

## Council of Maltese Living Abroad inaugural meeting in Malta

The first meeting of the advisory Council for Maltese Living Abroad took place over two days on Tuesday and Wednesday 18th and 19th September at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Malta's capital city, Valletta.

The day before commencement of the meeting, the members of the Council had the opportunity to meet with the Prime Minister, the Hon Dr Lawrence Gonzi, at the Auberge de Castille.

### First Day

The first day started with a welcome speech by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Dr Tonio Borg, who is the ex-officio chairperson. He spoke about the role of the Council and other aspects relating to what is expected of the Councillors.

In his speech, Dr Borg said that during the last Convention, the Government had

made it clear that the time had come to establish a mechanism, preferably set up by Law, that would be an official vehicle of communication and representation of Maltese living abroad. "Today this promise is being fulfilled. This comes after the approval by the House of Representatives late in 2011 of a Law on the Council of Maltese Living Abroad. Following a lengthy process of consultation the representatives of Maltese communities as well as five experts in the field of migration were nominated," said Dr Borg.

Dr Borg said that the Maltese Diaspora is one dispersed in various corners of the world but notwithstanding the distances that might divide our communities and the different environment of each one, a precious line connects them all. He wanted these common factors to gain more strength

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## MCCV honours six prominent Maltese community members

The MCCV honoured six prominent members of the Maltese community in Victoria with the inaugural MCCV Community Awards at a reception held on Saturday 11 August 2012 at the Maltese Centre in Parkville. The program also included welcoming the newly elected Superior General of the Missionary Society of St Paul, Fr Mark Grima mssp, and presenting the first Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Scholarship Award.

Numerous members of the Maltese community gathered in the main hall of the Centre. Among the guests present for the evening where some members of the family of

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From left to right: Back Row: Mr Joseph Muscat (Gozo), Mr Frank Scicluna (Australia), Mr Joseph Sherri (Canada), Mr Lawrence Dimech (Australia); Middle Row: Fr Alfred Vella (Malta), Mr Gaetano Pace (Australia), Dr Edwin Borg-Manché (Australia), Mr Larry Zahra (USA), Mr Louis Vella (USA), Mr Franklin Mamo (Europe), Mr Bernard Scerri (UK); Front Row: Prof. Maurice Cauchi (Australia), Ms Carmen Galea (Canada), Ms Doris Zammit (Council Secretary), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Tonio Borg, Ms Rosalie Rivett (UK) and Mr Roderick Bovingdon (Australia).  
[Photo: DOI, Malta—Pierre Sammut]

## The President's Column

### Migration Museum taking shape

The idea of a migration museum that houses artefacts as well as factual information about the history of migration has been incubating for several years. The idea was the brain-child of Mgr Philip Calleja, the Director of the Emigrants' Commission in Malta who has devoted so much of his lifetime to the well-being of migrants. It was always his aim to ensure that the sacrifices that migrants had to go through in the early years of migration will never be forgotten.

It is good, therefore, to see that now the museum has taken a physical form which can be appreciated by visitors. The top floor of the Emigrants' Commission building in Castille Place, Valletta has now been transformed to house sophisticated equipment, namely, stand alone computer touch screen consoles, which can be operated with a touch of a finger. In these units are stored a large amount of information, mostly in pictorial format, illustrating the history of migrants and migration.

You may also remember that a 'virtual museum' in the form a specific website ([www.maltamigration.com](http://www.maltamigration.com)) has long been available, containing a considerable amount of information, including transcripts of whole books on migration and several articles of interest. This was the first real evidence of an activity relating to this museum.

It is particularly important, now that most of those who first came from Malta in the early 1950s and 1960s are slowly but surely departing, that we make a special effort to ensure that any object that could be saved, should be saved and not allowed to be thrown away simply because our children may not be interested in them. I wish to make a special appeal to ensure that any object that could be of some historical interest is saved. Those who hold such items should contact the MCCV at the Maltese Community Centre and we will make sure to rescue such objects.

It is also worth emphasizing that keeping a museum is quite an expensive exercise. So far it is understood that funds have been obtained for this purpose from the Maltese Government as well as from several banks in Malta and other donors.

In particular, it should be noted that any individual or organisation donating money to purchase one of the stand-alone touch screen computer consoles (pictured right) will have their name inscribed on a plaque attached to the instrument. The cost of one unit is around €5,000 euros (about \$6,000 AUD). A group of individuals may band together to purchase one such unit. At a recent meeting of the MCCV Executive it was recommended that we purchase one such unit, but other organisations who can afford it are encouraged to do likewise.

We have to remember that if we do not support this development, there is a good chance that our history, a unique history, will be forgotten.

*Prof. Maurice Cauchi*  
**MCCV President**



## Inaugural Bishop Joe Grech Scholarship Award




Prof Maurice Cauchi presenting the scholarship to Ms Rita Catania (second from left)

The inaugural scholarship was awarded to the successful candidate, Ms Rita Catania at a reception held on 11 August 2012 at the Maltese Centre in Parkville. Born in Australia of Maltese parents, Rita has been involved in the Maltese community for a long time, most recently as a co-founding member of the MCCV Youth Committee. She has been involved with the Maltese language classes, where she made several presentations.

The MCCV established the Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Fund early last year to offer an annual scholarship to younger generations of Maltese-Australians from Victoria to take a more active interest in the Maltese history, culture and language by experiencing them first hand during a visit to Malta.

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 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 an enduring love for Malta. 

### 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:

- Nov-Dec 2012 Newsletter: **Friday 30 Nov 2012**
- Jan-Feb 2013 Newsletter: **Friday 1 Feb 2013**
- Mar-Apr 2013 Newsletter: **Friday 22 Mar 2013**





## Notes from MCCV Council Meetings

### SEPTEMBER 2012

The following items were discussed at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4 July 2012:

**Children's Christmas Party.** The party will be organised by the MCCV in conjunction with the Federation of Maltese Language Schools of Australia and Generation AusMalts. It will be held on Sunday 8 December 2012 at the Maltese Centre in Parkville.

**Accreditation Review.** Government officials visited the Maltese Centre to review the accreditation of the MCCV Welfare programme. The report was discussed by the President, the Treasurer and the Welfare co-ordinator. It was also discussed at the executive meeting. This is a first visit by the department officials which will lead to accreditation of the welfare programme. It was agreed that the MCCV will engage a person to prepare policies that are required by the department.

**Passing away of former Prime Minister of Malta.** Dom Mintoff who was Prime Minister of Malta for several years sadly passed away. A State funeral was held in Malta. It was agreed that a Memorial Mass be held for him at St Paul's Chapel in Parkville. Fr Agius and Fr Victor Shields will say Mass on Wednesday 12th September at 7.00pm. All welcome to attend.

**MCCV Boardroom Renovations.** The Treasurer Paul Borg has submitted a list of items that were damaged in the fire to the insurance assessor. There is still some patching up left to do in the boardroom. The MCCV is currently awaiting confirmation from the insurance that they accept our claim.

**Youth Committee.** A group of 21 people will be attending at the Malthouse Theatre in South Melbourne to watch the play "Angela's Kitchen" by Maltese writer and actor Paul Capsis. The Generation AusMalts (GAM) team will be participating in the Maltese Cook Off being organized by Nisga. ✠

### New Australian High Commissioner to Malta appointed

In a Media Release issued on 11 October 2012, Australian Foreign Minister, Senator Bob Carr, announced the appointment of **Ms Jane Lambert** as the new Australian High Commissioner to Malta with non-resident accreditation to Tunisia. Ms Lambert is expected to take up her appointment in December 2012, replacing Ms Anne Quinane.

Ms Lambert is a career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and has previously served as Deputy High Commissioner to South Africa, Counsellor at the Australian High Commission in Nigeria, and First Secretary at the Australian Embassy to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg. She was most recently Director of the Department's Pakistan Section.

Ms Lambert holds a Master of Arts degree in Public Policy from the Australian National University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Flinders University. ✠

### OCTOBER 2012—Annual General Meeting

The following items were discussed at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3 October 2012:

**Maltese Language Classes.** Mrs Frances Bonnici advised that the new President of the Federation of Maltese Language Schools is Ms Edwidge Borg. The Maltese community needs to assist in the effort to increase the numbers of VCE students to ensure continued accreditation of the Maltese language. Regulations have changed and adults are now accepted and included in the number of students sitting for VCE. There is a special on-line Maltese language course which can easily be completed in preparation for VCE. The Maltese adult community should be encouraged to do this course and sit for VCE to keep the numbers up for VCE accreditation requirements and continue to have Maltese as a VCE subject for our younger generation who may wish to learn Maltese.

**Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Fund.** It was confirmed that the Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Fund currently holds a total of \$37,000 in the fund and advertising will soon start for the 2013 scholarship.

**Youth Committee.** The Generation AusMalts Facebook page is now fully operational. Preparations for the Children's Christmas Party in December are in full swing. Mrs Lillian Calleja and her husband Mr Vincent Calleja are being assisted by Ms Rita Catania and Ms Rita Ellul of the MCCV Youth Committee as well as Ms Edwidge Borg in organising the party.

**Migration Museum in Malta.** The Main Hall of the Migration Museum in Valletta, Malta has been converted to a computerised virtual history and culture interactive displays. More funds are required to purchase the remaining displays. A donation of €5,000 Euros (about \$6,000) will pay for one of these computer displays and the name of donor association will be inscribed on a plaque.

**Election for the Executive Committee 2013-14.** Mrs Frances Bonnici was appointed Returning Officer for the election. The following nominations were received by the Secretary:

- *President* - Maurice Cauchi
- *Vice Presidents* –
  - Victor Borg
  - Gejtu Deguara
- *Secretary* – Edwina Mallia
- *Assistant Secretary* – Marilyn Pace
- *Treasurer* – Paul Borg
- *Welfare Director* – Rosemary Attard
- *PRO* – Edwin Borg-Manché

No nominations were received for the positions of Assistant Treasurer and Social Secretary. All nominated candidates were declared elected unopposed. ✠

## MCCV honours six prominent Maltese community members

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the late Bishop Joe Grech and of the late Dr Joe Abela, including his nephew Mr Daniel Abela who accepted the Award Certificate on behalf of his widow, Mrs Carol Abela, and his family.

Earlier this year the MCCV established its Community Awards to recognise the valuable contribution of Maltese people to the enrichment of Maltese Community, 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.

The six awardees of the 2012 MCCV Community Awards were:

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

MCCV PRO, Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, read out the citations for the awardees in each category. Presenting the award to the nephew of the late Dr Abela, Mr Daniel Abela, MCCV Vice President Mr Victor Borg said that there is hardly anybody in the Maltese community in Australia who has not heard of Dr Abela. A lot of what the Maltese community has been able to achieve was the result of his hard work in the community and his leadership. It is fitting that the Maltese community expresses its gratitude to the late Dr Abela and his family through this award. MCCV President Prof. Maurice Cauchi presented the awards to the other awardees, except Mr George Cini, who was unable to attend.

After the reading of the presentation of the award to the late Dr Joe Abela, Mrs Edwina Mallia read out a message of appreciation received from Dr Abela's widow, Mrs Carol Abela.

### Welcoming new Superior General

Following the introductions by MCCV Secretary Mrs Edwina Mallia, MCCV President Prof. Maurice Cauchi welcomed Fr Grima. Prof. Cauchi said that Fr Grima was born in Tarxien, Malta, and was an Old Boy of St. Paul's Missionary College and holds degrees from the University of Malta, All Hallows, Dublin, and the Gregorian University in Rome.

Fr Grima said that he wanted to share the desire of the MSSP to continue to work together with the Maltese community because the MSSP is sure that it can contribute not only towards each other but more significantly towards other cultures. "Living in the multicultural society of Australia this reality is very much in your heart and minds and you can touch it every day," said Fr Grima. "As members of the MSSP working with the Maltese community,



Clockwise: The late Dr Joe Abela; Mr Daniel Abela; Mr Benny Soler; Mr Frank Calleja, Mr Manuel Casha and Mr Joe Montebello



Above: Mr George Cini.  
Right: Fr Mark Grima addressing the attendees at the Reception.



we are able to give to the world by becoming a gift for others."

"Today we are celebrating the MCCV community awards. An award is something that we give to somebody else. This is our charism that we would like to share with you as members of the MSSP - how good it is to live this value of becoming a gift for each other, to go outside our personal small comfort zone and reach out for others, something that the world so much needs," said Fr Grima. If we, as Maltese, and you as Maltese living here in Australia, are able to do that among each other, first and foremost to help the needy among the Maltese living here, but then to extend this reality outside our comfort zones and our reality, then we would be passing something to the next generations and to other cultures, which we Maltese should

be proud of, because we have always been generous in heart.

Fr Grima ended his address with a reference to the work that the President of Malta, H.E. Dr George Abela, and his teams of volunteers recently carried out at the MSSP mission in Peru. Fr Grima said that this was something that the President kept reminding the Maltese about - we have to pass on this generosity, something which belongs to us Maltese and is a feature of being Maltese.

Before the closure of the evening's formalities, Prof. Cauchi presented a gift from the MCCV Executive to Fr Grima. 🇲🇹



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by means of a Council that represents in the widest possible terms, the different communities of Maltese abroad. Among these factors he mentioned the interest the communities nurture in their country of residence, their ties to Malta, the preservation of culture and language within our communities and integration in the country of adoption.

Dr Borg said that the Council is in a position to bring great benefits. "Allow me in this respect, to suggest that we come up with doable proposals rather than grandiose projects that could, in view of their intrinsic ambitious goals, die at inception. It goes without saying that there are small things that we can do; more scholarships and aide to Maltese language teachers and students, more knowledge on the history of migration in Malta, more recognition in Malta on the fact that the idea of migration has ended and more emphasis on the concept of a Maltese generation that lives both in Malta and abroad," said Dr Borg.

Dr Borg said that urged the members of the Council to work together to ensure the success of the Council. "Definitely, we need to show the unity we have, so that the Maltese communities, in Sydney, Melbourne, Toronto or San Francisco, or in any other city or country where Maltese have established their home feel that this Council is theirs," said Dr Borg.

Dr Borg said that Malta is small and its resources are also equally small. Yet together we can establish structures without all the pomp and circumstance that can promote Maltese Culture abroad; in particular in countries where we have embassies that can assist. "The agenda for these two days is long, and we will not discuss everything during this first meeting. I encourage all Maltese living abroad to understand that this is their Council; even those Maltese communities that due to the small number of members are not represented in the Council," said Dr Borg.

With these words of encouragement, Dr Borg declared open the first meeting of the Council for Maltese living abroad.

Dr Borg then introduced the Hon Dr Mario de Marco, Minister for Tourism, Culture and the Environment (MTCE) who made a speech about the Maltese Cultural Institute and how this plays a critical role in the implementation of the Government's international cultural policy. More presentations followed, namely one by Mrs Marika Grech and Mr Caldon Mercieca (MTCE) as well as Mr John Buttigieg (MFA) relating to the proposed Maltese Cultural Institute. A more detailed report on this will be posted on this website in the near future.



Above: Council members pay a courtesy visit to the President of Malta at San Anton Palace in Attard.  
Below: Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi welcomes Council members at Auberge de Castille, Valletta.



Photo - DOI- Saviour Cassar

In the afternoon there were presentations by the various delegates from the various regions, namely, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States as well as the European Union.

A special presentation about passports was presented by Mr Gaetano Vella, Director of Passports and Mrs Linda Zahra, Director of the Public Registry.

The first day concluded with a discussion about procedural matters, relating particularly to setting up mechanisms of teleconferencing, preparation of annual reports and other relating house-keeping issues.

At the close of the day session, members proceeded to the Emigrants Commission to be shown the Migration museum. This has now reached an advanced stage of preparation and there are already several facilities for the electronic viewing of many aspects of the migration history.

### Second Day

The following day, Wednesday 19th September, was taken up with a discussion of Article 3 of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad Act 2011, dealing with the various responsibilities of the Council

under the Act. Prof Joe Pirotta acted as moderator for this session.

Over lunch, the group paid a visit to the President of Malta, HE Dr George Abela, who welcomed and chatted informally with the individual members.

The afternoon was taken with further presentations on issues of relevance to the Maltese community. Mr Joe Mizzi, a consultant at MFA spoke about legislation that concerns citizenship while Dr Vanni Xuereb, (Head of MEUSAC) spoke about the role of this organisation vis-à-vis Maltese living abroad.

The meeting came to an end with rapporteurs summarising the key topics and issues discussed at the 2-day meeting.

All meeting participants felt that the objectives set for the Council's first meeting had been met. Several views about a whole range of issues were discussed, and several recommendations were made. The intention is for Council members to communicate electronically over the next twelve months to conduct Council business and develop further the details of these recommendations before its next face-to-face meeting to take in Malta a year from now. ❖

## Minister de Marco outlines Malta Cultural Institute proposal

At the opening of the first meeting of the advisory Council for Maltese Living Abroad on Tuesday 18 September, the Hon. Dr Mario de Marco, Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Environment, outlined the proposal for the establishment of the Maltese Cultural Institute.

Dr de Marco emphasized the fact that many Maltese are now resident in foreign countries, resulting in an urgent need for the promotion of Maltese culture in these countries. "We recognise the potential of Maltese communities abroad to contribute positively to Maltese culture and we do our utmost to facilitate and encourage their active participation," he said.

The National Cultural Policy launched last year includes a chapter dealing with International Cultural Cooperation. It emphasizes the potential for Malta to act as a creative hub in the centre of the Mediterranean. It is an aim to place Malta as an "attractive and contemporary creative centre in the Mediterranean region". The Minister said that the Maltese Cultural Institute "would be strategically placed as an important element for our cultural and creative international presence."

Minister de Marco emphasized the importance of Malta as an "international platform where creative workers, local and international, can create and develop services that have a regional, European and global significance."

Among the list of 'present shortcomings', the minister emphasized that: "there is room for the strengthening of ties with the Maltese Diaspora". On the other hand, in discussing opportunities, the Minister highlighted the role of "individuals of high quality and enterprises that operate on international level and as such we can maximise on the fact that we already have Maltese creative workers on an international level."

One of the aims of the Maltese Cultural Institute is 'the development of a Scheme of Cultural Ambassadors that publicly acknowledge international achievements of Maltese artists and cultural workers'.

It is expected that this Institute will be established through an agreement between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Environment. The success of this institute depends on the cooperation of these two ministries as well as the participation of other players in the field,



Photo - DGI - Pierre Sammut

including public and private institutions, voluntary organisations and the Local Councils.

The Minister then summarised the aims of the Institute, namely of:

- providing effective governance for cultural diplomacy,
- coordinating annual allocations from a number of agencies and authorities so as to assist in the mobility of artists and other cultural workers and artistic works and collections of cultural heritage, whilst at the same time binding the allocation of these resources to cultural promotion programmes,
- ensuring overseas promotion of Maltese culture with an emphasis on excellence and innovation, and
- consolidating the link between culture, tourism and diplomacy, where synergy will result in economic benefits and the creation of jobs in our country.

Minister de Marco concluded by saying that "This is about strengthening the Maltese cultural, economic and political ties with other countries through an active dialogue and cultural cooperation. Cultural diplomacy shortens distances between countries, serving as a powerful tool in bringing nations closer, in bringing people closer together, to better understand and empathise with the other. Art and culture's language is universal and therefore it can reach where any other language fails." ❖

## Issues raised by Council Members at meeting

*The following is a summary of the key issues raised by members of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad in papers presented at the meeting.*

**MALTESE LANGUAGE MAINTENANCE.** Teaching Maltese at secondary level (VCE in Victoria, Year 12 exam) is at risk because of lack of student participation. Required further help to attract students (and teachers at this level). (Victoria)

- This is a topic of great concern. Students should not be asked to pay money to attend Maltese language schools. Perhaps one could investigate the possibility of applying for funds from the EU for this purpose? (NSW)

- *Language and culture:* Maltese language school in Canberra had to close for lack of students. Perth is also likely to follow. In Adelaide there are several problems. We are finding it difficult to have 15 students to sit for the Year 12 exam in Maltese. Three states have only one qualified teacher. After 2013 Maltese will not remain on the list of languages which can be offered at this level, thus losing identity and respect it deserves. (Other Australia)

- There are no facilities for teaching Maltese in the UK. A detailed document relating to this has been prepared by Bernard Scerri. (UK)

- In Toronto two small Maltese language classes are held on Saturdays and they are run by the Metropolitan Separate School Board (MSSB). There is also an Adult Maltese Language Class that is held on Wednesdays and run on a voluntary basis. A special effort is required to interest children to learn and practice the Maltese language (Canada)

- Required schools, to teach Maltese language, language, culture, history, tradition and folklore to children of Maltese parents living abroad when these visit Malta. (USA)

- Many elderly Maltese find it difficult to understand or read modern Maltese, especially in newspapers. How to tackle this phenomenon? (USA)

**CULTURE.** Maltese associations have always helped maintain culture through organisation of literary evenings, festas, commemorations, etc. Many bands have been created. It is suggested that help should be available to encourage bilateral exchange of persons to encourage Maltese abroad to keep abreast of Maltese activities. (NSW)

- Many schools organise 'multicultural days', where students prepare traditional food and talk about their country of origin. In the UK a packet has been prepared relating to traditional Maltese customs, Maltese flag, some Maltese products, food recipes as well as short power-point presentation in Maltese. We require help in obtaining costumes, posters and other ways of promoting our activities. (UK)

- In Canada there are several organisations dedicated to socialising. There is also a church (St Paul's Church) under MSSP fathers. Number of Maltese attending both of these is becoming less. Attendance was better when we used to bring performers from Malta but these days we cannot afford this. (Canada)

**TAXATION OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD.** The rate of income tax paid by Maltese living abroad is much more punitive than that paid by a resident in Malta. In fact, there is no distinction between a Maltese citizen living abroad and a total stranger. It is suggested that changes in Income Tax law should be made to remove this discriminatory clause. (Victoria)

**STUDY AND WORK EXPERIENCE IN EU.** Required government assistance for access to study and work opportunities for young people of Maltese background

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## Issues raised by Council Members at meeting

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to work in the EU, possibly by reserving a couple of positions for youth of Maltese background. (Victoria)  
**BIOMETRIC PASSPORTS.** The introduction of biometric passports has created insuperable difficulties for those living away from the major cities. The result is that many Maltese living abroad have decided not to apply for, or renew, their Maltese passport. It is essential for portable equipment to be made available at regular intervals in places where huge distances makes it impracticable to attend personally at centres which currently provide the service (Victoria).

- Major problem for those living long distances away, often involving a two-day journey. (NSW)

Problems of distance for those not living in Canberra, Melbourne or Sydney where passports can be organised, especially bearing in mind that many applicants for renewal of passports are the elderly and include the sick and disabled. (Other Australia)

- Some say that it is easier to go to Malta rather than London to renew a Maltese passport. Solution seems to be to organise a mobile service that visits various cities on a regular basis. (UK)

- Apart from Toronto, there are many Maltese, many of them elderly, living in other provinces, who have to travel by train or plane to obtain a biometric passport. Suggest regular visits to obviate the need for this travel. (Canada)

- Centres where biometric passports can be organised are available in Washington, DC and New York. This creates great difficulties for Maltese living elsewhere in the US. Most Maltese live in Michigan and California. (USA)

**CITIZENS' RIGHTS.** Required clarification between the rights of citizens and those of residents, especially in relation to differences in concessions for elderly, travel, etc. (Victoria)

- Many citizens have expressed disappointment about the fact that without an identity card, a number of problems might arise. It has been suggested that a temporary identity card might be considered for persons of Maltese background visiting Malta. (VIC)

- When travelling to Malta, Maltese are asked for an identity card if they go to hospital or board a bus. Can non-resident identity cards (temporary) be issued to these people? (Canada)

**STUDENT CARDS.** Student cards for students visiting Malta to enable them to visit museums and other institutions of cultural interest to encourage youth of Maltese background to maintain their culture.

**SENIORS' CARD.** There should be recognition of the Seniors Card issued from the country of residence to be equivalent to "Kartanzjan" in Malta, as is the practice in most other EU countries. (Victoria)

**THE ELDERLY.** Loss of acquired (English) language often occurs as one grows older. Interpreters are required for patients in hospital, persons in homes for the elderly, as well from law and other authorities. We should try to encourage individuals and small groups to make themselves available for this purpose by providing incentives and recognition. (UK)

- A small number of elderly persons express the wish to retire to nursing homes in Malta. Required investigation into the possibility of facilitating such a scheme. (Victoria)

- Currently many members of the family have to look after their ageing parents. With aging there is an increase in medical needs. More and more elderly parents are being put in Seniors' Homes or Long Term Facilities. We find these persons become more attached to Malta. It would be good if these people had access to information about Malta and what is

happening among the Maltese communities in Canada. (Canada)

**YOUTH.** While proud of being Maltese, few make the effort to learn Maltese. Some efforts have been made to set up Social Clubs where they could meet, but none have succeeded. While we believe that there is considerable talent among them, we have found it difficult to interest them to be of assistance to the Maltese community in Canada ((Canada)

- Encouragement for youth to become involved within activities of Maltese abroad. A mechanism needs to be created to encourage youth of Maltese background to take a more active part within the Maltese communities abroad. (Victoria)

- Suggesting a study to see how other communities are dealing with the problem of culture maintenance among youth. In Victoria one such group (Generation AusMalts) wish to make contact with similar groups. (Victoria)

- Difficulties in attracting youth. Sporting activities is accepted as the best way to attract youth. Encourage youth to become involved and participate under the Maltese flag. (NSW)

**MALTA CULTURAL INSTITUTE.** Details relating on how the setting up of such an institute is going to affect Maltese living abroad at a local level remain to be worked out. (Victoria)

**RADIO AND TELEVISION.** There is a need for provision of television programs of good quality in Maltese to be used as part and parcel of the multi-national television programs overseas, particularly for elderly persons with little knowledge of English language. (Victoria)

- There are no Maltese radio, television, journals or other methods of communication in the UK. Emails and other networks are useful for younger Maltese but not the older ones. There is a need for regular slots in the Maltese media where associations can advertise their activities. In addition there is a need for the creation of a radio station for Maltese living abroad, transmitted on internet from Malta. An online journal might also be useful. (UK)

**DELAYS IN POSTAL DISTRIBUTION.** Complaints have been made regarding the length of time taken for letters from Malta to reach Australia. Required investigation as to the reason for this (whether the problem is in Malta or overseas). (Victoria)

**NEXT CONVENTION.** Plans should be set in motion to have the Conventions for Maltese living abroad every 5 years. (Victoria) : Note. This suggestion has already been set in motion. Next Convention is planned for 2015.

**INFORMATION ABOUT MALTESE LAWS.** Maltese visiting Malta stay for weeks and should not be considered as "tourists". They should be classified as temporary residents. We believe that Maltese visiting Malta should have all the rights enjoyed by all Maltese living in Malta. In particular, this Council should deal with legislation relating to wills, general powers of attorney, transfer of property, etc. where there are great differences between legislation in Malta and those overseas (eg Australia). Maltese living abroad should have adequate information about Maltese laws to be in a position to make the right decisions. (NSW)

**INHERITANCE.** When problems arise relating to inheritance, Maltese living abroad have to hire a Maltese lawyer, paid by them, to look after their interests. Can the Maltese Government appoint lawyers to protect the interests of these citizens? (Canada)

- Required distinction between 'Nutar' in Malta and 'Notary Public' in the US. Use of certain signatures and *Apostilles* [Definition: "Additional authentication required for international acceptance of notarized documents"] on some documents especially those

required for sale of property and wills in Malta. (USA)  
**INFORMATION.** Setting up of a website for the Council which should contain more information about current affairs & cultural programs. The SBS program in Australia is very short (often no more than 20 minutes). The only Maltese newspaper, The Maltese Herald is likely to stop publication: this has been the only paper in Australia. Use of electronic means of transfer of information is recommended. (NSW)

**THE BANKING SECTOR.** There is only one branch of BOV in Australia (situated in Melbourne). Many Maltese who use these services have not being adequately served. One should study carefully how these services should be upgraded, perhaps in the light of the economies of Australia/Europe. (NSW)

**TRAVEL.** We feel that the possibility of setting up direct flights between Malta and Australia (as used to be the case in the past) should be investigated. (NSW)

**CONSULAR SERVICES.** Names on passports and other documents: Essential to ensure that the name on a passport etc should reflect the current use of the name by the holder of the document, and not an Italianised name as shown on the birth certificate. (NSW). Problems re certificates (birth, marriage, etc) where the names are different from the usual names used by the holders of the passport. (USA)

**EUROPEAN UNION.** Information and education about laws, rights, benefits etc as issued by the EU are not available in Australia. It is a pity that none of the six Maltese Members of the European Parliament have visited the Maltese Community in Australia. (NSW)

### OTHER ISSUES

**Citizenship applications:** These are taking a very long time to process.

**Distance-related problems:** Maltese in the UK are scattered all over the country in small concentrations. Possibility of subsidies for transport to attend activities and functions. (UK)

**Centre for the Maltese Community in the UK:** In the UK there are no Maltese centres. A Centre is sorely needed. Perhaps funds could be found from EU sources in addition to donations from the community in order to keep alive Maltese culture. (UK)

**PENSIONS.** As there is still no bilateral agreement between Malta and the US many Maltese living in the US find it difficult to acquire certain pension benefits (which do not exist in Australia and Canada where there are bilateral agreements). (USA)

**TOURISM.** Required material from the Board of Tourism to encourage tourists to visit Malta. (Canada)

**NATIONAL FEASTS.** Uniquely, Malta has five national feasts and many Maltese are confused when these are. Suggest that the 8th of September should be recognised as the National Day for Malta, while the other four would remain as non-national feasts. (Other Australia)

**RIGHT TO VOTE.** Maltese in Europe may be considered as 'expatriates', a recent category which is different from other categories of Maltese living abroad. Malta has one of strictest criteria among EU countries, requiring citizen, resident in Malta for 6 out of the last 18 months with only minor exceptions, but excluding students and others who are absent only temporarily. Interpretation of "residence" is the physical and continued presence in a place: this could lead to loss of voting rights. It is suggested that this category of Maltese should be considered as exceptions and allowed voting rights. Eligibility for voting for members of the European Parliament should be the same as that for the Chamber of Deputies. All Maltese wherever they live in the world should be eligible for voting. If necessary, voting by power of attorney should be introduced. (Europe). ❗

## Young Maltese-Australian tenor wins prestigious Sun Aria Award

Photo: Herald-Sun Rob Leeson



**Brenton Spiteri**—Winner of the Sun Aria Award

On Monday 22 October young second-generation Maltese tenor, Brenton Spiteri, won a tight contest in the final of the prestigious Sun Aria Award at the Hamer Hall in Melbourne. The Award carries more than \$30,000 in cash and scholarships. In doing so, Spiteri, 23, became the first male singer to win the Aria since 2009 and only the fourth in 20 years. Runners-up were mezzo soprano Elizabeth Lewis and soprano Fiona Jopson.

According to a report in the Herald Sun newspaper, Brenton said that he was a little shocked and very humbled to have his name called. "I feel very privileged because it was an amazing final. Everybody sang wonderfully," he

said. Spiteri said he did not come from a musical family but was "fortunate enough to be surrounded by people willing to make sacrifices for me." He intends to use his winnings to fund overseas tuition, possibly in some summer schools in Europe.

The 88th Herald Sun Aria Final drew a huge crowd and featured Orchestra Victoria under the baton of Maestro Richard Divall. The judges were Divall, Suzanne Johnston and Richard Mills. The youngest artist in the 2012 final, which featured three male singers, Spiteri impressed the judges with arias by Mozart and Donizetti.

The competition began as the Sun Aria in 1924 in Ballarat with the South Street Society. Similar Sun Aria competitions then commenced in Geelong and Ballarat. The latter two seem to have ceased by 1934 and 1936, while others commenced in Sydney and Canberra. It was the Ballarat based competition that survived to become the Herald Sun Aria Competition. Heats are held annually in Ballarat with the final being held at Hamer Hall in Melbourne.

As the latest winner of the Award, Brenton Spiteri is in very good company. Some of the better known winners in the various Aria competitions include Marjorie Jackson (1928 Geelong), Dame Joan Sutherland (1949 City of Sydney), June Gough [Bronhill] (1950 City of Sydney), and Dame Kiri te Kanawa (1966). ❧

## Maltese cyclists complete Lifecycle Challenge in Australia



The Betfair Lifecycle Challenge this year took place in Australia. It consisted of a ten day event in which 33 cyclists from Malta cycled from Brisbane to Melbourne to raise funds for renal disease.

The team arrived in Brisbane in the early hours of Saturday 27 October local time and their cycling journey began 30 hours later. The event started on Sunday, 28 October 2012 from South Bank Park in Brisbane and reached the final destination at Federation Square in Melbourne on Tuesday, 6 November 2012.

This was LifeCycle's 14th challenge and the first time the event has taken place in the Southern Hemisphere. The route was a 1,900 km ride on mountain bikes between Brisbane and Melbourne in just 10 days. The team was made up of 33 cyclists, 16 Support staff and 2 camera crew.

The annual Lifecycle aims to generate funds for medical equipment at the Renal Unit and strives for improved quality of life of patients suffering from the debilitating illness by allowing them access to the highest standards of healthcare.

The MCCV held a reception for the Lifecycle team upon their arrival on 6 November at the Maltese Centre in Parkville, where they stayed for two nights.

The Klabb Ghannejja Maltin in St Albans organised a dance evening to welcome the team and raise funds for the challenge on the evening on which the Challenge finished in Melbourne. ❧



Below: The Maltese Lifecycle team at their final destination in Federation Square in Melbourne's city centre





# MEUSAC Seminar on 'Multiculturalism: Myth or Reality?'



The Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee (MEUSAC) and the Australian High Commission in Malta yesterday organised a seminar entitled "Multiculturalism: Myth or Reality?". Introducing the event, MEUSAC Head, Dr Vanni Xuereb spoke of the collaboration that exists between MEUSAC and the foreign diplomatic missions in Malta. He added that the seminar marks a first in the sense that it is the first time that MEUSAC is collaborating with a non-EU and non-European diplomatic representation.

The Australian High Commissioner, H.E Ms Anne Quinane, spoke of Australia's society as being highly multicultural with more than 260 languages and a wide spectrum of migrants finding refuge in her country. She said that Australia is built on migration flows over hundreds of years and its experience can be beneficial to countries like Malta that are newcomers to this phenomenon.

The opening speech was delivered by the Hon. Jennifer Rankine, Minister for Multicultural Affairs of South Australia who referred to the constant evolution of multiculturalism as 'a reality'. She added that there is no alternative to multiculturalism and insisted that societies must respect new persons in their midst who seek to maintain their own language and culture. Despite the influx of new settlers and the challenges they bring to the 'host' country, 90% of Australians consider that multiculturalism is a positive concept. Minister Rankine concluded by stating that multiculturalism yields more knowledge, skills and the right attitude to tackle globalisation.

Mr Lawrence Dimech, a Maltese-Australian who, last January, was appointed People of Australia Ambassador by Prime Minister Julia Gillard, related his experience as a Maltese migrant in Australia and shared his views on multiculturalism. Multiculturalism, he said, is not easy to comprehend and described it as 'the doctrine that several different cultures can co-exist peacefully and equitably in a single country'. He said that since 1945, 7 million people have migrated to Australia and that today,

Above: Guest speakers (from left) HE Ms Anne Quinane, the Hon Jennifer Rankine, Dr Vanni Xuereb and Mr Lawrence Dimech

44% of all Australians were born overseas or had at least one overseas-born parent. Mr Dimech added that migrants seeking work tend to be absorbed into employment relatively quickly, with the unemployment rate for migrants equalling that of the Australian-born at just over 5% in 2012. Among the challenges ahead, Mr Dimech mentioned the increase in the diversity of the Australian population especially due to the influx of new migrants and refugees of different cultures and faiths.

## Panel Discussion

The presentations were followed by a panel discussion moderated by Dr Neil Falzon, director of Aditus Foundation, which focused on the challenges and opportunities of multicultural integration in the EU. The members of the panel were Ranier Fsadni (lecturer in Anthropological Sciences at the University of Malta), Andrea Dibben (member of the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality), Maria Pisani (Director, Integra Foundation) and Dr Colm Regan (an NGO activist). Various points were raised during the discussion such as EU policies related to multiculturalism, the perception of Islam in the EU, equal access to services for third country nationals, and interculturalism.

The closing speech was delivered by Mr Frans Borg, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Justice, Dialogue and the Family on behalf of Minister Chris Said. He spoke of the importance of an open exchange between individuals and groups in the European Union. He also referred to the European Year for Intercultural Dialogue 2008 and the European Commission's agenda related to the integration of third country nationals that was launched in 2011. Mr Borg added that the EU also provides financial assistance to promote inclusion and multiculturalism within its Member States. ✠

## South Australian Minister visits ANZAC Memorial in Malta



Hon. Jennifer Rankine (above right) being presented with flowers during her visit to Argotti Gardens to view the new ANZAC Memorial.



On 27 September 2012 the Hon Jennifer Rankine MP, Minister for Multicultural Affairs in the South Australia Government paid a visit to the ANZAC Memorial in Floriana. Chairman of the ANZAC Memorial Committee Malta, Mr Nicholas Bonello, welcomed her to the Argotti Botanical Gardens where the Memorial is being erected. It is in the final stages of completion.

Joining Mr Bonello in welcoming the Hon Minister were Committee members of the ANZAC Memorial Malta, the Maltese

Australian Association, the Friends of Australia Association, the Memorial sculptor Ganni Bonnici and his wife Pauline. Mr Bonnici was the winner of the competition for the best memorial design and also the sculptor of the two figures which will be cast in Bronze in the coming days.

Mr Lawrence Dimech from Sydney who was in Malta for the first meeting of the advisory Council of Maltese Living Abroad, was also among the gathering who welcomed the Minister. ✠

## New regulations amend how names appear in Maltese public documents



A Media Release dated 12 October 2012 issued by the Malta High Commission in Canberra highlighted changes made to the Civil Code of Malta to provide for a simplified process that allows individuals to amend their name that appears in Maltese public documents, such as passports, to the name they are commonly known as, other than that as registered on their Birth Certificate.

Article 253 (2A) of the Civil Code provides this opportunity through an application process to the Director of Public Registry, Valletta.

This simplified process is restricted to those whose "to be called" name is a translation in any European language of their name appearing on their Birth Certificate and can prove the use of this name through a previous Maltese ID card, passport or it results from another Act of Civil Status.

Those wishing to avail themselves of this regulation are to fill in a prescribed form addressed to the Director of Public Registry, Valletta, requesting this change. The form is to be endorsed by a declaration/oath stating that the name requested had been in use by the applicant in documents issued prior to 31 December 2011 and signed by a Commissioner of Oaths.

Where the name is not a translation of the name in a European Language, the current system of applying for a change of name to a Maltese Court of Law is still being retained.

This regulation is expected to become effective shortly. This measure is being put into effect following discussions held during the Convention for Maltese Living Abroad held in Valletta in March 2010 when the issue was raised by some of the delegates

and is another step forward in streamlining bureaucratic procedures.

### Legal Notice on Maltese Identity Card published

In another Media Release issued on 18 October, the Malta High Commission in Canberra drew the attention of the general public and in particular the Maltese community in Australia and New Zealand to Legal Notice 308/2012 as published in the Malta Government Gazette of 28 September 2012.

The Legal Notice proposes the repeal of the previous Identity Card Act and replaces it by the Identity Card and other Identity Documents Act 2012.

Article 4 of the new Act requires Maltese nationals returning to Malta with the intention of setting up permanent residence to apply for an ID card as soon as possible after their return to Malta. Where this is requested during the first six months of residence, applicants are granted an initial Identity Card valid for six months which will be replaced by a new one when this period expires. The initial ID cards issued for the first six months of residence cannot be used for travel purposes.

The draft Act is expected to enter into force by the end of November 2012.

This measure, once in force, will address the various concerns of the Maltese living abroad about having an ID card when returning to Malta. ❖

Below: Dom Mintoff in Melbourne during his only visit to Australia in 1969 as Leader of the Opposition.



## Dom Mintoff passes away



Former Prime Minister Dom Mintoff, who played a dominant role in Malta's politics for several decades and was the longest serving member of parliament with over 50 years of service, died at his home in Tarxien, Malta, aged 96 on Monday 20 August 2012.

### State Funeral

Hundreds lined the streets of Valletta for the state funeral of former Prime Minister Dom Mintoff which took place yesterday in Valletta and Floriana. St John's Co-Cathedral was packed for the final farewell to a personality who was one of the main protagonists on the political stage in Malta for over half a century.

President George Abela led Malta's political leaders and members of parliament from both sides of politics at the funeral.

During the homily Archbishop Paul Cremona said that funeral Masses should not be about eulogies. There were other places for that. However, he pointed to two virtues which distinguished Mr Mintoff. The first was his interpretation of the Lord's command to Love thy neighbour, especially the poor. While not everybody could agree with Mr Mintoff's methods, no one could deny that he sought better conditions for the workers and the poor, Mgr Cremona said. Secondly, Mr Mintoff loved his country. He negotiated with the leaders of other countries to achieve the best for his country. These were two

virtues which distinguished his life.

### Memorial Mass

On Wednesday 12 September 2012 Fr Edwin Agius mssp and Fr Victor Shields mssp concelebrated Mass for the repose of Mintoff's soul at St Paul's Chapel in Parkville. ❖



## Celebration of the Feast of Maria Bambina in Melbourne

By Paul Vella

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

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

### Mass at the Maltese Centre

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

### Vitoria Dinner Dance

On Saturday, 8 September, Reskeon organised the Vitoria Dinner Dance at Firenze Reception, Fawkner, which was well attended by around 220 members and friends. Distinguished guests were the Consul General of

Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud and Mrs Anna Maria Mifsud; Fr Edwin Agius, Fr Dr Victor Shields and Fr Mark Demanuele, all of the mssp; Honorary Life Members of Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group Inc., Dr Clemente Zammit and Mrs Mary Zammit; Life Member of Reskeon Maltese Association, Mr Laurie Bartolo and Mrs Theresa Bartolo; the MCCV Vice-President, Mr Victor Borg and Ms Bridget Petty and the MCCV Treasurer, Mr Paul Borg and Ms Pauline Demanuele.

### Feast Day Celebrations

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

This year it was a nice and warm Spring day and hundreds of members of the Maltese community attended for this Feast.

A large number of Maltese Associations attended as well along with their banners, as well as the banners from the four villages and towns where the Bambina is celebrated in Malta and Gozo: Senglea, Mellieha, Naxxar and Xaghra, Gozo. Prime Celebrant was Fr Mark Demanuele, mssp, and concelebrants were Fr Edwin Agius, mssp; Fr Dr Victor Shields, mssp; Fr Karm Borg



The statue of Maria Bambina being carried at the start of the procession.

and Fr Dom Degiorgio. The music and singing was provided by the Maltese Choir of Victoria under the direction of Mr Charles Schembri and Ms Lydia Gusman.

Mass was followed by a procession with the beautiful Statue of Maria Bambina in the streets around the church accompanied by the Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society under the direction of Mro. George Aquilina, members of a large number of Maltese associations carrying their respective banners and followed by a large crowd from those attending the Church service. ☩

## Maltese language immersion morning for young students

By Frances Bonnici

The committee of the Maltese Historical Association held its eighth Language Immersion Morning on 11 August 2012 at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville. The thirty four students accompanied by three teachers were picked up by a hired coach from Taylors Lakes Secondary College, where they learn Maltese every Saturday. As soon as the students arrived at the Centre, they were greeted by the President of the MHA, Frances Bonnici. Soon after, the students were divided into two groups - primary and secondary levels.

The secondary students had a 'hands on' activity to start off the morning. Mrs Marija Cilia, a committee member of the MHA shared her culinary expertise by demonstrating to the students the way Maltese 'Imqaret' are made. Marija brought all the equipment – rolling pins, pasta machines to roll out the dough, bowls etc. and all ingredients. After discussing some health and safety issues with the young people, she then demonstrated how to prepare the dough and the filling. The students were all eyes and ears and carefully watched Marija as she explained the techniques when rolling out the pastry and an easy way to pipe the filling on to the dough.



Mrs Marija Cilia's culinary session.

All students had a go at making their 'imqaret' or date slices. They were allowed into the Centre's kitchen to watch the frying process and how to be aware of all safety measures when frying food. The students then had to fill in a worksheet, in Maltese, all related with the activity they had participated in. Most important of all they got to eat the *imqaret* while still nice and warm. The activity was conducted all in the Maltese language.

Another activity for the young adults was organised by the teachers themselves. During

previous Saturdays, at school, the students were shown U-Tube snippets describing different historical sites in Malta e.g. Mdina; Mosta Dome etc. The students were then divided into five groups; each group had to design a poster about one of the sites using pictures and writing information about the site. Each group presented their project to the rest of the class at the end of the session.

The sight of children and students having fun while learning our language and familiarising themselves with our culture, makes the planning and organisation so very worthwhile. As now has become the practice, the students were provided with Morning Tea as well as free transport to and from the Maltese Centre.

I would like to thank the MHA Committee members and their spouses who donated their time, the teachers who organised activities and supervised the students, the MCCV's Executive Committee who always provide the *pastizzi* as well as free use of the Maltese Centre. I would also like to thank Ms Edwidge Borg, the Vice-President of the Federation of Maltese Language Schools for her input during the morning. ☩

## 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	Title	Venue	Location
Sun 11 Nov 10.25 am	<u>Remembrance Day Memorial Service - Maltese Ex-Services Association Inc.</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
Tue 13 Nov 12.30 pm	<u>Talk on 'ANZACs and Malta' by Mr Charles Mifsud, Consul-General of Malta in Victoria</u>	<u>The Shrine of Remembrance</u>	Melbourne
Fri 16 Nov 10.30 am	<u>Mediterranean Diet - The Maltese Way</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
Sun 18 Nov 11.00 am - 4.00 pm	<u>Broadmeadows Fiesta 2012</u>	<u>Broadmeadows Civic Plaza</u>	Broadmeadows
Tue 20 Nov 7.30 pm	<u>Presentation on 'Hunting in Malta' by Emmanuel Cilia - Maltese Historical Association Inc</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
Wed 28 Nov 6.30 pm	<u>MCCV Executive Committee Meeting</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
Sun 02 Dec	<u>Christmas Break-up Party - Reskeon Maltese Association</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
Wed 05 Dec 7.00 pm	<u>MCCV Council Meeting</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
Sat 08 Dec 1.30 pm - 5.00 pm	<u>Children's Christmas Party</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
Tue 11 Dec 7.00 pm	<u>Council of Maltese Living Abroad - Information Meeting</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
Sat 15 Dec 6.00 pm - 11.30 pm	<u>Christmas Get Together - St Helena Maltese Australian SC Inc</u>	<u>St Bernadette's Parish</u>	Sunshine North
Sun 16 Dec 5.00 pm	<u>2012 Christmas Carols Evening at the Maltese Centre</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
Mon 24 Dec 11.30 pm	<u>Christmas Midnight Mass</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
Mon 31 Dec	<u>New Year's Eve Ball - Newport Maltese Association</u>	<u>Lakeside Reception Centre</u>	Taylors Lakes



### SATURDAY 8th DECEMBER

Including Christmas Card Making, Magician 'The Amazing David', Face Painting, *Presepta* Mural, Christmas Treats Cooking Class, Music, Games and of course... Santa!  
(Activities for infants & children up to the age of 10 years.)

**Venue** Maltese Community Centre  
477 Royal Parade  
Parkville 3052

**Food & drink** Provided

**Please bring:** A small gift, wrapped & labelled  
with your child's full name for  
Santa to give out to them.

**Time** 1.30pm - 5pm

**Cost** \$5 per adult  
Primary school students FREE!

**To Book:** Contact Carmen Mamo or Lilian  
Calleja on 9387 8922 by **no later**  
than **Monday, 26th November.**

Dress Code:  
**FUN or FANCY!**

Don't miss a great afternoon of fun, Christmas cheer and Australian/Maltese connection proudly brought to you by:



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