**

The Council agreed that a new Honours List of Maltese Achievers, still living or deceased, who have contributed to the community be established under a new name.

### **MCCV Distribution List**

A database of contacts with postal and email addresses is being set up. Affiliated associations are asked to request their members to send this information, so as to avoid complaints of not being informed of MCCV news and events.

### **Re-Introduction Of Home Visitation Scheme**

The Council would like to involve its affiliated associations in determining whether in their area there are any Maltese elderly in their area with special needs and requiring assistance, that is the elderly, those living alone and the disabled. Associations should advise the MCCV of Maltese people in need of help. Once the level of demand is determined, a study will be conducted to estimate the cost of running this scheme.

### **New MCCV Website Ready To Be Launched**

Launching of the new website under a new domain address of [www.mccv.org.au](http://www.mccv.org.au) will take place on Sunday, April 10.

### **Farewell Reception For High Commissioner**

On Saturday 7 May 2011 the MCCV will hold a Farewell Reception for the outgoing High Commissioner of Malta in Australia, H.E. Mr Francis Tabone at the Maltese Centre in Parkville. □

## MAY 2011 MEETING

The following items were discussed at the Council Meeting held on 4 May 2011:

### **Extension of High Commissioner's Term of Office**

The farewell function that the MCCV had organized for the High Commissioner of Malta to Australia, H. E. Mr Francis Tabone, was cancelled as his term of office was extended to Dec 2011.

### **New MCCV website launched**

The new MCCV website went online as scheduled on 10 April. The website was well received both in Australia and overseas. During the first 3 weeks there were almost 500 people from 24 countries who made a total of about 650 visits. 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. Associations producing newsletters are invited to email a copy to [pro@mccv.org.au](mailto:pro@mccv.org.au) so that they can be made available for download from the MCCV website.

### **Call for Volunteers to form MCCV Choir**

The Council has observed the lack of a choir and would like to set up a choir to sing at special religious occasions. The Council is seeking a few good men and women to form the MCCV choir which could meet in St Paul's Chapel to practice. Prof. Maurice Cauchi volunteered to help out by playing the organ. Anyone interested in joining the choir should contact the MCCV office in Parkville on (03) 9387 8922 or email [admin@mccv.org.au](mailto:admin@mccv.org.au).

### **Victoria's immigration and settlement material heritage**

Arts Victoria is supporting an Initial Scoping Study being conducted by Dr Helen Light which will provide an overall indication of the number and scale of multicultural collections in Victoria in order to develop a methodology for assessing and scoping the collection material, stories, condition, access and ownership. It is hoped to eventually find a way to help communities preserve their material for posterity. Anyone with any information about the existence and whereabouts of Victorian migration and settlement objects, or about communities that hold their own history, should contact Dr Helen Light on 0416 096 160 or by email to [helenlight@netspace.net.au](mailto:helenlight@netspace.net.au).

### **Multicultural Fair at St Mary Star of the Sea**

St Mary's Church in West Melbourne is organizing a Multicultural Fair on the Feast of St Mary to be held on 25 September 2011 from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm and the MCCV has been invited to participate. Affiliated associations are invited to have a stall at the fair and to volunteer to assist the organisers. Anyone interested to assist should contact Tony Luksetic on 0406 475 223.

### **Maussies Presentation**

At the end of the meeting Ms Sandra Mooney from *Maussies* gave a brief presentation about their group. A core group of "Maltese Aussies" consisting of Tanya Lacey, Marlene Galea, John Cruse and Sandra Mooney got together in November 2009 to form *Maussies*, which has now evolved into a community based, free range, organic group, where the common denominator is having a bit of Maltese blood in them. Ms Mooney spoke about the group's vision, the ethos of being a *Maussie*, and their program - based on four pillars: Events, Culture, Enterprise and Community, each led by a member of the core group. The aspiration of the group is to achieve a tribe of 1000 *Maussies* within the next three years. For more information, visit their blog site at [www.maussies.org](http://www.maussies.org). □



## Malta's President given a warm welcome in Melbourne

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intentional and it was very much a case of leaving the best till last in order to send a strong signal that the large community of over 40 percent of our migrants lives there. "We wanted to come here to be with you, share our happiness with you, and the sorrow that you sometimes went through, and together share our experiences," said the President.

During his official state visit, President Abela had meetings in Canberra with the Governor-General of Australia, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce and Prime Minister the Honourable Julia Gillard, in Sydney with the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency Marie Bashir, and in Melbourne with the Governor of Victoria, His Excellency David de Kretser.

President Abela said that he was delighted to hear each of these dignitaries speaking glowingly about the Maltese community in Australia using the highest words of praise. According to the President, this was not simply due to the Maltese community often being a constituency of these people, particularly Prime Minister Gillard, but also due to their creation of the story of their own success. Everyone in the various walks of life, in business, normal work, and the professions, made their mark and their success story wherever they are today.

President Abela stressed that it is important that one does not live in the 1950s or 1960s and keep thinking of Malta as it was then. Malta has progressed and significantly so since then, just as the Maltese in Australia had done.

President Abela said that, as a reflection from his meetings with the Maltese communities in Australia, his message to the Maltese community was not merely one of staying together but one of unity in which no energy is wasted in piques and trivialities between one another. In such a large continent, even though the Maltese community is large, it is important that "we combine our strength and energies to move forward," said the President.

Speaking about the future of Maltese associations and community Councils and their role in strengthening the Maltese traditions in Australia, President Abela emphasised the importance of in-

troducing new blood, the youth from the younger generations. This would ensure that the community remains vibrant and strong and continues to make an impact through subsequent generations who continue to keep such wonderful traditions alive, including family and religious values and the Maltese language.

President Abela said that, since the Maltese language distinguishes us from other peoples, it is important that our children and their children speak our language. While the children may find it difficult to learn how to speak the language, the President noted that they were not finding it as difficult to understand it. If we treasure our language in our homes and use it when we speak with our children and their children, at least we get to the point where they can understand it and their parents' Maltese roots, said the President.

Referring to the celebration of the traditional Maltese "festi" in Melbourne, President Abela said that he will be taking back wonderful memories with him but he stressed the importance of celebrating in a civil manner, so they are enjoyed by everyone.

President Abela thanked the Maltese associations and the Maltese Community Council of Victoria for keeping these Maltese traditions alive and strong in Australia.

President Abela referred to the proposed Council of Maltese Living Abroad and said that the time has certainly come at last to establish the Council by legislation to regu-



From left: Prof. Cauchi, President Abela, Mrs Abela, Minister Cristina and High Commissioner Tabone

late the relations with Maltese communities overseas, as was proposed by the Government at the last Convention. He hoped that no more time is wasted in setting it up.

In a reference to the current situation in the Mediterranean arising from the crisis in Libya, President Abela said that, while small in size, Malta is still relevant as a country in today's world events due to its strategic and geographical position. He referred to the praise that the international community heaped on Malta for everything it has done in evacuating various workers from Libya.

President Abela thanked the audience on behalf of his wife and the delegation for the wonderful opportunity to meet with them. He said that he would be leaving Australia much better than when he arrived thanks to direct contact that he is lucky to have had with the Maltese community so early in his presidency. □

Below: The audience at the Reception.



# MCCV Launches its new website

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The screenshot shows the homepage of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc. The header includes the organization's name and a search bar. The main navigation menu lists: Home, Associations, Photo Gallery, Publications, Downloads, Feedback, and Contact Us. A sidebar on the left contains links for: About MCCV, Meetings, Welfare, Events, Education, News, Newsletters, Broadcasts, Official Contacts, and Web Links. The main content area features 'Top Stories' with two articles: 'ANZAC Day commemorated in Malta' and 'Malta represented at the ANZAC Day March'. There are also sections for 'VERSE OF THE DAY', 'EVENT CALENDAR' (showing April 2011), and 'UPCOMING EVENTS'.

Above: The front page of the new MCCV website.

- a Photo Gallery, in which photos relating to the history of the MCCV and more recent community events are displayed,
- a general website Search facility, and
- Google map links to locations, eg office locations and venues for social events.

The information that was contained on our old website has been reviewed, updated, rewritten and expanded.

The MCCV believes that its new website will provide an effective electronic communication channel which will enable it to better connect with its constituency and with other Maltese communities in Australia and overseas. While it is aimed primarily at the Maltese community residing in Victoria that the MCCV represents and serves, it is hoped that our new website will generate interest well beyond Australian shores.

The website was designed and developed by Edwin Borg-Manché, the MCCV PRO, who is also maintaining it.

The MCCV publicly acknowledges the sterling efforts of Charles Belli, who until the end of last year had been in charge of the MCCV website over many years and our sincere thanks go to him for his good work.

## Laqgħa mal-Ministru Cristina

Minn Paul Vella

Nhar l-Hamis 24 ta' Marzu fiċ-Ċentru Malti ta' Parkville, l-Onor. Dolores Cristina Ministru tal-Edukazzjoni, Xogħol u Familja ltaqgħet ma' membri ta' għaqdiet Maltin. Din il-laqgħa kienet waħda ta' konsultazzjoni mal-Kunsilli tal-Komunità Maltija, assoċjazzjonijiet u organizzazzjonijiet fuq il-'Consultation Paper' ippubblikata xi gimgħat ilu dwar proposta ta' Abbozz ta' Ligi' fuq il-Kunsill tal-Maltin li jgħixu Barra u dwar twaqqif tal-Istitut Kulturali Malti.

Jakkumpanja lill-Ministru Cristina f'din il-laqgħa kien hemm ukoll is-Sur Mario Schiavone, Communications Co-Ordinator tal-Ministeru tal-Edukazzjoni, Xogħol u Familja.

Madwar 60 membru tal-Komunità Maltija attendew għal din il-laqgħa. Fost dawk preżenti kien hemm l-E.T. is-Sur Francis Tabone, Kummissarju Gholi ta' Malta fl-Awstralja; is-Sur Charles Mifsud, Konslu Generali ta' Malta fil-Victoria; Fr Mario Zammit, Provinċjal fl-Awstralja tas-Socjeta' Missjunarju ta' San Pawl; Fr Denis Carabott, tal-istess Socjeta'; Prof. Maurice Cauchi, President, MCCV; l-Avukat Victor Borg, Viċi President, MCCV; is-Sur Gejtu Deguara, Viċi President, MCCV; is-Sinjura Edwina Mallia, Segretarja, MCCV; Dr

Edwin Borg-Manché, PRO, MCCV; is-Sinjura Rosemary Attard, Welfare Director, MCCV; is-Sinjura Marilyn Pace, Assistenta Segretarja, MCCV, kif ukoll rappreżentanti tal-għaqdiet.

Il-Professur Maurice Cauchi, President tal-Kunsill Malti tal-Victoria, fetaħ il-laqgħa billi ta merħba lill-Onor. Cristina u lil dawk preżenti.

Wara tkelmet l-Onor Cristina, li wara li rringrazzjat lill-MCCV li organizzaw din il-laqgħa, tat merħba lil dawk preżenti. Hija wkoll għamlet apoloġija li fl-aħħar mument, l-Onor Tonio Borg, Viċi Prim Ministru u Ministru tal-Affarijiet Barranin, kellu jhassar iż-żjara tiegħu fl-Awstralja.

Il-Ministru Cristina tkelmet fuq Boroz ta' Studju għal dawk li jixtiequ jistudjaw f'Malta u għaddiet messagg dwar il-Mużew tal-Emigranti f'Malta minghand Monsinjur Philip Calleja u Fr Alfred Vella. Tkelmet ukoll dwar il-proposta li forsi aktar 'il quddiem jintbagħtu



għalliema tal-Malti minn Malta biex iħarrġu lil dawk li jgħallmu l-Malti hawnhekk. Wara li l-Onor. Cristina tkelmet fuq il-'Consultation Paper' ippubblikata xi gimgħat ilu dwar 'Abbozz ta' Ligi' fuq il-Kunsill tal-Maltin li jgħixu Barra u dwar it-twaqqif tal-Istitut Kulturali Malti, hija stiednet lil dawk preżenti biex jistaqsu xi mistoqsijiet. Il-Professur Maurice Cauchi ppreżenta kopja tas-sottomissjoni tal-Kunsill Malti tal-Victoria dwar il-'Consultation Paper' lill-Ministru Cristina, li fiha il-Kunsill fisser fid-dettal il-hsiebijiet tiegħu dwar is-sugġett. □



## BBQ għall-membri tal-Grupp Letteratura Maltija

Minn Paul Vella

Nhar il-Ħadd, 27 ta' Marzu, il-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria, organizza BBQ bla ħlas għall-membri kollha tal-Grupp. Dan il-BBQ inżamm fuq il-proprjeta' tal-membri Frank u Draga Bonett, Bulla, bħalma jsir is-soltu.

Il-jum kien wiehed mill-aħjar b'temperatura ta' 21 grad C. Meta wasalna sibna li Frank u Draga ġa kienu ppreparaw l-imwejjed u s-siġġijiet għal madwar 50 membru u l-familji tagħhom li kellhom jattendu.

Kulhadd kellu ċ-ċans li jiehu kikkra te jew kafe' u ma damx li beda t-tisjir tal-laħam u z-zalzett li kien f'idejn Charles Attard u Joe Lofaro li f'kemm ilna ngħidu sajru kollox.

Wara l-ikel kulhadd mar biex jisma' lill-mużiċisti li tawna kuncert ta' madwar siegħa ta' daqq folkloristiku Malti u daqq iehor. Il-mużiċisti kienu Manuel Casha, Joe Cutajar *il-Witli*, Fredu Cachia *l-Fra* u Joe Gauci fuq il-kitarri, Alfred Xuereb fuq l-orgni elettroniku, Laurie Armato fuq il-mandolina u Joe Camilleri fuq il-perkussjoni (percussion). Kulhadd ha gost bid-daqq tagħhom u nerringrazzjawhom hafna li ġew jingħaqdu magħna.

Wara kien imiss il-hin għall-qari.



Minhabba li fil-15 ta' Marzu kien l-20 anniversarju mill-mewt ta' Dr Guze' Abela, il-Fundatur ta' dan il-Grupp, osservajna minuta silenzju b'rispett lejha.

Il-qari beda billi Paul Vella u Laurie Armato qraw poezija kull wiehed fuq Dr Abela, miktubin minn Manwel Nicholas-Borg u Baldass Armato, rispettivament, li illum m'għadhomx magħna.

Qari iehor sar minn Maria Catania, Albert Agius, Michael Xuereb, Dr Victor Sammut, Marie Louise Anastasi, Ray Anastasi, u poezija bħala dwett minn Rosemary u Charles Attard.

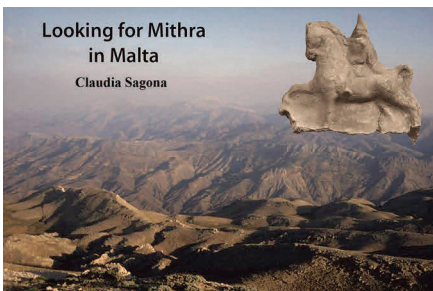
Saret preżentazzjoni żgħira lil Frank u Darga Bonett bħala ringrazzjament li laqghuna għandhom bħalma jagħmlu kull sena. Ahna mill-banda l-oħra nhossuna daqslikieku nkunu f'darna meta nkunu għandhom. Nerringrazzjaw lil dawk kollha li hadmu u organizzaw biex dan il-jum ikun wiehed ta' suċċess, kemm f'dak li hu xiri, tisjir u tqassim tal-ikel u x-xorb.

Nerringrazzjaw ukoll lil Victorian Multicultural Commission li dan kollu seta' jsir permezz ta' grant li jagħtuna kull sena. □

## 'Looking for Mithra in Malta' — Dr Claudia Sagona

By Brian Zammit

Dr Claudia Sagona M.O.M., a Senior Fellow in Archaeology at the University of Melbourne, has written extensively on Malta's ancient past. She recently delivered a lecture to the Maltese Historical Association on 'Looking for Mithra in Malta', the topic of her latest book (see cover below).



The cult of Mithra reached the height of its popularity in the second and third century AD in Roman territories after quiet beginnings in the highlands of eastern Turkey sometime in the first century BC. The Mithraic cult reached many parts of the Roman world and it is

unlikely that Malta was immune to this popular, yet private and exclusive cult. There is every possibility that Mithraic practices filtered into the islands sometime after the archipelago came under Roman domination in 218 BC at the start of the Second Punic War.

Dr Sagona spoke about evidence she has found on the presence of the cult in the Maltese islands. She discussed objects with Mithraic iconography that have recently come to light, often uncovered during building works, in places like Rabat. A number of these objects, for example, are now part of the collection at the museum at St Agatha's in Rabat.

There is also evidence in the Maltese islands of Mithraic places of worship, known as 'mithraea'. These have been found in numbers throughout the Roman world and the most convincing cultic site in the Maltese archipelago is located at Ras il-Wardija perched on the west coast of the island of Gozo. In addition to funerary sites with possible Mithraic architectural traits - at Ħal-Resqun, Salina Bay and tal-Kandija

for instance - there are early church structures, at places such as tas-Silġ, comprising simple stone buildings and natural caves that might have served an earlier, Mithraic purpose. □



MHA President Mrs Frances Bonnici (left) thanks Dr Sagona for her presentation.



# ANZAC Day Commemorations in Melbourne and Malta



Above: Leading the Maltese veterans, from left, Nicholas Chircop, Emmanuel Spiteri, Frank Bugeja and Alfred Asciak.

Crowds in the tens of thousands around Australia attended dawn services this morning to commemorate the 96th anniversary of Australian and New Zealand troops landing on the beaches at Gallipoli in World War I and to honour the men and women who served in the armed forces in subsequent theatres of war. At the [Shrine of Remembrance](#) in Melbourne, the large crowd that gathered for the dawn service at 6 am included people of all ages, braving the cold morning and the fog to pay their respects. As the ANZAC Day March proceeded at 9 am from the city centre down St Kilda Road and up to the forecourt of the Shrine, the fog started to lift and the sun emerged to transform it into a lovely sunny autumn day.

A Maltese contingent of veterans and their families took part in the traditional ANZAC Day March in Melbourne, which has been taking place every year in Australia since the 1920s. Mr Emmanuel Spiteri led the MCCV-affiliated Maltese Ex-Services Association of Victoria group, which is also the Malta GC Returned Services League Sub-Branch, under a Maltese flag banner which also bore the words "We served 1914-1918, the Nurse of the Mediterranean, and 1939-1945, the Unsinkable Aircraft Carrier". The other Maltese leaders in the group were Mr Frank Bugeja, Mr Nicholas Chircop and Mr Alfred Asciak.

Maltese veterans also served in the subsequent theatres of war including Korea in the 1950s and Vietnam in the late 1960s and early 1970s. □

Below: Some of the Maltese veterans at the ANZAC march in Melbourne



The ANZAC Day service of Remembrance and Wreath Laying Ceremony was held at Pieta Military Cemetery on Monday 25 April. The service was conducted by a number of chaplains and was followed by the laying of 35 wreaths by members of the diplomatic corps as well as associations representing the armed forces and various Maltese and Maltese Australian associations. Lewis Zammit (above) laid a wreath on behalf of the Maltese Historical Association - Australia.

The invitation to participate at the ANZAC Day service was extended by the High Commissioner for Australia Ms Anne Quinane, at the behest of the Maltese Australian Association.

In the Gallipoli Campaign, Malta became known as "The Nurse of the Mediterranean" as numerous sick and wounded men were evacuated to the island for medical treatment. Despite the best efforts of medical staff, some casualties did not recover and were buried on the island. Among these are 202 members of the Australian Imperial Force and 72 members of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. During the Second World War, pilots from Australia and New Zealand formed part of fighter defence and offensive operations. There are 24 members of the RAAF and 7 members of the RNZAF buried in Malta.

The last Australian service man buried in Malta died in a flying accident in 1954. He belonged to No. 78 Wing of the RAAF on tour of duty on the island.

After the service, we were invited to a reception at Villa Risq, the home of the High Commissioner for Australia, where we met amongst others His Grace the Archbishop Pawlu Cremona, Prof Richard Divall, and Ms Angele Azzopardi, the former Maltese Consul in Melbourne. □

Below: Australian High Commissioner Ms Anne Quinane (centre) welcomes guests at the ANZAC Day Reception





## MCCV Ladies Auxiliary

The main aim of the Ladies Auxiliary (LA) of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV) is to support the MCCV in providing and extending welfare to the Maltese Community at large.

The LA consists of a group of women who organises bingo on Tuesdays and other activities during the year working

with the welfare group. These bingo sessions provide an outlet to a small group of women who come to the centre on regular basis. They look forward to their social gathering and enjoy bingo in a more relaxed atmosphere. Bingo starts at 11.15am and finishes at 2.00pm.

During the year we also celebrate

birthdays and special events like Shrove Tuesday, St Patrick Day, Mother's Day, Christmas and other events.

All are welcome and for more information ring the Maltese Centre on 9387 8922. ☐

## Community Events Calendar

For up-to-date and more detailed information, visit our website at [www.mccv.org.au](http://www.mccv.org.au)

Date	Event	Location	Suburb
<b>Thu 12 May</b>	Picnic at Brimbank Park - <i>Newport Maltese Assn Seniors Group</i>	Brimbank Park	Keilor East
<b>Fri 13 May</b> 7.30 pm	St George Preca Mass - <i>Society of Christian Doctrine</i>	Queen of Peace Church	Altona Meadows
<b>Sat 14 May</b> 10.00 am - 5.00 pm	Eucharist Adoration - <i>Society of Christian Doctrine</i>	Preca Centre	Sunshine North
<b>Sun 15 May</b> 11.00 am	Pilgrimage to the Monument of St George Preca - <i>Society of Christian Doctrine</i>	St Patrick's Cathedral	East Melbourne
<b>Thu 19 May</b> 10.30 am - 2.30 pm	Mother's Day Social Dance - <i>MCCV</i>	Maltese Centre	Parkville
<b>Sun 22 May</b>	Luncheon - <i>Reskeon Maltese Association</i>	Maltese Centre	Parkville
<b>Sun 22 May</b> 1.30 pm	Mass in memory of Bishop Joe Grech by Fr Robert Galea	Sacred Heart Cathedral	Bendigo
<b>Wed 25 May</b> at 6.30 pm	MCCV Executive Committee Meeting	Maltese Centre	Parkville
<b>Sat 28 May - Sun 29 May</b>	Weekend Pokies Trip to Albury - <i>Klabb Għannejja Maltin</i>	-	-
<b>Sat 28 May</b>	Charity Ball - <i>Maltese Salesians Past Pupils Assn of Vic</i>	Firenze Receptions	Fawkner
<b>Sat 28 May</b> 6.00 pm	Members' Meeting - <i>St Gaetan's Society Inc.</i>	Good Shepherd Church	Gladstone Park
<b>Wed 01 Jun</b> at 7.00 pm	MCCV Council Meeting	Maltese Centre	Parkville
<b>Sat 04 Jun</b>	Activity Fun Night - <i>Newport Maltese Assn Seniors Group</i>	-	-
<b>Tue 21 Jun</b> 7.30 pm	Talk on 'Mediaeval Malta' by Prof. M Cauchi - <i>Maltese Historical Assn.</i>	Maltese Centre	Parkville
<b>Wed 22 Jun</b> 6.30 pm - 9.00 pm	2011 Refugee Week Public Forum: Labels and Liabilities - <i>ECCV</i>	fortyfive downstairs	Melbourne
<b>Fri 24 Jun</b>	Annual General Meeting - <i>Maltese Salesians Past Pupils Assn of Vic</i>	-	-
<b>Sun 26 Jun</b>	Mnarja Day - <i>Klabb Għannejja Maltin</i>	Klabb Għannejja Maltin	St Albans
<b>Wed 29 Jun</b> 6.00 pm	ECCV 2011 Walter Lippmann Memorial Lecture - Piecing Australia Together by Rev Tim Costello - <i>ECCV</i>	The Wheeler Centre	Melbourne
<b>Wed 29 Jun</b> at 6.30 pm	MCCV Executive Committee Meeting	Maltese Centre	Parkville