



# MCCV News

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[www.mccv.org.au](http://www.mccv.org.au)

## 70th Anniversary of George Cross Award to Malta commemorated in Melbourne



The Maltese-Australian community in the State of Victoria commemorated the 70th Anniversary of the Award of the George Cross on 15 April 1942 to the people of Malta by King George VI in a program of events held during the second half of April organised by the Consul-General for Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud, and his organising committee.



### Shelter of Peace

This first event took place on a glorious sunny autumn morning in Melbourne on Sunday 15 April when a moving ceremony was held at the Shelter of Peace, organised annually by the Maltese Australian Association (MAA). The ceremony began on the forecourt and cenotaph of the Shrine of Remembrance with a march led by the Australian Army Band, Pipe Major Hawthorn Agnew MUR, army cadets and scouts, the official party, honoured guests, ex-service associations and Maltese Community Associations.

The official party included the Hon Andrew Elmsbury MLC (representing the Minister of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship the Hon Nick Kotsiras), the Leader of the State Opposition the Hon Daniel Andrews MLA, the British Consul-General in Victoria Mr Stuart Gill and the Consul-General for Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud and several dignitaries or their delegates from the Royal Australian Navy, Army and Air Force.

During the march up the forecourt there were two flypasts of RAAF Museum planes over the Shrine of Remembrance for the occasion. The army cadets formed a guard of honour on each side of the Cenotaph with the eternal flame. To the Pipe Major's sombre music, the MAA President Mr Benny Soler laid a wreath at the Cenotaph accompanied by Shrine and Returned Services League representatives.

Brigadier Keith Rossi AM, OBE, RFD ED, read the Ode to the Fallen and one minute silence was observed between the Last Post and the Rouse played by the Army Bugler. RAAF Chaplain Keith Lanyon offered prayers.

The march then proceeded to the Shelter of Peace, which is located on the east side of the Shrine over Birdwood Avenue and was built 20 years ago to mark the 50th anniversary of the George Cross Award.

At the Shelter of Peace Major Andrew Kopada, Acting Commanding Officer 5/6 RVE presented the Catafalque Party. MAA President Mr Ben Soler welcomed

Panoramic view of the George Cross commemoration march on the forecourt of the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne  
*[Photo: Edwin Borg-Manché]*

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## The President's Column

# Bringing the Advisory Council to life

The announcement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs that the Malta Government would establish an advisory Council made at the 2010 Convention of Maltese Living Abroad was met with a considerable degree of euphoria and optimism. That was in March 2010. Since then, a considerable amount of work has been done involving discussions between the Minister and Maltese organisations worldwide who were asked for their opinions in relation to setting up this committee. A Bill was drafted which became law late last year with the unanimous approval of both sides of the House of Representatives.

It is, therefore, disappointing that, after all this, we seem to be passing through a lull in activity and losing momentum, where nothing seems to be happening. The membership of this Council has still not been announced and hence no Council meetings have taken place.

It is understandable that it is not an easy matter to select members for such an advisory Council. Nine members were to be selected from among Maltese living overseas, being five from Australia, two from the USA, and one each from the UK and Canada, and another five members residing in Malta. The task of selecting such members is the responsibility of the Minister, no doubt a difficult job, but one which has to be done, if the Council is going to become a reality any time soon.

### Maltese Cultural Institute

Equally disappointing is the lack of progress in relation to the setting up of a 'Maltese Cultural Institute' to ensure the maintenance of culture within the widespread Maltese community overseas. One was hoping that by this time something concrete would have developed and announced by the Minister. It was envisaged that joint responsibility between the Ministries of Education and of Culture for the establishment of the Maltese Cultural Institute would result in a more efficient and effective delivery of service to the Maltese community overseas.

It was even hoped that representatives from this Institute, with special responsibilities to encourage the maintenance of Maltese culture abroad, would be located in the various embassies, High Commissions, or consulates of Malta around the world where there are substantial numbers of Maltese.

Unfortunately, none of this has happened, and worse still, there seems to be an embargo on any news relating to this topic. It is most unfortunate that even requests to the Minister to give us an update on the situation have gone unanswered.

We are still hopeful that this is only a temporary setback and that the Minister will soon announce definitive progress in the setting up of both the Advisory Council and the Cultural Institute.

We believe that the gestation period of more than two years since the announcement of this important Maltese diaspora engagement initiative by the Malta government should be brought to an end as soon as possible with the birth of these two new organisations.

**Prof. Maurice Cauchi  
MCCV President**

### POSTSCRIPT

*The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has just informed us that the composition of the Advisory Council is at an advanced stage and the consultation process with the Opposition is taking place according to the law. Work on the legal framework for the Maltese Cultural Institute is under way and it will then be referred to Parliament for approval. This is also at an advanced stage.*

## Australian Foreign Minister Bob Carr visits Malta



Senator Bob Carr at St John's in Valletta [Photo: DOI, Malta]

On 19 April 2012 Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Senator Bob Carr, visited Malta where he met with the Prime Minister Dr Lawrence Gonzi and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Tonio Borg.

During meetings in Valletta with Senator Carr, Dr Borg said that "the friendship between the people of Malta and Australia is a crucial ingredient to further strengthen the political, economic and cultural relations between the two countries".

Shortly after the meeting, Dr Borg said that both sides agreed that although Malta and Australia are geographically far apart, nonetheless they are very close in regard to diplomatic relations and friendship.

In a statement issued before his visit, Senator Carr said he was pleased to be visiting Malta on his first visit to Europe as Foreign Minister. "As Premier of New South Wales I developed a strong relationship with the Maltese community whose members have contributed a great deal to Australian society. I look forward to visiting Malta and to the honour of meeting with the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister." he said

"Australia and Malta have a long history of cooperation and our common values and strong community ties are key to this," Senator Carr said. ☈

### 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.

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 News  
Maltese Community Council of Victoria  
477 Royal Parade  
PARKVILLE VIC 3052

Contributions must be submitted by the following dates:

- Jul-Aug 2102 Newsletter: **Friday 3 August 2012**
- Sep-Oct 2012 Newsletter: **Friday 28 Sept 2012**
- Nov-Dec 2012 Newsletter: **Friday 30 Nov 2012**

## Notes from MCCV Council Meetings

### MAY 2012

The following items were discussed at the Council Meeting held on 2 May 2012:

**MCCV Boardroom Fire.** MCCV President, Prof Maurice Cauchi, MCCV Vice President Mr Gejtu Deguara and Fr Edwin Agius MSSP were called to the Maltese Centre when the fire brigade attended the scene of the fire in the MCCV Boardroom on Friday, 6 April 2012. The insurance company has accepted the damage claim and the clean-up work has already begun.

**MCCV Community Awards.** Applications for nominations for the MCCV Community Awards have been invited from affiliated associations and members of the MCCV Executive. Nominations will close on 30 June 2012. A certificate will be awarded to the successful nominees at a reception to be held in August. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Maltese Centre in Parkville.

**Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Fund And Scholarship.** It was confirmed that there is currently \$1,000 available for the scholarship from the interest being earned on the fund which at present amounts to \$32,109. Representatives of affiliated associations were urged to encourage their members to help spread this information to ensure that suitable applicants will apply. Closing date for receipt of applications is 30 June 2012.

**MCCV Constitution.** Various aspects of the MCCV constitution were discussed at the meeting. These included the reduction in the frequency of Council meetings and the provisions relating to the majority required to approve amendments to the constitution. On one interpretation, three quarters of the member associations present at the meeting must be in favour of the changes and on another interpretation, three quarters of the member associations whether present or not must approve the changes. This and other possible changes to the constitution will be discussed further at the next meeting.

**Talk On Legal Matters By Maurice Blackburn.** Lawyers Ms Victoria Keays, Ms Sally Weir and Ms Lily O'Neill from the law firm, Maurice Blackburn & Co, will be giving a public talk at the Maltese Centre in Parkville on Wednesday 9 May 2012 at 7.00pm. The talk will cover issues of interest to the Maltese community, such as asbestos claims, other WorkSafe issues and personal injuries sustained at work.

**Youth Committee.** The MCCV Youth Committee, AusMalts, has been meeting and corresponding by email regularly. Contents to be put on Facebook are being developed and will be up by next week. The Malta Discovery Tour will also feature on the Facebook page as will the Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship. The Youth Committee will meet with Ms Jodie Farrugia to discuss the Arts Victoria Heritage Fund and assist with putting the application together.

**Funding Application To Arts Victoria Heritage Fund.** Ms Jodie Farrugia, a professional Theatre Director and Community Artist, was the guest speaker at the meeting putting forward her proposal on "Community Partnership for Australia's Maltese Heritage". Ms Farrugia has worked with other communities in the past and she would now like to work with the Maltese community, given that both her parents are Maltese. The proposal is to put in a funding application to the Arts Victoria Heritage Fund for a project on how to explore, communicate and document Maltese heritage stories, Maltese migration stories and stories around Maltese culture in

### JUNE 2012

The following items were discussed at the Council Meeting held on 6 June 2012:

**MCCV Constitution.** Various possible changes to the MCCV constitution are being explored and will presented at a future meeting for further discussion.

**MCCV Boardroom Fire.** Work on repairing the Boardroom has commenced and all the plasterboard walls and ceiling has now been replaced and the electrical wiring has been completed. The floor tiles and windows will also be replaced and a new reverse cycle air-conditioning/heating unit and lighting fixtures will be installed. The boardroom table, chairs and the room content at the time of the fire will also be replaced under the insurance claim. The antique sideboard with mirror will be restored.

**MCCV Community Awards.** Affiliated associations are reminded that applications for nominations for the MCCV Community Awards will close on 30 June 2012. Nomination forms are available from the Maltese Centre and may be downloaded from the MCCV website. Applications should be made confidentially and without informing the persons being nominated.

**Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Fund Luncheon.** The Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Fund Committee will be organising a fund-raising luncheon at the Maltese Centre in Parkville on Sunday 22 July 2012 between 1.00 pm and 4.00 pm. Mr Joe Drago and others will be providing entertainment. Associations are urged to encourage their members to attend and support this good cause.

**Talk On Legal Matters By Maurice Blackburn.** Lawyers from the law firm, Maurice Blackburn & Co, gave an interesting talk on as asbestos claims, other WorkSafe issues and personal injuries sustained at work. Although this event was open to the public and free of charge, it is regrettable that attendance was not as high as had been hoped.

**Maltese Team of Cyclists visiting Melbourne.** The MCCV has received a request to provide the main hall of the Maltese Centre for a team of cyclists from Malta to spend the night of Tuesday 6th November 2012 during their upcoming tour to Australia. They will be cycling from Brisbane to Melbourne to raise funds for the hospital in Malta. The Council agreed to provide as much assistance as possible.

**MCCV Home Visitation Program.** The MCCV President has met with the Home Visitation group of volunteers who have agreed to participate in the program as visitors. There is also a list of people who have expressed a desire to be paid visits by the volunteers. So the program is now fully functional. More people are expected to join the program. Affiliated associations are urged to publicise among their members this new service that the MCCV provides to elderly members of our community.

**Donation of Painting.** The Council acknowledged receiving a watercolour painting donated by Mr John Gordon-Kirkby, a former Royal Marine. The small painting (20 cm x 13 cm) shows a 1957 view of the Grand Harbour with HMS Surprise at her moorings. He made this painting from the quarter-deck of HMS Birmingham. At that time he was a 21-year-old National Serviceman in HM Royal Marines on HMS Birmingham then Mediterranean Fleet Flagship. He served in Malta in 1957-58. The Council is grateful to Mr Gordon-Kirkby for the donation.



## 70th Anniversary of George Cross Award to Malta commemorated in Melbourne

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the official party and distinguished guests to the commemoration ceremony. Flight Lieutenant I Speirs RAAF Ret read the Prayer of Peace and Commander A Nye RAN read out the Royal Warrant of the George Cross to Malta. Major Kopada read a piece titled "Malta United in Defence".

The audience at the Shelter of Peace ceremony. British Consul-General in Victoria Mr Stuart Gill read the Citation of the George Cross signed by King George VI on 15th April 1942, exactly 70 years ago today. The President of the Maltese Historical Association, Mrs Frances Bonnici, read *Homage to Malta* in English, while the President of the Maltese Literature Group, Dr Victor Sammut, read the same in Maltese (*Tislima lil Malta*).

The Hon. Andrew Elmsbury MLC then made a brief speech on behalf of Minister Kotsiras, who was unable to attend. "Today we celebrate the sacrifice made by the allied and commonwealth forces in World War II during the Siege of Malta and the 70th anniversary of the award of the George Cross to Malta. It was bestowed on the people of Malta for the great strength and courage they displayed during the most dangerous and testing of times. Commemorations like today ensure that the meaning of the Siege of Malta is neither diminished nor forgotten. We dedicate ourselves to carry forward the legacy of freedom and democracy that the victory of Malta and the allies represents," said Mr Elmsbury.

Mr Elmsbury commended the Maltese Australian Association for organising such a moving ceremony and for its positive contribution to the cultural diversity. "Here in Victoria we are blessed to have such a strong Maltese community. Across many spheres of society, the Maltese contribution has been positive and considerable, characterised by hard work, devotion to family, and commitment to community, he said. Mr Elmsbury said that he is proud to be Co-Chairman of Parliamentary Friends of Malta that was formed among Victorian State Parliamentarians last month.

In his speech, the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Daniel Andrews MLA, referred to the venue of today's event as "this sacred place, a precinct like no other, surrounded by symbols of loss and grief but also symbols of hope, courage, bravery and fortitude that has seen decency, freedom, democracy and fundamental respect for human rights



The official party and guests being addressed by the speakers at the Shelter of Peace in Melbourne  
[Photo: Nino Xerri]

prevail over so many challenges throughout our history."

Mr Andrews said that "It is fitting to be in such a touching precinct to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the awarding of the George Cross to the people of Malta, whose fortitude, bravery and courage against that often used phrase 'odds uncounted' stands as a beacon to all that is right, a beacon to the values that our state is forged upon, and our great nation beyond that."

Referring to the circumstances in Malta during the war, Mr Andrews said that "when we think about that military blockade and bombing, a sustained bombing the likes of which had never before been seen and indeed has never been seen since, when we think of the attempted starvation of the Maltese people and of all those that had travelled to Malta to defend them, when we think of the strategic significance of the island of Malta to other campaigns in North Africa and the ultimate outcome of that war, we should all be just so grateful to the Maltese community for their bravery, for their stoicism, for the sacrifice that they and those that had come to defend them showed during those two years."

Speaking about the contribution of the Maltese community in Victoria, Mr Andrews said that "it is a great honour to have the George Cross awarded to Malta but in many respects we should also pause just for a moment today and celebrate and honour the contribution that Maltese Australians have made to our multiculturalism, to our great state and our great nation. With a focus on hard work, on family and importantly on faith, the Maltese community has made a substantial contribution to Victoria, one that each and every member of our community with

Maltese heritage should be abundantly proud of."

Mr Andrews thanked and praised the Maltese Australian Association for organising such a moving ceremony to commemorate the bravery, stoicism and the ultimate victory of those back in Malta some 70 years ago.

After the speeches, wreaths were laid by the various dignitaries and Maltese community representatives.

Brigadier Keith Rossi AM, OBE, RFD ED, read the Ode to the Fallen and one minute silence was observed between the Last Post and the Rouse played by the Army Bugler. RAAF Chaplain Keith Lanyon offered prayers.

Consul-General for Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud. Consul-General for Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud, read a piece about "Malta for Peace" referring to the two Sieges of Malta, the first being in 1565 and the second during World War II. "Out of both sieges Malta emerged in a state of utter devastation but totally unscathed in spirit and honour. From the last, the Maltese people also emerged with the firm resolve to become at last the designers of their own destiny. Today, Malta's declared policy is one that promotes international peace. It is the harsh experience from its warrish past and its heroic resilience that motivate many nations to recognise Malta as a bulwark of world peace in modern times," said Mr Mifsud.

The ceremony concluded with the Australian Army Band playing of the national anthems of Malta, the UK and Australia. ☺

## MHA Event — April 2012

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

*By Edwin Borg-Manché*

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.

Mrs Bonnici gave a warm welcome to the guest speaker, Mr Charles Mifsud, to Mrs Anna Maria Mifsud and to all those present. Mr Mifsud gave a presentation on the pivotal role that Malta played in the Second World War leading to the award of the George Cross to the people of Malta by King George VI on 15 April 1942. He started his talk by posing the question whether Malta deserved to be awarded the George Cross. Naturally the answer to this question is a resounding "yes", said Mr Mifsud.

Mr Mifsud gave several reasons including the hunger that the Maltese people suffered during the war, the displacement of residents of towns and suburbs that were worst hit by the continuous bombing. The Maltese soldiers played a very important role in the defence of the islands and showed great valour and bravery manning the anti-aircraft guns. It was for these and other reasons that King George VI felt that it would be fit and proper to award the highest civilian bravery medal to the people of Malta for "a heroism and devotion that will long be famous in history."

Mr Mifsud said that the Germans did their utmost to starve the Maltese to death in order to get them to surrender but the Maltese people continued to fight to the end until the enemy was overcome.

Mr Mifsud emphasised that the George Cross Medal is awarded to individuals who had shown exceptional courage. This was the only time that the medal was awarded to a whole nation.

Mr Mifsud then invited 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.

Mr Speer said that he was a flight engineer on one of these planes. He gave a rundown of his career history during the war and how he met his wife on a blind date during his time in England. He recalled how on one occasion they ended up on the sea and had to be rescued after their plane had been hit by enemy gunfire.



From left:  
Consul-General  
Mr Charles  
Mifsud, Mrs  
Frances Bonnici,  
and Mr Ian  
Speer [Photo:  
Martin Bonnici]

Mr Speer said that 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. Mr Speer mentioned how the pilot and others on board had scratched their names on the bulkhead of the aeroplane and the pilot's family still has that. Mr Speer hoped that one day it could be placed in a museum to be available for viewing. Tom Stokes died some time ago.

After the presentation an interesting film about Malta's wartime experiences leading to the award of the George Cross was shown. The film included several scenes filmed during the war and was produced to showcase Malta and its people as a shining example to other members of the British Commonwealth of a people who gave their all against the odds. A copy of the film was kindly provided for the occasion by Mr Joe Montebello.

After the film, Mr Mifsud invited those present to share their war time experiences.

The President of the Maltese Ex-Services Association, Mr Emmanuel Spiteri, recalled joining the war effort as a scout in 'C' Company 2nd Battalion KOMR. The scouts were given duties to assist the censors with the censorship of letters, resealing them. He was 17 and a half when he joined. His date of birth on the service records showed him two years old than he really was. He recalled how they used to patrol near Qawra tower to Bahar iċ-Ċagħaq and back every night. He also recalled the hunger and the small food rations consisting of a slice of bread and a sardine that was shared among four people.

Mr Gejtu Deguara, MCCV Vice President, said that he was born 3 years before the start of the war but does not recall much about the war. His father left the island to serve in Egypt when he was three and a half years old and did not return until four years later. He was about seven when he recalls first seeing his father.

99-year old Mr John Catania, who was one of the gunners on the anti-aircraft guns at Spinola, near St Julians, and later at Tigné, recalled how at one point a bomb exploded in the grounds where he was serving and hit a clock he was holding. Someone from the Royal Engineers came to replace the clock and they asked who had died from the explosion. Mr Catania told them that no-one had died but they were amazed how no-one had died as they could see the destruction left by the bomb. He then moved to defend Ta' Qali airfield, the most important airfield in Malta during the war. He recalled how he later served at Salina and finally at Wardija, near St Paul's Bay. When he moved to Wardija, the position at Salina suffered a direct hit and all the gunners there died in the explosion.

Mr George Saliba joined the Royal Malta Artillery at Qrendi to the west coast of Malta. He served on the anti-aircraft guns at Tal-Qroqq near Msida and later at Spinola and he recalled a direct hit in one of the locations which resulted in deaths.

Mr Ben Soler, President of the Maltese Australian Association, recalled his experiences as a toddler having been born the same year that the war had started in 1939. His family lived at Vittoriosa which was heavily bombed but had to move to Lija, then Zurrieq and finally Rabat. His father was a Bombardier who saw a lot of action on the anti-aircraft guns.

Among those present were members of the MCCV Executive Committee, members of the Maltese religious orders, members of Maltese associations and Maltese media representatives from SBS, 3ZZZ, 97.4 FM and 98.9 FM.

Light refreshments kindly provided by one of the sponsors of the George Cross commemoration events, Anton Camilleri's Busy Bee Catering, were served after the presentation. ☺

# George Cross Award Exhibition launched at the Maltese Centre

By Edwin Borg-Manché

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.

The evening commenced with the singing of the Maltese and Australian national anthems. Mr George Saliba, MC for the evening, introduced the Consul-General of Malta, who welcomed the distinguished guests. These 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 Mifsud provided a brief background and statistics about Malta's sacrifices during the Second World War and the award of the George Cross by King George VI on 15 April 1942. There were 3,340 air raids on Malta for a total of 2,357 hours and 6 minutes. 30,027 civilian homes were either completely destroyed or severely damaged, said Mr Mifsud.

The Maltese defenders, some of whom were present in the audience, gallantly manned the anti-aircraft guns shooting down not less than 454 enemy aircraft. The RAF shot down 790. Around 1,500 Maltese civilians lost their life in the conflict. Malta was and still is the most bombed place on earth. The people of Malta suffered hunger and devastation. The George Cross was the highest award that could be bestowed on civilians, said Mr Mifsud.

Mr Saliba then invited the Hon Craig Ondarchie to launch the special exhibition of war-related artefacts and photographs showing graphic images of Malta during the Second World War. In launching the exhibition, Mr Ondarchie said that it was an honour for him to represent the Premier of



The Hon. Craig Ondarchie addresses the guests at the exhibition launch. [Photo: Martin Bonnici]

Victoria and the Minister for Multiculturalism and Citizenship at the George Cross Award commemoration.

Mr Ondarchie said that in commemorating the 70th anniversary of the George Cross to Malta, we commemorate the sacrifice made by allied and commonwealth forces in World War II during the very tragic siege of Malta. The George Cross Award was made to Malta for the great strength and courage that the Maltese displayed during the most testing and dangerous of times.

"Commemorations and celebrations, such as this one, ensure that the meaning of the siege of Malta is not dismissed or forgotten. We remember the sacrifices made by many in the struggle against the military forces. In doing so, we also look to the future. We challenge ourselves to embody the values for which they fought. We dedicate ourselves tonight to carry forward the legacy of freedom, democracy and the victory that Malta represents," said Mr Ondarchie.

Mr Ondarchie said that "today we measure ourselves against the enormous sacrifice that those before us have made. We also renew our commitment to a free and prosperous society in which we live. We also dedicate ourselves to teaching the next generation about our history, our culture, our values and our traditions. The next generation cannot understand where they are going, unless they understand where they come from."

Mr Ondarchie commended the Consul-General of Malta and the entire Maltese community of Victoria for creating and supporting such a moving commemoration of the past and such a fitting dedication to the future.

"Here in Victoria we are blessed by a very strong Maltese community. Across so many spheres of society, the Maltese people's contribution to a positive and considerable community has been enormous, and we thank you for that," said Mr Ondarchie. "That contribution has been characterised by hard work, devotion to family and a commitment to our community. Indeed, when I talk to my Parliamentary colleagues about how beautiful Malta is, as a country, they say to me that the people of Malta are more beautiful."

"The Victorian Government encourages all community groups to maintain, develop and share their cultural heritage with others and, in this, the Maltese community sets an enormous and wonderful example. I commend the Maltese community for its great contribution to the cultural diversity and harmony in Victoria," said Mr Ondarchie, before officially declaring the exhibition open.

The Exhibition remained open at the Maltese Centre until Sunday 29 April.

Following the exhibition launch, on behalf of the Consul General, Mr Saliba thanked the members of the George Cross organising committee and the staff at the Consulate for their hard work to ensure the success of the commemorative events. The 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. Mr Saliba also thanked SBS Senior Broadcaster, Ms Marlene Galea, for her assistance in promoting the events.

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## George Cross Exhibition

*Continued from page 6*

### George Cross Competition Awards

Mr Saliba then announced 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". There were two entries in the multimedia section and six entries in the essay competition.

Mr Saliba thanked the judging panel which consisted of Professor Maurice Cauchi, Dr Lou Dofenik and Mr Joe Asciak.

The winning entries were submitted by Miss Isabella Seychell for the multimedia section and Mr Paul Jesmond Sapiano for the essay section. Mr George Portelli, the representative of the Bank of Valletta in Australia which partly sponsored the winning prizes, presented the prizes to the winners. Mr Mifsud presented participation prizes to the other competition entrants.

The final part of the evening consisted of the showing of the excellent documentary movie called *Heroes in the Sky* by Maltese director and producer Engelbert Grech. The movie related the story of the pivotal role that Malta played in the Second World War when the islanders came very close to starvation and the island being bombed out of existence. The moving story was told from the perspective of the air battles that took place over Malta and the heroism displayed by several extraordinary pilots who came from the UK, Canada, the USA, Australia and New Zealand and achieved the impossible and the miraculous against all odds.

Finally, Mr Saliba thanked the many sponsors, without whose generosity the events would not have been such a success.



Below: Consul-General Mr Charles Mifsud, and Mr George Portelli, BOV Representative in Australia, with the essay competition winner and participants. [Photo: Martin Bonnici]



## Maltese Ex-Services commemorate George Cross Award 70th Anniversary



Prof. Maurice Cauchi addresses the gathering near the George Cross monument. [Photo: Martin Bonnici]

On Sunday 29 April, 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.

Mr Emmanuel Farrugia and Mrs Margaret Farrugia led the singing during mass. After the Entrance of the Colours accompanied by Fr Bianco and Mr Spiteri, MC Mr George Saliba welcomed the congregation and symbolic candles were lit.

After the homily, Mr Charles Mifsud made a commemorative speech for the occasion. In his speech Mr Mifsud said that "in all this heroic action, one cannot forget the contributions made by the Royal Navy with the numerous convoys, some successful some not, that were launched to replenish Malta. The inhabitants of the Maltese Island were suffering famine apart from the physical damage caused by the intensive bombing. The Army present in Malta guarded Malta's shores for the eventuality of an invasion, which, thank God, did not materialise. The courage and steadfastness of the Maltese people cannot be forgotten."

"No wonder the People of Malta were awarded the George Cross – the highest civilian honour awarded by Britain. This award is close to the heart of the Maltese people and is still proudly flown on our national flag, where it should stay forever," said Mr Mifsud.

Mr Joe Stafrace read the Requiem. The President of the Association, Mr Emmanuel Spiteri, thanked all those who took part in the commemoration and those who assisted in the organisation of the ceremony.

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.

The MCCV President Professor Maurice Cauchi made a brief speech for the occasion and places a bouquet of native flowers at the foot of the monument. Representatives of other associations also placed flowers at the monument. [Flag of Malta]



# Fenech Adami honoured with Schuman medal award

On Sunday 27 May 2012 President Emeritus Dr Eddie Fenech Adami was honoured with the award of the prestigious Robert Schuman medal for his contribution in taking Malta into the EU. European People's Party (EPP) Chairman, Mr Joseph Daul, presented the medal to Dr Fenech Adami during a touching ceremony at the Upper Barrakka Gardens in Valletta.

A grateful and emotional Dr Fenech Adami said he would cherish the medal because he lived through the times of Robert Schuman, a Christian Democrat and former French Prime Minister who died in 1963, regarded as one of the EU's founders.

Dr Fenech Adami is the second Maltese recipient of the award following the award to former President and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the late Professor Guido de Marco in 2007. Dr Fenech Adami was nominated by Malta's two EPP MEPs, Simon Busuttil and David Casa, and the former noted that the nomination was accepted immediately.

Robert Schuman was France's foreign minister when he proposed the setting up of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in a declaration issued on 9 May, 1950, a day now celebrated as Europe Day. Commonly named as one of the 'Founding Fathers' of European unity, Robert Schuman was the architect of the famous Schuman Plan which laid the foundation for a supranational European community that progressively developed into the European Union.

"With humility I recognised that I did not play a small part in ensuring Malta's full and active participation in the EU. I am proud of what I have done... what we managed to do together," said Dr Fenech Adami in his acceptance speech.

While thanking his late wife for her unconditional support during tough political times, Dr Fenech Adami paid tribute to his PN colleagues and recalled how the party never doubted its vision. He pointed out that he ended all his political speeches with an appeal for values particularly Christian values, "which distinguish this small country". "I cannot claim to have a life of active political participation ahead of me but I assure you that I observe everything with interest and I want our country to keep moving on this same path to achieve even more prosperity," he said.

Keynote speaker Dr Louis Galea, now audit dean in the European Court of Auditors, recalled the PN's efforts to etch out a future for Malta during the "foggy" days of socialism. "If Robert Schuman was the founding father of the EU, Eddie Fenech Adami was the founding father of Malta in the EU," he said, praising Dr Fenech Adami's vision and stamina, which ultimately led to consensus in Malta over EU membership.



President Emeritus Dr Eddie Fenech Adami

Dr Galea appealed for people to remember the EU's achievements and ask important existential questions about the relevance of the union today.

While stressing the importance of the separation of Church and State, Dr Galea argued that it was wrong for Christian politicians to pose for rites and rituals and then act with a secular vision of the universe.

Mr Joseph Daul, who was in Malta in 2007 to award the same medal to another Maltese President Emeritus, the late Guido de Marco, praised Dr Fenech Adami for helping bring Malta out of the socialist era where democratic values were trampled upon.

"Success is born out of truth", Charles de Gaulle once said. Chairman Daul used this quote to highlight Eddie Fenech Adami's role in persuading the Maltese that EU membership is good for Malta and good for them. "You did it by telling the truth", said Joseph Daul. "We haven't forgotten the Labour Party's opposition to EU membership."

"Dear Eddie, your vision, your actions have left an indelible mark not only in Malta but also throughout Europe. You epitomise the best of Malta, you highlight the European nature of your country. As a Frenchman, and especially as a European, I feel at home here in Valletta, just as I know that the Maltese feel at home anywhere in Europe. President, this would not have been possible without your energy, without your vision, and without your forcefulness", said Joseph Daul MEP.

Former awardees include the late Pope John Paul II, German chancellor Angela Merkel, and President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso.

The President and Executive Committee of the MCCV congratulate Dr Fenech Adami on the award or such a prestigious honour. ☺

Sources: [www.timesofmalta.com](http://www.timesofmalta.com); [www.independent.com.mt](http://www.independent.com.mt); [www.eppgroup.eu](http://www.eppgroup.eu)

## Malta Discovery Tour 2012



The **Malta Discovery Tour 2012** will set off on Friday 23 November 2012.

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria organises these tours to encourage young people, particularly those of Maltese background, to discover and learn first-hand more about Malta. These tours are also aimed at encouraging and providing an opportunity to older adults, who would love to travel to Malta but would not like to travel on their own.

This year we shall be spending 3 weeks in Malta with an option of 4 days, to travel to another European city in the second week at a supplement.

In Malta, all accommodation, daily breakfast and some meals are included. The accommodation is in a hotel on the Sliema seafront, central to everything. All excursions to historical places of interest and entrance fees referred to in the itinerary are included in the price. Our group will be accompanied by an English speaking guide on all the excursions.

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria organises these tours to encourage young people, particularly those of Maltese background, to discover and learn first-hand more about Malta. These tours are also aimed at encouraging and providing an opportunity to older adults, who would love to travel to Malta but would not like to travel on their own.

Come and join us to discover the ancient history of the Islands of Malta and Gozo and visit the unique underground hypogeum temple dating back to 5000 B.C. Walk the narrow streets of the Silent City of Mdina and gasp in awe at the rich Baroque architecture of the city of Valletta - built by gentlemen for gentlemen. Go back in time when we visit the sister island of Gozo and so much more.

Do not miss this great opportunity, 22 participants of a mixed aged group have already booked their place. Limited seats are available. If you are under 18 years, then you need to be accompanied by a parent or a guardian. If you are over 18 years of age, you are eligible to participate. There is no upper age limit.

Approximate cost starts from \$3,250. Costs include airfare and taxes, accommodation based on a twin share inland room for 21 nights including breakfast, entrance fees, services of a guide and coach (where applicable). Cost is subject to change pending final payment. A deposit of \$700.00 to secure place on the Malta Discovery Tour.

[Click here](#) to download the itinerary. For an application, terms and conditions and further information, please contact Carmen Mamo at the MCCV on (03) 9387 8922 or by email to [admin@mccv.org.au](mailto:admin@mccv.org.au) or by email to Edwina Mallia at [edwinamallia@optusnet.com.au](mailto:edwinamallia@optusnet.com.au). ☺

# MCCV Community Achievers Awards

## *Call for nominations*

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria is inviting nominations of recipient candidates from affiliated associations and members of the MCCV Executive Committee.

The purpose of these awards is to recognise the valuable contribution to the enrichment of the Maltese Community in Victoria, whether by scholarship, welfare services, artistic contribution and contribution to the well being of members of the Maltese community on a day to day basis.

### Award Categories

Awards will be given in the following categories:

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

**Scholarship and Education** – the nominee must show demonstrated provision of support and contribution to the education of members of the Maltese Community through the development of educational tools,

teaching and other educational activities in relation to Maltese culture, history and language.

**Culture** – the nominee must demonstrate a commitment to the development and encouragement of Maltese artists and Maltese art forms in all artistic fields (including visual, literature, etc) or be an emerging individual Maltese artist within these areas.

**Welfare Services** – the nominee must demonstrate a contribution to the welfare of members of the Maltese Community who are in need, vulnerable or isolated from the community in general.

**Youth** – the nominee must be between the age of 18 to 35 years and demonstrate a contribution within their community in relation to Maltese issues or their community in general.

**General** – the nominee must demonstrate an outstanding contribution to the Maltese Community for the services of whatever nature provided to members of the Maltese Community or to the Maltese Community in general.

### Criteria

To be eligible for nomination the nominee must:

- Be Maltese or of Maltese descent
- Have made or is making a demonstrated contribution to the Maltese Community in Victoria in one of the award categories.

Posthumous nominations will be considered.

### Nomination and Selection

Members of MCCV-affiliated associations may nominate candidates for these awards by completing a nomination form and forwarding the form to Ms Carmen Mamo at the Maltese Centre. Forms may be obtained from the Maltese Cnetre or downloaded from the MCCV website. Self-nomination is not permitted.

The MCCV Executive will consider the nominations and select the successful award recipient in each category. Their decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

**Nominations must be received by not later than 30 June 2012.** ☈

## Informative talk about asbestos and work-related injury claims

On 12 May 2012 three lawyers from Maurice Blackburn & Co, Ms Victoria Keays, Ms Lily O'Neill and Ms Sally Weir, with expertise in asbestos and work-related injury claims, gave a free public talk on the subject at the Maltese Community in Parkville.

MCCV Vice President, Mr Victor Borg, welcomed the speakers and provided some background about the firm of Maurice Blackburn & Co which was founded in 1919 by Maurice McCrae Blackburn, who was a distinguished lawyer and a Labour member of the Victorian and Federal Parliaments. The firm has a distinguished history in fighting cases involving civil liberties, underprivileged groups and the rights of ordinary people and workers.

In the first part of the meeting Ms O'Neill spoke about WorkCover matters which relate to injuries sustained or death occurring at work. These cases extend also to psychological injuries such as those arising from bullying and harassment at work, which in some instances



has even resulted in the victim committing suicide.

In the final part, Ms Keays and Ms Weir spoke about asbestos claims. If inhaled, asbestos fibres have the potential to cause respiratory problems, lung cancer, asbestosis and mesothelioma. Generally, if asbestos in buildings is left undisturbed, there is no risk to health. However, a significant hazard is created

if asbestos material is altered, cut, drilled, abraded or damaged in such a way as to release asbestos fibres into the air.

### National Asbestos Register

Ms Keays said that Maurice Blackburn have established a national asbestos database and anyone who has been exposed to asbestos is, therefore, at risk of developing respiratory disease or cancer is encouraged to register. Listing the details of one's asbestos exposure, whether it was recent or many years ago, may assist one's future claims for compensation. It can also help other victims who use the database to help determine where they were exposed.

One can register for free on the National Asbestos Register, which already has more than 6,000 registrants. If one chooses to register, one will not automatically become a client of Maurice Blackburn and you have no obligation to become one in the future. One can register online at:

<http://www.mauriceblackburn.com.au/areas-of-practice/asbestos-diseases/register-your-asbestos-exposure.aspx> or freecall 1800 675 140 for a registration form. ☈



# Trip to Ballarat to see the Begonias

By Paul Vella

A group of 48 members of Reskeon Seniors Group enjoyed a trip to Ballarat to visit this year's Begonias display at the Robert Clark Conservatory, in the Botanical Gardens.

The day was Thursday, 12th April. The Good Lord was kind by giving us a beautiful sunny 24-degree day after a few days of chilling weather.

Our Coach Captain was Bill and we left the car park of St Joseph the Worker Church at 9 am.

We arrived at around 10.45 am all members enjoyed a free cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and many goodies that members brought with them and shared around.

Afterwards, members entered the Conservatory to visit the Begonias display... and what a beautiful display it was. Large flowers of exotic colours that attracted hundreds of photos.

Some members had a chance to purchase flower pots of Begonias which were available for sale at very reasonable prices.

Then it was time for lunch which was BYO. There were plenty of seats in the opposite park and even a shelter from the warm sun under a number of gazebos.

After lunch, most members enjoyed a walk along the Botanical Gardens and a visit to the Statuary Pavilion was well worth it viewing the fine white artistic marble statues. The sculptures are by Charles Summer and depict The Flight to Pompeii, Ruth, Modesty, Rebeka and Susanah.

Others had a walk in the park along Lake Youille's Swamp (now Lake Wendouree) and the bird life and beautiful swans.

At around 3 pm we boarded the coach for our trip back to Melbourne.

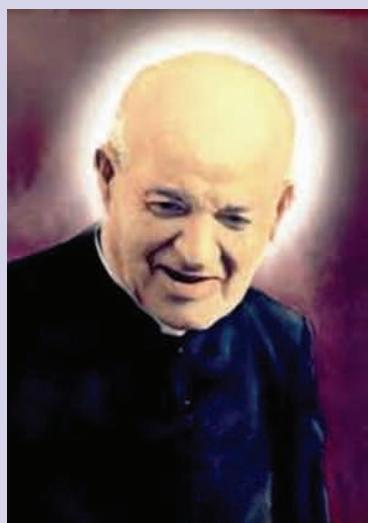
All members enjoyed this trip so much that they requested more such trips be organised. It is always a pleasure travelling with our members who are always well behaved and very punctual.

Thanks to all those taking part in this outing and thanks to our Coach Captain,

Bill, for looking after us and keeping us informed of spots of interest during the trip. This outing was subsidized by Reskeon Seniors Group. ☘

## Society of Christian Doctrine - MUSEUM

is organising celebrations to mark the  
**50th Anniversary of the Death of  
St George Preca**



**Sunday, 22 July 2012 - Pilgrimage to the monument of St George Preca at St Patrick Cathedral, 1 Cathedral Place, East Melbourne**

**Tuesday, 24 July 2012 - Memorial Mission: Impact of St George Preca**  
at Victoria on the Hyde,  
188 Hyde Street, Yarraville  
(Dinner available from 6.00 pm)

**Saturday, 28 July 2012 - Eucharist Adoration**  
at SDC Regional Centre,  
82 Westmoreland Road, Sunshine North

**Sunday 29 July 2012 - Thanksgiving Mass**  
at St Mary Star of the Sea,  
West Melbourne  
celebrated by Bishop Mons. Vincent Long OFM Conv.



Below: The whole group on the Ballarat outing. Above: At the Robert Clark Conservatory



## Bishop Joseph Grech Scholarship 2012 — Call for Applications

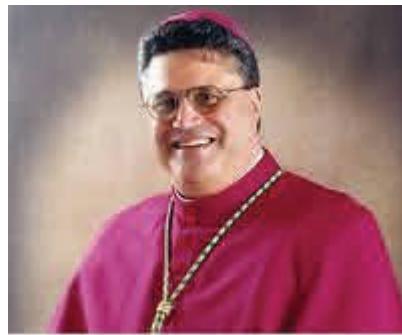
**Are you interested in Maltese Culture? Want to find out more about the land of your ancestors – or maybe even your own birthplace?**

The Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Scholarship is in its inaugural year and has been established to encourage interest and appreciation of Maltese culture in young people of Maltese heritage living in the State of Victoria.

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria has established the Scholarship in memory of Bishop Joe, he was affectionately known, who was Bishop of the Sandhurst Diocese until his death in 2010. He was the Bishop delegate for Youth and Young Adults and for Migrants and Refugees, and he served in these roles with joy and a deep compassion. Bishop Joe frequently spoke out on the treatment of asylum seekers and refugees in Australia, and he matched these words with pastoral action, through his involvement in the establishment of services in remote detention centres.

Bishop Grech was extremely passionate about working with youth and had a wonderful rapport with young people. He worked with young people to help them build their self-esteem and to realise their full potential. He had an enthusiastic manner and unique and charismatic style of preaching.

Bishop Joseph Grech came from a humble Maltese background and went on to become a Bishop here in Australia. He was very proud of his Maltese culture and kept in touch with many Maltese people across Australia. He was known throughout his life for his exceptional personal qualities, which included leadership, achievement and above all enduring love for Malta. His important legacy is commemorated and celebrated through the Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Scholarship.



The value of the scholarship this year will be \$1000 which will be awarded to support travel and/or accommodation in Malta.

The aims of the scholarship are to support interested individuals of Maltese heritage to enhance their knowledge and experience of Maltese culture and history in situ, and create opportunities for that experience to be shared more broadly with other young people with Maltese-Australian heritage.

### Eligibility

To be eligible, candidates must:

- Have an interest in Maltese History and Culture
- Complete the application form provided
- Provide a digital report of their cultural experiences in Malta to be made available on the Maltese Community Council website within two months of returning from Malta
- Ensure that all necessary permission forms for oral interviews, digital images and use of any third party content used in their report are available
- Be of Maltese background and between 18 and 40 years of age
- Be a resident of the State of Victoria

- Complete their travel within 12 months from the date of the Scholarship being awarded.

### Selection Process

Shortlisted candidates will be required to attend an interview at the Maltese Community Centre located at 477 Royal Parade, Parkville.

The selection panel will be composed of a representative of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, the Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Fund and the Maltese-Australian community.

The decision of the selection panel will be final.

Anyone interested in applying for a scholarship in 2013 should start to prepare for the scholarship by developing their understanding of Maltese history and culture. They are encouraged to attend activities of the Maltese community in Victoria, particularly those organised by MCCV-affiliated organisations, such as, the Maltese Historical Association of Australia, which holds a monthly lecture where a guest speaker addresses its members on a topic relating to Maltese history and culture. These lectures are free and open to the public.

[Click here](#) to download a copy of the application form. Completed applications should be posted to: The Secretary, Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Fund, c/- The Maltese Community Council of Victoria, 477 Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria 3052, or scanned and sent electronically by email to: [admin@mccv.org.au](mailto:admin@mccv.org.au) with "Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Scholarship" in the subject line.

**Applications close on Wednesday, 15 August 2012. ✎**

### MHA Event — May 2012

## Megaliths and Microliths

By Agnes Cauchi

Mr Joe Borg gave an interesting presentation on *Megaliths and Microliths* that are found in Malta illustrating his points through pictures. The talk was delivered in the monthly lecture series organised by the Maltese Historical Association and held at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville.

Joe Borg identified two significant periods of cultural growth:

- The Neolithic temple builders
- The Knights of Malta

The builders of the megalithic temples of Ggantija, Tarxien, Hal Saflioni etc must have been an organised community. How else would such structures been erected? Not



Mr Joe Borg

only were they master builders but also mathematicians and engineers. One has to look at the plan of these temples and their construction to marvel at these early

inhabitants' skills. In the temples our early inhabitants decorated the walls with spirals and birds carved into the stone.

### The Knights of Malta period

Before the Knights arrived Malta was a barren island. And look at it now. They built the city of Valletta with its magnificent monuments/auberges/churches etc.

The word *microlith* is a small stone that can be as fine as talcum powder. In fact any artefact made of pottery is a *microlith*. We have many examples of pottery, eg, bowls and figurines found in the temples and necropolis of the Neolithic period.

One can marvel at the wealth of megaliths and microliths accumulated through the centuries found around the islands. ✎



## Community Events Calendar

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

Date	Event	Venue	Suburb
Sun 10 Jun	Pokie Trip to New South Wales - St Gaetan's Society	-	-
Sat 23 Jun	Get Together - St Helena Maltese-Australian Social Club	Errington Community Centre	St Albans
Wed 27 Jun 6.30 pm	MCCV Executive Committee Meeting	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Wed 04 Jul 7.00 pm	MCCV Council Meeting	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Sat 07 Jul	Annual Dinner Dance - Newport Maltese Association	Lakeside Reception Centre	Taylors Lakes
Sun 08 Jul 11.30 am	34th Anniv. Members Barbecue - St Gaetan's Society	St Martin de Porres Church	Avondale Heights
Thu 12 Jul	Day Out - Reskeon Maltese Association	-	-
Sat 21 Jul	Get Together - St Helena Maltese-Australian Social Club	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Sun 22 Jul 12.30 pm	Celebrating 50th Anniversary of the Death of St George Preca	St Patrick's Cathedral	East Melbourne
Tue 24 Jul 7.30 pm	Celebrating 50th Anniversary of the Death of St George Preca	Victoria on the Hyde	Yarraville
Wed 25 Jul 6.30 pm	MCCV Executive Committee Meeting	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Sat 28 Jul - Sun 29 Jul	Weekend Trip - Reskeon Maltese Association	-	-
Sat 28 Jul 10.00 am - 5.00 pm	Celebrating 50th Anniversary of the Death of St George Preca	Society of Christian Doctrine - Preca Centre	Sunshine North
Sun 29 Jul 3.30 pm	Celebrating 50th Anniversary of the Death of St George Preca	St Mary Star of the Sea Church	West Melbourne
Wed 01 Aug 7.00 pm	MCCV Council Meeting	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Sun 19 Aug	Get Together - Reskeon Maltese Association	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Fri 24 Aug 7.30 pm	Feast of St Helena - Mass - organised by St Helena Maltese Australian Social Club	St Leopold Croatian Church	Ardeer
Sat 25 Aug	Feast of St Helena - Dinner Dance - organised by St Helena Maltese Australian Social Club	Melrose Receptions	Tullamarine
Sun 26 Aug 3.00 pm	Feast of St Helena - Mass - organised by St Helena Maltese Australian Social Club	St Leopold Croatian Church	Ardeer