



# MCCV News

No: 117

January-February 2013

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

## Maltese programs in new SBS Radio schedule – *the current situation*



The reaction of the Maltese community in Australia to the severe cuts in Maltese language programs on SBS Radio to come into effect from April has been intense. Since the SBS announcement of the new radio schedule in late November last year, several articles and letters to the editor, all critical of the decision, have been published in The Maltese Herald, the only Maltese newspaper circulated in Australia, in newspapers in Malta, and in various newsletters.

The MCCV wrote to federal and state members of Parliament, councillors as well as other prominent individuals to obtain support in our attempt to get some justice and have the SBS schedule revised. Getting the SBS Board to redress the situation, we realised, was always going to be a mammoth task.

The MCCV also wrote to the Maltese Government to seek its support.

It is understood that, upon receiving the MCCV communication, various members of Parliament and other prominent individuals wrote letters of support to SBS, strongly urging the national multicultural broadcaster to reconsider its decision.

In December last year a delegation consisting of the Malta High Commissioner in Canberra, H.E. Mr Francis Tabone, the Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud, and MCCV President, Professor Maurice Cauchi, met formally with SBS management representatives in Melbourne to argue the case for more Maltese language programs and seek a revision of the schedule. Mr Fred Fenech, President of the Community Council of NSW, and Mr Lawrence Dimech, a member of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad, also met with SBS representatives in Sydney to argue the case.

As part of its concerted campaign, the MCCV organised a petition urging SBS to review its drastic decision to decimate Maltese language radio programs and gathered more than 3,000 signatures. This was a significant community effort, given the short period of time in which the signatures were gathered and people going away during the holiday period. This petition, the largest of its kind ever undertaken within the Maltese community, was

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Sahha!

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## The President's Column

### Current Issues

At the first Council meeting for 2013 held on 6 February, a number of important issues were discussed. I feel that it is important that I bring them to the attention of our readers.

- **Maltese language program cuts in the new SBS Radio schedule.** We published extensive coverage of this issue in the previous issue of this newsletter and an update is provided on the cover page of this edition. I would like to thank all those who worked hard to obtain petition signatures and members of the Maltese community and their families and friends who signed the petition. Gathering over 3,000 signatures in such a short space of time has been quite an achievement. The MCCV is hopeful that our efforts in getting a fairer deal from SBS management for the Maltese language program to meet the needs of our ageing community will be met with some success.
- **Maltese language at VCE level.** Mrs Frances Bonnici reported to the Council on the need of maintaining Maltese as a VCE level subject. This is of crucial importance for our grandchildren. It enables them not only to maintain their Maltese connection, but, perhaps more importantly, it will keep open an option, which will give them a few extra marks for studying a language other than English which could make the difference in gaining entry into the course of their choice at tertiary level. We now have the option for adults to undertake the VCE level Maltese to ensure that this facility is not lost by having at least 15 students doing Maltese at this level Australia-wide. See detailed report on [page 4](#) of this newsletter. You may also obtain more information by contacting the Maltese Centre.
- **Migration Museum in Valletta, Malta.** We have spoken in the past about the need of having a centralised migration museum to ensure that the history of migration is not lost. Such a museum has now taken shape in Malta housed in the building formerly known as Emigrants' Commission. Anyone who has any material which can be exhibited at this museum should inform the Maltese Centre so that we can make the necessary arrangements for collection and safekeeping. We are also currently in the process of raising funds to sponsor the purchase and installation of standalone touch screen computer monitors at this museum. Mr Joe Stafrace is organising this fund-raising drive. More information about this may be obtained from the Maltese Centre.
- **Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship 2013.** The Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Fund is again offering a scholarship of \$1,000 to a person of Maltese background who can demonstrate a keen interest in Maltese culture, history and heritage. This scholarship is aimed at maintaining Maltese culture in younger persons. Applications for this scholarship must be received by the Secretary not later than 15 July 2013.
- **Elections for Committee members of the Federation of Maltese Living Abroad.** Elections have just taken place to increase the number of committee members in Australasia from 3 to 5. The new members are Dr Paul Psaila-Savona (from Perth), and Mr Alfred Flask (from Canberra). I would like to thank all affiliated associations who have voted in this election.

Other issues were discussed at the meeting and these are highlighted on pages 3 and 4 of this Newsletter.

Prof. Maurice Cauchi  
MCCV President

### Maltese programs in new SBS Radio schedule – the current situation

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made possible through the assistance of several organisations and individuals from Victoria, NSW and South Australia. The MCCV is grateful to all those who assisted in organising the signature gathering.

In a follow-up meeting held in early February at SBS in Melbourne, delegation of the Maltese community in Victoria, consisting of MCCV President Professor Maurice Cauchi, MCCV PRO Dr Edwin Borg-Manché and the President of the Maltese Association Hobsons Bay, Chev Joe Attard, met with representatives from Minister Stephen Conroy's office and an SBS senior executive to discuss the issue. The petition with over 3,000 signatures was presented to the representatives of Minister Conroy as well as to the SBS authorities during the meeting.

At this meeting, the Maltese community delegation reiterated several points that the MCCV had made to SBS in correspondence and in articles published on the MCCV website and its newsletter. These points had been also made at previous meetings with SBS representatives. The delegation stressed that the ageing Maltese community needed local content broadcast on radio in Maltese.

The MCCV has been very active in protesting against these program cuts, pointing out that the Maltese community cannot be compared directly with other ethnic groups with about the same number of persons speaking their original language. The Maltese in Australia definitely have needs that are not faced by other groups and, in particular, the lack of other local links and communications in both print and electronic media.

The MCCV is hopeful that the SBS Board will give some consideration to our requests and come up with some modification of the published Schedule.

One thing has clearly resulted from this campaign. While the Maltese community in Australia is normally regarded as a quiet, even laid-back community, we have shown that we are an organised and united community which reacts strongly when an injustice has been or is about to be committed against it. We have demonstrated that we will not take lightly any threat to our rights, and will lobby the powers that be in a concerted manner to seek their support and use every other legitimate means to ensure that they are respected. ☒

### 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:

- Mar-Apr 2013 Newsletter: **Friday 29 Mar 2013**
- May-Jun 2013 Newsletter: **Friday 31 May 2013**

## Notes from MCCV Council Meeting

### FEBRUARY 2013

The following items were discussed at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6 February 2013:

**MELBOURNE CITY COUNCIL MATTER.** The MCCV is currently in communication with Melbourne City Council in relation to the matter of noise and social functions held at the Maltese Centre in Parkville. There are two issues that need to be addressed: the first is that the MCCV has no permit to operate the hall as an assembly hall; and the second that the noise level that was complained about by a neighbour living in one of the apartments behind the Maltese Centre in Parkville. The more important issue that needs to be addressed is the first one. To get over this hurdle the MCCV needs to provide concrete proof that social functions have been held in the hall for the last 15 years. The Melbourne City Council has informed the MCCV that, if proof can be shown to the Council that social functions have been held in the hall for the last 15 years, the MCCV can continue to hold such functions. Associations are urged to assist the MCCV by providing to Victor Borg, who is managing the matter for the MCCV, copies of any advertisements, tickets and Association minutes and correspondence relating to social functions held at the Maltese Centre for the last 15 years as evidence.

**BISHOP JOSEPH GRECH MEMORIAL FUND & SCHOLARSHIP.** Nominations for this year's Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship worth \$1,000 are now open. Closing date for applications is 15 July 2013. Last year's scholarship was awarded to Rita Catania, a member of the MCCV youth committee (GAM) who will be travelling to Malta later this year. More fundraising functions for the Fund are planned for this year.

**MCCV PETITION ABOUT MALTESE LANGUAGE PROGRAMS ON NEW SBS RADIO SCHEDULE.** SBS have proposed to axe 7 hours per week to the Maltese program from the current 9 hours. Over 3,000 signatures have been collected. This petition will be handed to Minister Conroy and to SBS management on Friday 8 February at a meeting with SBS and a consultant advisor to Senator Conroy. The MCCV is hopeful that SBS will reconsider its decision in light of the representations made by various leaders and members of the Maltese community in Australia and various members of the state and federal parliaments.

**FEDERATION OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD.** The two candidates elected to the FMLA committee to represent our region are Dr Paul Psaila Savona from Western Australia and Mr Alfred Flask from ACT. The MCCV congratulates both on their election and thanks Associations who voted in the election.

**MCCV WELFARE BOARD.** A Welfare Board has been set up according to the recommendations set out by the Department of Human Services. Members are: Victor Borg as Chairperson and Paul Borg, Rosemary Attard and Michael Caruana as Members.

**MCCV COMMUNITY AWARDS 2013.** Nominations are invited for this year's MCCV Community Awards. The closing date is 30 June 2013. Any nominations received last year that were


unsuccessful will need to be sent in again this year to be considered. Nominations do not automatically pass on from one year to the next.

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY.** The Children's Christmas Party held in December 2012 and organized by the youth committee (Rita Catania & Rita Ellul) and Edwidge Borg was a huge success with a total of 70 children plus about the same number of accompanying adults.

**MHA PRESENTS BOOKS TO MCCV.** Mrs Frances Bonnici, President of the Maltese Historical Association said that Mr Ray Bonnici, one of the Central Bank of Malta was special guest speaker at the MHA event for January during his visit to Melbourne. Mr Bonnici presented the MHA with five books and commemorative coins and a set of the current Euro coins used in Malta which the MHA wished to be placed on display in the MCCV Library. The books are 'Maltese Constitutional History', 'History of the Auberge d'Italie - Palatial Buildings of Valletta', 'Auberge de Castille and the Castellania', 'From Scudo to Sterling' and 'Malta – the History of the Coinage'.

**MALTESE LANGUAGE STATUS UPDATE.** Mrs Frances Bonnici provided a detailed update on the status of Maltese VCE based on a report by Ms Edwidge Borg, President of the Federation of Maltese Language Schools. The Maltese language VCE subject again finds itself in a very precarious situation. Last year from the whole of Australia only three students sat for the Maltese VCE exam. There is currently a campaign in progress with the publishing of advertisements in the media and other activity during the summer break. There has been the formation of an association of Maltese language teachers including the two teachers at the Victorian School of Languages (VSL) in Taylors Lakes, the teachers at the MCCV, Ms Edwidge Borg, Mrs Frances Bonnici and two teacher aides. Refer to the full report on [page 4](#).

**GAM UPDATE.** Ms Rita Catania provided the following update at the meeting. The *Generation AusMalts* Facebook (FB) page has reached over 100 followers. Placing content to attract Maltese youth to learn more about their heritage and Maltese culture and history. The good thing is that GAM followers are now posting their contributions and having conversations on our page, so that the GAM page is becoming more interactive. This is a big breakthrough.

GAM have a young correspondent Hayley Hougee, who is an exchange student doing her Year 12 in Malta. Every week she posts something about Malta, about current events or posts a photo. Her posts have become very popular. GAM will be publishing stories about young Maltese people in Melbourne and put it on the FB page. These will be examples of younger generations who are keen about keeping their Maltese heritage. GAM has also planned a calendar of events for young people that will be held at the Maltese Centre. As the first recipient of the Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship in 2012, Rita Catania will be going to Malta in May and will be posting about her experience on FB while in Malta. GAM intends to start forming strong links with the Maltese language classes and Maltese associations, such as, the Maltese Historical Association. 



# Attracting more students to study Maltese

By Edwidge Borg & Frances Bonnici

## Campaign to attract more students

Since mid-January 2013 the MCCV has paid for advertisements for the Maltese language classes to attract more students to learn Maltese.

This drive has been in local Leader newspapers, on radio stations (e.g. one of the teachers, Mr Mark Bonello, was interviewed on the Maltese program on SBS Radio on 6 February) and church bulletins in areas where there is a contingency of Maltese families.

Research was carried out in parishes where there are Maltese priests, who were then approached with a view to having publicity about Maltese classes included in parish bulletins. This has been very successful thanks to the co-operation of the Maltese priests.

Publicity for Maltese Language Classes commenced on 14 January 2013 in local suburban papers. This publicity is sponsored by the MCCV. Mark Bonello negotiated with Leader Newspaper for a package publicity. Adverts are appearing as follows:

- Week 1: Brimbank, Hobson's Bay, Melton
- Week 2: Brimbank, Whittlesea
- Week 3: Brimbank, Hobson's Bay
- Week 4: Hobson's Bay, Brimbank
- Week 5: Melton, Brimbank
- Week 6: Whittlesea, Brimbank

We had an immediate response of over 50 enquires who are interested in learning Maltese and had not heard about the Maltese Language classes. Enquiries are still come through.

Advertising on SBS Radio, 3ZZZ, RADIO 3 RIM 97.9 FM (Miriam Vella), Ray Anastasi STEREO 97.4 FM Community Radio, and Radio North West FM 98.9 - Emanuel Brincat and Paul Vella commenced last week. Various interviews were also recorded by Mark Bonello and Edwidge Borg.

The VSL Classes commenced Saturday 10 February 2013. The final number of students attending will be advised later on as registrations are still being accepted.

The Maltese Language Classes at Parkville started on Thursday 7 February 2013, 8 new students have sent in the registration; further new students are expected to enrol. Teachers this year will be Laura Schembri, Mark Bonello and Edwidge Borg. Georgina Scillio who has been teaching for the last 5 years has retired. The Education committee would like to thank Georgina for her remarkable dedicated service.

There are many people who do not wish to travel to Parkville for classes because it is too far away for them as they come from the western suburbs or from Mill Park. At Mill Park there is a group of about 12 people interested in learning Maltese but find it had to travel to the Maltese Centre. So if we are able to find teacher willing to travel to Mill Park, it may be possible to use the local public library as the venue for the classes as it is already used by other nationalities, such as, the Italians and Croatians, for such purposes.

There is another group of about 17 adults who are prepared to take children to the VSL at Taylors Lakes and at the same time they themselves will learn Maltese in another class. The problem is that we do not have qualified teachers at this stage. But we are doing our best to make sure that these two groups are catered for.

## Maltese Language webpage

The MCCV webpage has been updated with information regarding the Adult VCE classes, new information leaflets as well as an updated registration form and other relevant information. A special thanks to Edwin Borg-Manché for uploading all the information.

A professional development morning was held for all Maltese Language teachers and the newly appointed VSL teacher aides in Victoria on Sunday 27 January 2013. The topic was on *Developing a Unit of Work*. Mrs Frances Bonnici was the presenter and the Convener of the workshop.

## Maltese Language Teachers Association of Victoria

On 3 February 2013, the Maltese Language Teachers met in Parkville for a Planning Seminar. At that meeting the **Maltese Language Teachers Association of Victoria (MLTAV)** was formed. An interim committee was elected consisting of Emma Navarro as President, Mark Bonello as Treasurer, and Danica Busuttill as Secretary.

The interim committee will seek to be incorporated once a constitution is drafted. All members of this association have been heavily involved throughout the summer school break in publicising the Maltese Language Classes. Various parishes have been contacted and a notice is currently appearing in their bulletins. Publicity leaflets have been left at public libraries.

A number of fund raising activities have been planned. There will be at the school a *figolla* drive, an activity for Mother's Day and Father's Day and Christmas Hamper Raffles, which was a very successful activity last year.

## VCE Maltese

The final number of students currently attending schools and intending to sit for VCE Maltese in 2013 from Victoria, NSW, SA and Queensland is encouraging but will not be known until sometime in late October when the students sit for the exam.

At this stage there are 11 students enrolled at HSC/VCE level for 2013: 3 students in NSW and 8 students in Victoria (4 at VSL and 4 adults). So, excluding South Australia (their number is not known until the last moment) we are still 4 students short of the minimum number of 15 VCE students which would ensure VCE Maltese would survive for a further 3 years. If we do not reach this number, this will be the last year for the Maltese language as a VCE subject. So this year will be a crucial year.

Emma Navarro has been heavily involved in preparing the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Board VCAA syllabus for this year and coordinating the correspondence with adult students who had volunteered to sit for the exam. Adults who expressed interest in sitting for VCE and attending the MCCV Maltese VCE class are asked to contact Emma on 0406 215 990 or email [learnmaltesevic@gmail.com](mailto:learnmaltesevic@gmail.com) ASAP and send in the required forms.

Online VCE classes and accredited by the SACE are also being organized by the SA Maltese Language School coordinated by Mr Frank Scicluna. In NSW Mr Charles Galea from the Saturday Language School runs the VCE class.

## Meeting with the Education Dept.

The Consul General Mr Charles Mifsud and Ms Edwidge Borg, as President of the Federation of Maltese Language Schools and Ms Emma Navarro, the teacher responsible for VCE students had a meeting with the Education Department. As a result of this meeting, the Education Department have agreed to allow our two teacher aids to attend at the VSL to help the teachers. This is a pilot project that has never been done before. This will be a great opportunity for these teacher aides to learn from the other teachers and gain more experience. This will hopefully ensure that in future we will have more teachers available to teach the language.

## Benefit of studying VCE Maltese

It is important that we ensure that we do not deprive our children the benefit of studying a language other than English. Let us not forget that the studying for VCE Maltese is a ticket which enables students to get bonus marks added to their final VCE score for admission to tertiary education places for which competition is always increasing. ❖



MHA Event — January 2013

## History of Malta through Coinage

By Agnes Cauchi

On January 29th the MHA started the monthly presentation for 2013 with a special guest speaker. We were lucky to have Mr Ray Bonnici (pictured right) who has been visiting from Malta and who works at the Central Bank of Malta.

Mr Bonnici spoke about the museum located at the Central Bank of Malta (CBM), where some of the original coins are displayed.

Coins in Malta have been in circulation in excess of two millennia – since 550 BC. The first known coins found in Malta were those of the Carthaginians. During that period, Malta became a Carthaginian naval base and trading station. They were largely made of bronze, though silver and gold ones were also found.

Malta was raided by the Romans during the first Punic War but remained in Carthaginian hands. During this period, Malta also had an important Greek settlement. A few Greek coins were also found in Malta.

The Romans took control of the Maltese Islands in 218 BC resulting in an influx of Roman coins. Moreover, the Maltese Islands had the privilege of minting their own coins. They were made of bronze, the only metal that the Romans permitted. By the end of the first century BC, the Maltese islands stopped minting their coins.

After the Romans came the Byzantines (around 533–535AD). During this period Byzantine coins circulated in Malta. They were made of gold, silver and bronze.

Then came the Arabs. Gold and silver coins were found pertaining to this era. The Arabs did not give Malta much importance and trade never flourished under them. However, a Fatimid Quarter-Dinar was found in Malta with an imprint that it was actually minted in Malta. PIC One can see this coin at the Museum of the CBM.


After his talk, Mr Bonnici presented Mrs Frances Bonnici, MHA President with commemorative coins and history books: *'Maltese Constitutional History'*,



*'History of the Auberge d'Italie - Palatial Buildings of Valletta', 'Auberge de Castille and the Castellania', 'From Scudo to Sterling' and 'Malta – the History of the Coinage'*

Mr Bonnici was in Melbourne visiting his relatives. Born in Zurriek in 1957, he completed his secondary schooling and Advanced Level subjects in Math and Physics, before being successful in a recruitment examination for employment with the Central Bank of Malta. He joined

the Bank in 1976, only 8 years after it was established. He later graduated in Financial Services from the Malta Branch of the Institute of Bankers. He has been with the Central Bank for 36 years and is currently the Director of Corporate Services.

For more information about the Central Bank visit its website at [www.centralbankmalta.org](http://www.centralbankmalta.org) 



# GENERATION AUSMALTS (GAM): A Connection to Australian/Maltese Youth

By Rita Catania

An ongoing topic of discussion at the MCCV for a number of months now has been the preservation of the Maltese culture and language in Australia, particularly amongst Australian/Maltese youth.

As the population of Maltese immigrants continues to age, it seems increasingly evident that the Maltese culture is fading away amongst our younger generation of Australian/Maltese youth. A difficult task at best, this is an important matter that requires the attention (and action), of everybody within the Australian/Maltese community, before the culture is completely lost and it is too late...

Important links such as knowledge of the language and island, history, folklore, traditions and to a certain extent, preparation of traditional food recipes will continue to disappear if we do not act. Examples of this have already been felt with the recent announcement that a total of 6 hours of airtime will be cut from the Maltese SBS radio program as of April, in addition to which the Education Department has advised that unless 15 students from all over Australia undertake Year 12 Maltese in 2013, the Maltese language will be removed from the list of languages offered to school students as part of their formal education. Do these matters concern anyone? Do you think it should be such a difficult task to recruit 15 students - AUSTRALIA WIDE?

The sad truth is, unfortunately, there are many Australian/Maltese youth who don't know anything about their Maltese decent. And, there are many factors as to why our Maltese Culture has lost its way, and indeed, many points of view... Did the Maltese assimilate too well into Australian culture where their own roots were unintentionally forgotten? Did parents expose their children enough to Maltese culture whilst they were growing up - especially those who came to Australia at a very young age? Is it true that some are embarrassed to show they are Maltese? Did Maltese organisations and associations play a big enough role in



concentrating on youth activities and events for the future, so that we would not be asking ourselves these questions now? More importantly, are the children of the children (i.e. second and third generation Australian/Maltese), actually interested in learning about their heritage? Many questions that may sting, but the reality we seem to be faced with.

So, the burning question is how do we fix this? Furthermore, do people actually care or feel that maintaining our identity is of any importance? Well, in an effort to try and answer the first question at least, the MCCV in conjunction with some volunteers has formed a Youth Committee called 'Generation AusMalts' - GAM for short! Why the name Generation AusMalts? Well, quite simply, the word 'generation' seemed an obvious fit given we are trying to reach generations of Australian/Maltese youth, hence the second part of the name being 'AusMalts.'

Initially, GAM's objectives have been to generate ideas, undertake some research, form links and establish themselves slowly. More recently, GAM has been progressively reaching out to the first, second and third generations of Australian/Maltese youth, primarily via specific events and such communication portals as Facebook, the MCCV website, and most recently, Twitter. GAM's intention is to connect with anybody who is interested in learning about their Maltese heritage, with a focus towards those between the age of 5-25 years. This seems like a large age bracket, however most people within this age group are probably second, third even possibly even fourth generation Australian/Maltese, and important to reach given it seems this is where a lot of the 'culture' breakdown seems to really start happening.

The idea of GAM is to inform, enrich, inspire and create enthusiasm through the mediums mentioned, a calendar of organised events, the MCCV, working with other established Maltese Associations and most importantly - the Bishop Joe Grech Scholarship. GAM is about celebrating being Australian and enjoying the benefits of having the added bonus of Maltese bloodlines. GAM is here to connect Australian/Maltese youth with their Maltese heritage.

Slow steps, but good steps, are what the MCCV and GAM hope to achieve in trying to maintain and pass on the Maltese culture to Australian/Maltese youth. Whilst we cannot perform miracles, we can keep trying to build on the foundation and valuable work of those who have been carrying on the culture and traditions both previously and now. Help us in connecting AusMalts with their Maltese heritage. After all, no good thing should ever die...

We urge you to consider the above and act in anyway you can to help this important cause. A great way to start is by letting your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends know about GAM. Exposure to anything Maltese, in whatever way attracts the attention of our AusMalts is the key. ✂

**To connect with Generation AusMalts and express any ideas, you can communicate with us via the following links:**

**Facebook:**  
[www.Facebook.com/GenerationAusMalts](http://www.Facebook.com/GenerationAusMalts)

**Twitter:**  
[Twitter.com/@GenAusMalts](https://twitter.com/GenAusMalts)

**Email:**  
[generationausmalts@gmail.com](mailto:generationausmalts@gmail.com)

**PROPOSED CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

All events will be held at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville

**MARCH****Moomba / National Maltese Carnival**

(Open to all ages from 1 - 15 years onwards)  
Morning or afternoon event celebrating these popular Australian and Maltese Carnivals.

**Easter Cooking Class**

(Open to all ages from 10 years onwards)  
Learn how to make a Traditional Maltese Easter Figolla and Almond Biscuits

**JUNE/JULY****GAM Cooking Class Series**

(Open to all ages from 10 years onwards)  
A series of 4 different Maltese cooking classes. (Max. of 10 people per class.)

**AUGUST****Language Immersion Morning**

(GAM to possibly assist MHA)

**Children's Book Week / Maltese Literature Festival**

(Open to all ages from 1 - 12 years onwards)  
A celebration of all things books. Story reading, colouring in. Come as your favourite book character!

**SEPTEMBER****Grand Final Sports Day**

(Open to all ages from 5 - 16 years onwards)

Australians love football and so do the Maltese! Which "football" do you follow? Come dressed in your favourite footy team's colours. Can make synergies between Australian football team colours & Maltese football (soccer) team colours. Sports activities. Mid morning event.

**OCTOBER****Blessing of Pets Event/Family Picnic**

(Open to all ages!)

Bring your pet along to be blessed in keeping with St Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. It is also a Maltese tradition with St Anthony the Abbot. Bring along a family picnic.

**Teenage Youth Art Exhibition**

(Open to all Teenagers)

An exhibition of art, sculpture, design and photography from local, Aust/Malt students. Could possibly present a GAM art award for each category.

**DECEMBER****3 Dec - Children's Christmas Party**

(Open to all ages from 1 - 12 years onwards)

Celebration of the birth of Baby Jesus, il-Bambin.

# An AusMalt living on the island of Malta!

By Hayley Hougee



My name is Hayley Hougee, I am 16 years old and I grew up in the suburb of Altona. I am currently living abroad in the village of San Gwann, Malta and am completing my final year of high school at St. Aloysius College (San Alwigi), in Birkirkara.

I have been living in Malta on and off for the past year. Initially, I went to Malta in 2011 as a exchange student. I loved it that much that I decided to stay here! Being raised in a Maltese family and going to Malta ever since I was young, contributed to my enthusiasm towards the country. Like many young Maltese-Australians, my 'Nanna' and 'Nannu' came to Australia in the 1950s.

As a part of my schooling I am currently studying a subject called 'Systems of Knowledge' (SOK). As part of this subject, we have to complete a project which makes up 40% of our overall mark. My project involves raising awareness to the Maltese-

Australian community, about specific things happening in Malta. Currently, I am working in collaboration with YMCA Malta and GAM, the MCCV Youth Committee in order to do this.

One of my aims, in a practical aspect, is to fundraise money for YMCA Malta. I believe that it is a worthy organisation, which largely contributes to the needs of many in the Maltese community. YMCA are a voluntary organisation, who cater for those that are either homeless or passing through a difficult patch in life. I would appreciate it if the Maltese-Australian community would be able to make a donation to YMCA Malta. Donation information can be found on the website - [www.ymcahomeless.org](http://www.ymcahomeless.org).

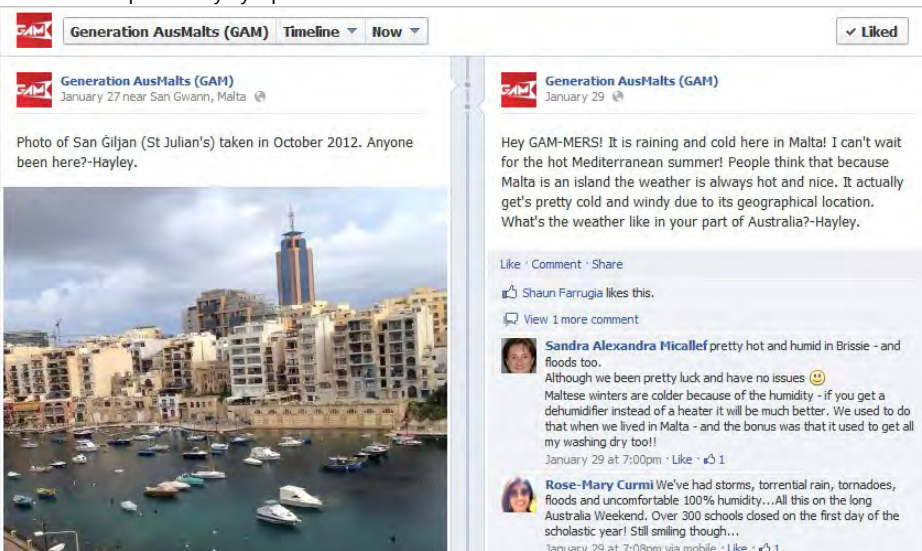
On another aspect, I am linking my projects aims with that of the MCCV Youth Committee. I will be a youth correspondent on 'Generation AusMalts (GAM)' Facebook page, and will be regularly posting information about events occurring in Malta. Please follow my updates and journey, for a personal account of what's happening in Malta from someone who is actually experiencing it. I hope to inspire others into learning about their Maltese culture, so that they will embrace their Maltese heritage. Perhaps they may even be inspired to do what I did, and come over here to actually experience Malta.

If anyone has any questions for me, please contact me via the GAM Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/GenerationAusMalts](http://www.Facebook.com/GenerationAusMalts).

Dejjem taghkom,

Hayley 

Below: A couple of Hayley's posts on Facebook



The screenshot shows the Facebook timeline for the 'Generation AusMalts (GAM)' page. The top post is from January 27, 2013, at San Gwann, Malta. It features a photo of the San Giljan (St. Julian's) church and harbor, with the caption: 'Photo of San Giljan (St Julian's) taken in October 2012. Anyone been here?-Hayley.' The bottom post is from January 29, 2013, and is a text-based post about the weather in Malta compared to Australia. It includes comments from Sandra Alexandra Micallef and Rose-Mary Curmi.



## EU Commission to proceed against Malta on ‘discriminatory’ bus fares

On 10 February 2013 *timesofmalta.com* reported that the European Commission is to launch formal legal proceedings against Malta over Arriva’s “discriminatory” bus fares.

A letter of formal complaint was sent to Malta last month asking the Government and Arriva to change the “discriminatory” bus fare system as it is currently infringing EU rules.

Since the Arriva service was launched, residents of Malta have been charged less than non-residents.

This system was lambasted by non-residents, insisting the system was discriminatory and did not comply with EU rules.

According to a Ministry of Transport statement, “In order to put the new fares into perspective, it is pertinent to note that the full rate (charged to non-residents), effective from 3 July 2011, is €2.60 for a day ticket or €12.00 for a 7-day ticket, either one allowing the holder unlimited travel on all bus services on the island of Malta.



“This makes it significantly cheaper than almost any other EU Member State.

“Malta has argued that departure from the current subsidised fares would, in a best case scenario, lead to no, or insignificant, growth in bus patronage. In a worst case scenario, it would likely result in a continuation of the trend of declining bus usage which has developed over the past 40 years.”

The Ministry reiterated that the differentiated fare scheme, which is based on residence and not on nationality, is an essential component of the bus transport reform which has the objective of bringing

about a modal shift from private to public transport, thereby positively contributing to Malta’s environment, health, air quality and quality of life.

“Malta considers that such a scheme is, therefore, not only necessary for the well being of its residents, but has been implemented in a proportionate manner which is in line with EU legislation. The Government is in discussion with the European Commission on the dossier,” the Ministry statement said.

The EU executive is arguing, however, that the system infringes EU law and should be replaced. ❖

## ANZAC monument in Malta completed

On 24 January 2013 the Chairman of the ANZAC Memorial Malta, Mr Nicholas Bonello OAM advised the MCCV that the two bronze figures that were cast a few weeks ago were installed on the pedestal, thus completing the work on the ANZAC Memorial located in the Argotti Botanical Gardens in Floriana.

Mr Bonello thanked the MCCV for its valued contribution to the project which helped to cement the already very good relations between Malta, Australia and New Zealand. He hoped that the MCCV will help to publicise the Memorial among those who will be travelling to Malta from Australia. “Let us all endeavour to start a tradition whereby those visiting the Memorial will put a flower on the steps, were the ANZACs who are permanently resting in Malta are commemorated,” he wrote. ❖



## New legislation relating to changing names on Maltese official documents

For some time concerns have been raised, led primarily by Mr Lawrence Dimech, who is a member on the Council for Maltese Living Abroad representing the State of NSW, Australia, on the absurd situation that had arisen regarding Christian names on official Maltese documents, such as passports.

These names (typically in Italian) were taken from the birth certificate and often bore no resemblance to the English version of the name that had been used by the individual for several decades, even on official documents, including passports previously issued by the Malta Government.

The recent insistence by Maltese authorities on accepting only the original name in Italian on new passports has caused considerable frustration and inconvenience to individuals, particularly those residing in English-speaking countries, causing significant problem when travelling because of the name mismatch.

A Legal Notice was issued last year (L.N. 311 of 2012) to change the stringent requirements relating to names on official identification documents. This L.N. amends Article 278A of the Civil Code by adding a



new subarticle (2) which states that:

“It shall be lawful for any person to request the Director of the Public Registry, by means of a signed declaration ..., to make an annotation in his act of birth in order to:

- a) correct any minor spelling variations to his name;
- b) choose a “to be called name” from among those given to him at birth.

Provided that the use of the “to be called name” results from another act of civil status of such person or from a Maltese identity card or passport.”

This concession applies only to acts of civil status or Maltese identification document or passport issued prior to 1st December 2012.

This change came into effect on 1st January 2013.

This is a very welcome change and is a credit to the legislators who have shown that they are responsive to the needs of Maltese living abroad. ❖



## Lawrence Dimech reappointed People of Australia Ambassador

To coincide with Australia Day 2013, Lawrence Dimech was recently reappointed as a People of Australia Ambassador. These ambassadors are people who are recognised for their contribution to the community and are chosen from every state and territory of Australia.

Judge Raul Soulio, the chair of the Australia Multicultural Council, said he was struck not only by the commitment and enthusiasm of the inaugural ambassadors but by the insights that have been offered by the local communities. He said he was pleased to see Mr Dimech return for another year. The appointees initially serve for 12 months but some are chosen to serve for a further 12 months.



The principal role of the People of Australia Ambassadors is to promote the principles of Australia's multicultural policy and to emphasise a strong

commitment to inclusion, social cohesion and action to unite all Australians. These ambassadors are a critical link, providing feedback from local communities on issues of interest to the Australian Multicultural Council and the Government. The ambassadors meet at least twice a year in Canberra to discuss issues relating to multiculturalism.

Mr Dimech is a veteran journalist both in Malta and Australia, the first editor of *The Maltese Herald* and first Maltese Consul General in New South Wales. He also represents the State of NSW on the Council for Maltese Living Abroad set up by the Malta Government in July 2012. 🇦🇺

## Nancy Serg awarded Order of Australia Medal



Photo: Hills Shire Times

On Australia Day 2013 prominent Sydney Maltese community member, Nancy Serg, was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for her volunteer service to the Maltese community of NSW. 'It's an amazing feeling — I'm still trying to get to grips with it,' she said.

Nancy Serg was just 18 years of age and living in Sliema, Malta when she told her parents she wanted to find a job in Australia. Her parents did not want their eldest child to go alone so the family closed their general store and winery and set off with their 10 children to an unknown life in Sydney. It wasn't long before Nancy Serg started working and then became a volunteer writer on *The Maltese Herald* for more than 50 years.

Mrs Serg née Borg started work with the Maltese community in 1965, a year after she migrated to Australia from Malta at age 18. 'We assisted with whatever was needed in the community at the time,' she said. 'People who couldn't read or write ...used to bring letters to us to read and we'd refer them to the appropriate authority — solicitors, government departments or water board. We all learnt on the job and did everything to the best of our ability.'

Mrs Serg has since hosted community, theatrical and cultural events in English and Maltese, educated the community on health and available services, and led the Merrylands Maltese Seniors Group and others. The mother of three and grandmother of eight now rates looking after her grandchildren as one of the most important jobs in her life. 🇦🇺

## John Aquilina honoured as Member of the Order of Australia



Photo: Rouse Shire Times

Former Minister and speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, John Aquilina, was among a distinguished list of Australians recognised in the Australia Day 2013 Honours. The State Member for Blacktown representing the Labor Party from 1981-1991 and Riverstone from 1991-2011, Mr Aquilina was appointed a Member (AM) of the Order of Australia for his significant services to the NSW parliament and to the community.

Mr Aquilina was Minister for Education and Training, 1995-2001; Minister Assisting the Premier on Youth Affairs, 1995-1999; Minister for Youth and Community Services and Assistant Minister for Ethnic Affairs, 1986-1988, and Minister Natural Resources, 1986. Previously Mr Aquilina had held positions at Local Council level as Mayor of Blacktown, 1977-1981, and an Alderman from 1977-1983.

As a migrant originally from Malta, Mr Aquilina said one of the great things about his adopted country was 'that people from such diverse backgrounds can go on to be recognised with the highest honours.' He migrated to Australia with his family when he was 12 years old. In 1971 he graduated at the University of Sydney, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma of Education in 1971. He commenced teaching as a high school teacher. Before going into politics in the mid-70s. He became an Australian citizen in 1974. 🇦🇺



## Il-festin tal-Milied tal-Grupp Letteratura Maltija kien suċċess kbir



### Minn Paul Vella

Il-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria kellhom il-Festin tal-Milied għall-membri tagħhom nhar il-Ħadd, 9 ta' Diċembru. Dan inżamm fuq il-proprjetà tal-membri u ħbieb tagħhom, Frank u Draga Bonett, f'Bulla.

Madwar 45 kienu preżenti u ħadu gost jiltaqgħu flimkien. Fostna, bħala mistieden speċjali, kellna lill-Konslu Ġenerali ta' Malta fil-Victoria, is-Sur Charles Mifsud.


It-tisjir tal-laħam u z-zalzett kontinentali kien f'idejn Joe Lofaro u Charles Attard (ara ritratt) filwaqt li l-membri nisa ħadu ħsieb li lestew is-salads u jqassmu l-ikel lil dawk li attendew. Inbid abjad u aħmar u xorb minerali kien provdut il-ġurnata kollha.

Bhas-soltu kellna wkoll xi mużiċisti li tawna ħafna mużika Maltija li tat gost lil kulhadd. Kellna lil Joe Gauci u Fredu "Fra" Cachia fuq il-kitarri, Alfie Xuereb fuq is-synthesiser filwaqt li Joe Camilleri kien fuq il-percussion. Il-membri Guzi Camilleri ħa ħsieb iġib il-boċċi miegħu u kienu ħafna li ħadu sehem f'dan il-logħob.

Wara li kulhadd kiel u xorob u waqaf id-daqq, il-membri ingabru flimkien u qagħdu bil-qieghda u beda l-qari ta' poeziji.

Ħadna ħafna gost naraw fostna ħafna tfal li ġew man-nanniet tagħhom; għamlu ors kbir minn din il-ġurnata, jilaghbu maż-zwiemel u mat-tliet iklieb, Diesel, Amber u Molly. It-tfal dejjem iġibu ferħ kull fejn ikunu.

Grazzi lill-membri Salvina u Paul Vella li ħadu ħsieb ix-xiri ta' kollox għal dan il-festin u lil dawk kollha li għenu b'mod jew iehor biex dan il-festin ikun tas-suċċess li kien. Bhal kull sena, dan il-festin kien provdut bla ebda ħlas għall-membri kollha.

Il-Kumitat u l-membri jirringrazzjaw lil Frank u Draga Bonett li ta' kull sena jilqgħuna għandhom. 





## Dr Joe Abela: *Hajjieta f' Hidmieta* — Ktejjeb ta' Joe Axiaq

Minn Paul Vella

Il-Grupp Letteratura Maltija għadu kemm stampa ktejjeb, xogħol ta' Joe Axiaq, fuq il-hajja u l-karriera ta' Dr Joe Abela, il-Fundatur tal-Grupp tagħna— *Dr Joe Abela: Hajjieta f' Hidmieta*. Nahseb kulhadd jiftakar lil Dr Abela li għamel tant xogħol biex iżomm hajja il-lingwa Maltija fl-Awstralja.

Dr Abela twieled f'Haż-Żabbar fl-1931 u emigra lejn l-Awstralja fl-1952. Fil-ktieb ta' Joe Axiaq insibu l-ewwelnett profil qasir li jiġbor fih il-hajja ta' Dr Abela, kif meta wasal intefa' b'ruhu u għismu biex iwaqqaf is-Socjeta tad-Dutrina Nisranija (aktar magħrufa bħala MUSEUM), u wara mbagħad studja għal saċerdot fl-università ta' Louvain (Belgium).

Meta gie lura sar lecturer fl-Università ta' Monash. Ahna lil Dr Abela nafuh l-aktar bħala wiehed li dahhal l-istudju tal-Malti f'livell terzjarju (Phillip Institute), u li waqqaf il-Maltese Literature Group. Nafuh ukoll bħala pijunier tax-xandir tal-Malti fuq ir-radju, l-ewwel fuq 3ZZ u wara fuq ir-radju 3EA. Nafuh ukoll bħala kittieb ta' poeziji u proża.

Dawn u dettalji ohra insibuhom fil-ktieb ta' Joe Axiaq. F'dan il-ktieb insibu ukoll informazzjoni dwar il-hajja tiegħu bħala tifel, hajtu fl-ewwel snin f'Melbourne, l-attività tiegħu bħala saċerdot, kif ukoll id-diffikultajiet li ltaqa' magħhom wara li halla s-saċerdozju, l-involvement tiegħu fit-tagħlim tal-Malti, it-twaqqif tal-Maltese Literature Group, kif ukoll l-involvement tiegħu fir-radju etniku.

Dr Abela halliena wara marda twila li gaġhlu jitlaq minn Melbourne għal Newcastle f'NSW biex igawdi l-klima ta' dak il-post. Miet fil-15 ta' Marzu, 1991, ta' eta' żgħira ta' 60 sena.

Huwa l-hsieb tagħna li naghmlu t-tnehdija ta' dan il-ktejjeb, nhar il-Hadd, 24 ta' Marzu, fis-Sala ta' Ċentru Malti ta' Parkville,



fis-2 pm. Il-preparazzjoni għall-istampar ta' dan il-ktieb sar mill-Prof. Maurice Cauchi, President tal-Kunsill Malti tal-Victoria. Il-Prof. Cauchi kien ra l-artikli li Joe Axiaq ippubblika fil-*Maltese Herald* u xtaq li jara dawn ippubblikati fi ktieb. Meta kkuntattja lil Joe Axiaq u l-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria, ix-xewqa tiegħu saret realtà. Dawk li jixtiequ kopja ta' dan il-ktieb bil-prezz ta' \$4 (\$5 bil-posta), għandhom jirrikorru għand il-Maltese Literature Group, 477 Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria 3052. *Fir-ritratt fuq, is-Segretarja tal-Grupp Letteratura Maltija, is-Sinjura Rosemary Attard, tidher qed*

## Christmas Luncheon for the Reskeon Seniors Group

By Paul Vella

The Reskeon Seniors Group organised a Christmas Luncheon for their members, at the Firenze Reception, Fawknar, on Thursday, December 13. Over 160 members and friends attended. Among the distinguished guests were the Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud and Mrs Anna Maria Mifsud.

Secretary, Paul Vella, acted as MC for the day. After he welcomed the distinguished guests and all those present he led the singing of the Maltese National Anthem and Advance Australia Fair.

The Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud, delivered his Christmas message and said that his wife, Anna Maria, will leave Australia because of her work commitments in Malta. He said, among other things, how they are always happy to attend Reskeon functions. Afterwards, Co-Ordinator, Salvina Vella, delivered her Christmas message.

There were two presentations. The first one was to Phyllis Vella in appreciation of her services to the Reskeon Seniors Group for many years. She was presented with a gold bracelet.

The second presentation was to DJ Mario Sammut of Moods Music (pictured right). Mario gave his services as a DJ to Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group since around 1997. He was presented with a memorable plaque with appreciation words for his services. The plaque carried as well the Reskeon logo and the Moods Music logo. Mario was always reliable and dedicated in his work and our members always enjoyed his music. In his few words Mario thanked Reskeon for believing in him and he said he started with Reskeon almost at his start of his DJ work in Melbourne. We will miss you, Mario.

Then, a list of birthday and anniversaries that occurred around this time was read. At the same time, Bon Voyage wishes went to Carmen Rossiter, sister of Phyllis Vella, who that very night had to fly back to Malta after a stay in Melbourne. 🇲🇹



## 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	Suburb
<b>Wed 27 Feb</b>	<u>MCCV Executive Committee Meeting</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
<b>Tue 05 Mar</b> 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm	<u>Cumberland Manor Aged Care Visit</u>	<u>Cumberland Manor</u>	North Sunshine
<b>Wed 06 Mar</b> 7.00 pm	<u>MCCV Council Meeting</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
<b>Sun 17 Mar</b>	<u>Get Together - Reskeon Maltese Association</u> Contact: Charles Tabone on 0417354 637 or Salvina Vella on 9460 4404	-	-
<b>Sat 23 Mar</b> 6.00 pm - 12.00 am	<u>BYO Get Together</u> <u>- St Helena Maltese Australian Social Club Inc</u> Contact: Victor on 0412 991 325 or Mary Abdilla on 9370 5164	<u>Errington Community Centre</u>	St Albans
<b>Wed 27 Mar</b>	<u>MCCV Executive Committee Meeting</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
<b>Wed 03 Apr</b> 7.00 pm	<u>MCCV Council Meeting</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
<b>Sun 21 Apr</b>	<u>Comedy Fun Luncheon</u> <u>- Newport Maltese Association</u>	-	-
<b>Wed 24 Apr</b>	<u>MCCV Executive Committee Meeting</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
<b>Wed 01 May</b> 7.00 pm	<u>MCCV Council Meeting</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
<b>Sat 04 May</b> 6.00 pm - 12.00 am	<u>Feast of the Cross/Mothers Day function</u> <u>- St Helena Maltese Australian Social Club Inc.</u> Contact: Victor on 0412 991 325 or Mary Abdilla on 9370 5164	<u>Melrose Receptions</u>	Tullamarine

### Visit to Cumberland Manor Aged Care Invitation to Maltese Community

Come and join us and get to know the facility and its friendly management and staff. Find out we offer and what is offered at this facility to Maltese residents in conjunction with the MCCV.

**Venue:** **Cumberland Manor**  
**25-27 Wiltshire Street, North Sunshine**

**Date:** **Tuesday 5 March 2013**

**Time:** **1.00 pm to 4.00 pm**

**RSVP:** 22 February 2013

*Maltese afternoon tea provided*

For more information contact:

**Remy Vejano** at Cumberland Manor on **9311 7079** or  
**Paul Lia** at MCCV on **9387 8922**



This Project 'Building a Permanent Bridge'  
is supported by the Australian Government



### Grupp Letteratura Maltija Programm Mużiko-Letterarju 2013

Il-Programm Mużiko-Letterarju huwa wiehed mill-iktar avvenimenti importanti fil-kalendarju tal-Grupp Letteratura Maltija. Din is-sena dan se jinżamm il-Hadd, 22 ta' Settembru 2013 fis-Sala taċ-Ċentru Malti ta' Parkville.

Jekk hemm xi membri li għandhom xi xogħol għall-Programm Mużiko-Letterarju ta' din is-sena tkun haġa tajba jekk jibagħtuh lil Ray Anastasi, **19 Daimler Ave, Keilor Downs**, Victoria 3038 biex ikun jista' jibda jaħdem fuqu u mhux kollox jaqa' għall-aħħar hin.

Ix-xogħol irid jiġi ttajpat, moqri, ikkoreġut, u wara jerga' jiġi moqri. Dan jiehu hafna żmien. Wara irid jiġi ppaġnat u jmur għand l-istampatur biex jiġi mitbugħ biex ikun għandna għall-Programm Mużiko-Letterarju. Dawk li għandhom aċċess għall-internet, ikun aktar faċli jekk jibgħatu x-xogħol tagħhom permezz ta' email lil Ray Anastasi: [rrmlanastasi@bigpond.com](mailto:rrmlanastasi@bigpond.com)