



MCCV News

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Community pressure yields two more one-hour Maltese radio programs on SBS

After three-and-a-half months of persistent canvassing and negotiations led by Maltese community leaders in Melbourne and Sydney as well as Malta's High Commissioner in Canberra and the Consul-General in Melbourne, SBS announced yesterday that two one-hour Maltese radio programs will be broadcast commencing on 29 April 2013 in addition to the two which were originally included under the new schedule, giving a total of 4 one-hour programs per week.

Last November SBS had published the new radio schedule in which the Maltese programs fared the worst among all existing languages with a savage cut of 7 programs, down from 9 hours to 2 hours per week.

The latest SBS decision represents a doubling of Maltese programs from the original revised schedule and a respectable result for the Maltese community. SBS also agreed to move the broadcast of one of the programs back to Saturday afternoon, arguably the most popular timeslot among Maltese listeners.

After the publication of the revised SBS radio schedule last November, the Maltese community had come together in a show of unity to apply pressure on SBS. Representations to SBS came from all quarters and took the form of letters of support and emails from numerous members of federal and state parliaments, local councillors and Maltese associations, many posts left by angry Maltese community members on the SBS website and Facebook page, as well as letters and articles published in the Maltese newspaper in Australia, The Maltese Herald. A petition with over 3,000 signatures, organised by the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, was sent to the Minister responsible for radio and communications, Senator Stephen Conroy, and to the SBS Board.

As a result of the latest SBS decision the Maltese programs on SBS radio from 29 April will be broadcast as follows:

- **Tuesday at 12 noon – SBS 3 digital only** (digital radio/TV)
- **Thursday at 12 noon – SBS 3 digital only** (digital radio/TV)
- **Friday at 12 noon – SBS 2/FM analogue** (also on digital radio/TV)



- **Saturday at 2.00 pm – SBS 2/FM analogue** (also on digital radio/TV)
- **Internet Live and On-Demand** – <http://www.sbs.com.au/maltese>
- **iPhone and Android app** – *SBS Your Language* app
- **Podcasts of program segments** – <http://www.sbs.com.au/podcasts/your-language/maltese>.

Maltese radio programs are also available over the internet as follows:

SBS advised the Maltese community leaders at a recent meeting that the additional two hours will be funded from within the existing radio budget. SBS also indicated that funding of the additional two hours on SBS 3 digital is guaranteed only for two years (until the end of the 2014/15 financial year). The funding situation will be reviewed at the end of the two years.

The allocation of hours on the analogue radio schedule will also be reviewed following the 2016 Census. Under the Final Selection Criteria, published in June 2012, SBS announced plans to review all languages and the allocation of hours after each Census to ensure the SBS Radio Schedule continues to reflect the makeup of Australia and fulfils its obligations under the SBS Charter.

In addition to the Maltese radio programs, SBS recently agreed to broadcast two television news bulletins from Malta per week in Maltese produced by Malta's Public Broadcasting Service. From 4 April 2013 **both TV programs are being broadcast on SBS TWO channel on Thursdays and Sundays at 8.00 am**, eliminating the need for repeat programming. 🇲🇹

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The President's Column

The SBS Saga: What did we get for our trouble?

After several weeks' of canvassing, negotiations, signing of petitions, and writing emails and letters of support, SBS has finally delivered its verdict in relation to what the Maltese language program is going to look like as from 29 April.

For the last 20 years, the Maltese community has benefitted from a generous allocation of radio time on SBS: 9 hours of programming per week. Suddenly, in November of last year, the community was faced with a bombshell: the programs would be cut down to 2 hours per week, a reduction of 78 per cent!

The reason that SBS gave was that the number of persons speaking Maltese has now fallen from around 56,000 to 34,000, a reduction of 40 per cent. They argued that these statistics put us in a category with other ethnic groups whose numbers ranged from 20,000 to 40,000 and who also were allocated two hours per week.

We argued strongly that firstly, compared to other ethnic communities of the same size, the Maltese community had significant needs which were not being met. Secondly, we also argued that slashing the number of hours so drastically so suddenly was inequitable. Thirdly, we objected strongly to the fact that no real consultation with the Maltese community took place prior to the announcement of the new program schedule last November.

The Maltese community united in condemning this action by SBS. We wrote to the SBS Board complaining strongly against this unilateral action and the lack of consultation which ignored the special needs of the Maltese community. Posts on social media and a barrage of emails to SBS crowded the cyberspace, sent by Members of Parliament, Maltese associations, individuals, both Maltese and others from all over Australia. For the first time in Australia, a petition of over 3,000 signatures organised by the MCCV was sent to the Minister responsible for radio and communications, Senator Stephen Conroy, and to SBS.

What did we get for our trouble?

On Friday 12 April, after three-and-a-half months of negotiations, and two weeks before the new radio Schedule takes effect, the final decision of the SBS Board was announced. In effect, we obtained another two one-hour programs, in addition to the two which were originally announced. This is an increase of 100 per cent on what we had, and therefore represents a very significant achievement on our part, particularly in view of the intransigence of the administrative body at SBS, and the acknowledged difficulty of changing schedules once these have been announced. In addition we managed to retain the much desired program on Saturday which had disappeared in the original revised schedule.

I believe that four hours of SBS Maltese radio program represent fairly our position within the Australian community. Unfortunately, the two extra programs will be broadcast on 'digital/TV only' as opposed to 'analogue' (FM) radio. This is not ideal and will involve a considerable degree of education of our ageing community in relation to accessing these programs.

I believe we have done as well as could be expected. I wish to publicly thank all those who became involved in these

efforts. In particular, I thank the High Commissioner for Malta, Mr Francis Tabone, the Council of NSW, particularly Mr Fred Fenech, President, and Mr Lawrence Dimech, Vice President, the presidents of the various organisations, and in particular Mr Joe Attard, the members of the federal and state parliaments, local councillors and all those who sent letters, emails, posted comments on the SBS Facebook page and in other ways showed their displeasure with the SBS decision.

However, the saga hasn't quite ended here.

Funding of additional Maltese programs

We were advised by SBS at the latest meeting that the additional two hours will be funded from within the existing radio budget. SBS also indicated that SBS commits to funding the additional two hours on SBS 3 digital for two years (until the end of the 2014/15 financial year), the funding situation will be reviewed at the end of the two years and the additional hours on SBS 3 digital cannot be guaranteed past the end of the 2014/15 financial year.

While we understand that no organisation can over-stretch its resources beyond the available funds, we would object most strongly if the Maltese language programs would be subject to revision in isolation. We believe that any re-scheduling should affect all programs and not limited to Maltese on a 'last in, first out' policy. We argued against this funding treatment, as selecting the additional two Maltese programs for a different treatment from the rest could only be perceived as a form of discrimination. We argued that the review of the funding situation of the Maltese programs should be part of the overall schedule review after the 2016 Census.

We believe strongly that the greatest inequity in the whole revised schedule is the excessive program time allocated to the six largest communities, which have been given two hours per day, and which therefore has resulted in the allocation of 34 per cent of total time available, with the other 68 ethnic communities having to share what's left over.

Naturally, we will need to fight for the retention of the additional two Maltese programs for another year past the end of the 2014/15 financial year and until the 2016 Census review, when the time comes.

Next SBS radio schedule review

What can the Maltese community do to ensure fair representation and a reasonable share of SBS radio time in future? As long as SBS will continue to put highest priority on census data, it is unlikely that we will be able to maintain this level of programming in the future.

It is essential to ensure that we emphasize the extent of Maltese language use. To claim that all Maltese speak English "well" or "very well", as claimed by the vast majority of Maltese in the last census, is equivalent of asking for a massive reduction of radio time in future. Of the 43,000 persons born in Malta only about half admit to speaking Maltese at home. This has been one of the main reasons for our problems, and we should do our utmost to ensure that a fairer picture of our needs is clearly given in future censuses.

Prof. Maurice Cauchi
MCCV President



Notes from MCCV Council Meetings

MARCH 2013

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

Melbourne City Council Matter. MCCV President Maurice Cauchi, Vice President Victor Borg, PRO Edwin Borg-Manche and Fr. Edwin Agius met with the barrister who is helping the MCCV in dealing with the issue that had been raised by the Melbourne City Council regarding noise levels from the Maltese Centre. The advice given by the barrister is that MCCV has a very good chance of proving that the premises have been used for the purpose of social events for the last 15 years. A sound engineer was brought in to have a look at the hall and advised on steps that should be taken to minimize noise levels. He has proposed that a sound machine be bought and installed to set noise levels to an acceptable decibel level that, when reached, the electricity to the amplifier would automatically cut off.

Bishop Joseph Grech Fund. Advertisements will be placed in the Leader newspaper of the Western suburbs as this means of advertising proved fruitful when used by the Maltese Language School. Other means need to be employed to make the Maltese community aware of the award of this scholarship. A meeting will be organised for the Bishop Joseph Grech Fund to discuss the above.

SBS Radio Petition. The MCCV has been able to obtain over 3,000 signatures for the SBS petition. The Maltese High Commissioner, Mr. Francis Tabone, had a meeting with SBS in Sydney. The Maltese community was to be advised of the outcome by end February but nothing further has been heard so far. Mandi Wicks from SBS had proposed a meeting with MCCV, Maltese Consul General and the High Commissioner to discuss the matter further. No meeting date has yet been set. Two letters received from two members of parliament who had made representations to SBS on behalf of the Maltese community had attached to them a response that the MPs had received from SBS which was virtually the same letter that the MCCV had received from SBS.

Federation of Maltese Living Abroad The FMLA committee has decided to extend membership to non-incorporated associations and this amendment to its constitution had been approved by the members of the federation. Individual membership is also allowed, but individual members in a region form a virtual organisation which is only entitled to one vote as a group. For more information one should visit the FMLA website which is maintained by Edwin Borg-Manché.

Migration Museum in Malta. Joe Stafrace, who is managing the fund raising, reported that he has managed to engage enough sponsors to cover the costs of 3 computer consoles and 85% on a fourth one. He is confident this will soon be 100% covered. The Council is grateful to Joe who has done a great job and is to be commended for it. As Joe Stafrace will be in Malta shortly, the Council requested that he present the cheques for these 4 computer consoles to Fr Vella and a photograph taken for the record.

Maltese Programs on Channel 31. Channel 31 has ceased the transmission of the Maltese program. On a motion proposed by Victor Borg and seconded by George Saliba the Council agreed that a letter be sent to Joe Montebello to thank him for his work in bringing a regular Maltese program from Malta for many years.

Maltese Language School. The Saturday Maltese Language School would like to know if they can use our premises at Sunshine for Maltese classes on a Friday night. As the premises are not being used at that time the premises will be made available to the School. There are 20 students enrolled for VCE this year. ❄

APRIL 2013

The following items were discussed at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3 April 2013:

Melbourne City Council Matter. Providing an update on this matter, Vice President Victor Borg said that the barrister engaged to assist us has now provided the MCCV with an opinion stating that we have a very strong case under "continuous rights" to hold social functions at the Maltese Centre in the evenings. Two statutory declarations have been prepared to be signed by Fr Tarcisio Micallef and Victor Borg confirming that such social functions have always been held at the Maltese Community Centre from the time it was built in the early 1980s. Mr Borg also referred to the sound level control solution recommended by the Sound Engineer to put the Hall on a separate circuit when installing a sound controlling machine. The Council agreed that more information should be obtained about the equipment that needs to be purchased so that the solution can be implemented without further delay.

Bishop Joseph Grech Fund. At the Fund's Committee meeting held earlier this evening it was decided that the Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship be advertised in the local Leader newspaper hoping that some young people will nominate. To raise funds for this scholarship a luncheon will be held at the Maltese Centre on Sunday 4 August. The Fund stands at about \$37,500.

MCCV Community Awards 2013. Affiliated associations and members of the MCCV Executive Committee were reminded that nominations for the MCCV Community Awards for 2013 must be forwarded to the MCCV Secretary by not later than 30 June 2013.

SBS Radio Petition. After several discussions with SBS and other parties involved in this matter, the Council is very optimistic that the number of Maltese radio programs will be more than two programs per week.

Malta Migration Museum. MCCV President Prof Maurice Cauchi said that this museum is now a reality and anyone visiting Malta is encouraged to go to see it at the Migrants Commission building in Valletta. Mr Joe Stafrace has worked very hard to obtain funds for 3 computer consoles for the museum. The Council recognizes his efforts and thanks him for his achievements. Joe Stafrace presented two cheques each for \$6,000 to cover the purchase of two consoles, one sponsored by the family of Joe Stafrace in honour of the Stafrace brothers who served in the war and later migrated to Australia, and the other by the Newport Maltese Association. The Council thanked the Stafrace family and the Newport Maltese Association for their generous sponsorship. Joe said he will continue with his efforts to find sponsors for the third console. A memorial plaque will be placed on each console. Joe Stafrace also thanked Edwin Borg-Manché for assisting him in the production of the sponsorship brochure.

New Executive Committee Member. At the start of the meeting MCCV President Prof Maurice Cauchi on behalf of the Council welcomed Joanne Ellul who has accepted to be seconded to the Executive Committee in the position as Assistant Secretary. She will be looking after the MCCV accounts while Paul Borg is away on holiday. ❄

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 or alternatively by post to:

The Editor—MCCV News, Maltese Community Council of Victoria
477 Royal Parade, PARKVILLE VIC 3052

Prominent Maltese Community Leader passes away

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria and the Maltese-Australian community mourn the sad loss of one of its prominent leaders, Anthony Bonnici AM, BA, LL.B (1930-2013), who passed away peacefully on 24 March 2013 after a long illness, aged 82 years.

On Thursday 11 April 2012 a public memorial service was held at St Paul's Chapel in Parkville to commemorate the memory of Tony Bonnici. Mass was concelebrated by Fr Edwin Agius mssp, Fr Dominic Degiorgio and Fr Carm Borg. Mr Chris Bonnici, the eldest son of Tony Bonnici, delivered a eulogy. He thanked the MCCV for holding the memorial service that was well attended.

Mr Victor Borg, MCCV Vice President, who had known Tony since their days as law students at Melbourne University, spoke about his friendship with Tony over many decades and Tony's great foresight and significant achievements for the Maltese community in Victoria and for the ethnic communities in Australia.

The gathering was led by the Consul General for Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud and MCCV President Professor Maurice Cauchi, and included members of Tony Bonnici's family, his widow, Mrs Bonnici, his sons Chris and Martin (his youngest son, Julian, was overseas) and his daughter Anthea, other members of the MCCV Executive Committee, Presidents and members of affiliated associations and former colleague members of the Victorian Bar. The service was followed by light refreshments at the Maltese Community Centre next door.

Profile

Tony, as he was known to his friends, had provided great leadership to the Maltese Australian community in Victoria. During his six years as MCCV President, Tony had established the organisation and structure of the community and formalised its processes and procedures to the benefit of the community.

Born on 2 December 1930, Tony arrived in Australia from Egypt as an 18-year-old in March 1949. He attended the Austral Coaching College,



Anthony Bonnici AM, BA, LL.B
Photo supplied by Martin Bonnici

and the Leederville Technical School in Perth, Western Australia, and later studied at the University of Melbourne, graduating in Arts in 1960. He joined the Education Department as a school teacher and completed departmental teacher-training.

In 1960 he was commissioned with the rank of pilot officer in the Royal Australian Air Force Reserve.

In 1961 Tony enrolled at the University of Melbourne Law School. Shortly thereafter he secured employment as a research assistant with the Board of Studies in Criminology at Melbourne University. In 1966 he graduated as Bachelor of Laws and was admitted to legal practice.

Tony's involvement in the Maltese community in Victoria included his role as President of the Phoenician Association (1967), President of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria (1968-1974), Chairman of the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) (1988-1989) and senior deputy chairman of the Federation of the Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA).

In 1981 Tony was appointed by the Fraser government to the Board of the Special Broadcasting Service. He remained a member of the Board until 1987.

In 1985 Tony was made a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia for service to the Maltese Community. A year later he received the Hellenic award for successfully spearheading the resistance of ethnic communities to the amalgamation of the Special Broadcasting Service with the Australian Broadcasting Commission (1986).

In 1987 Tony was appointed by the Hawke government to the Committee "to Advise on Australia's Immigration Policies" which included a visit to North America (Canada and the United States) to examine and report back to the Committee on those countries' immigration legislation and programs. He authored a number of publications relating to legal and migrant issues.

Tony was extremely proud of his Maltese background and made every effort to ensure that younger members of the community learned about their parents' culture and traditions.

Tony had also been involved with Radio ZZZ and supported the efforts of Dr Joe Abela, the first Maltese language broadcaster on Radio ZZZ and Radio 3EA.

While fighting his failing health, Tony continued to practice his profession as a barrister-at-law. He was the first barrister of Maltese background to be admitted and practice law at the Victorian Bar. He specialised in the areas of family law, immigration law and personal injuries. He was a formidable opponent in court and a great advocate for fairness and natural justice. He fought to ensure that those born overseas were not disadvantaged because of their ethnic background or limited knowledge of the English language.

He was an avid reader and enjoyed a good bottle of wine. He was idolised by his four children, Christopher, Anthea, Martin, and Julian, and will be sadly missed by all those who knew him.

Farewell and rest in peace, Tony! ☠

MHA Event — February 2013

The ANZACs and Malta

By Agnes Cauchi

At the MHA Event for February 2013 Malta's Consul General in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud, was the guest speaker on the little known topic of Malta's connection with the ANZACs. Mr. Charles Mifsud had first given this talk in November last year at the Shrine of Remembrance, St Kilda Road, Melbourne.

During the two world conflicts Malta gave its valued part in defeating the enemy. The connection between Malta and ANZACs is hardly ever observed. The connection started in the First World War during the Gallipoli Campaign in 1915 and continued right until the 1950s.

Malta, situated in the centre of the Mediterranean, has always held a strategic position. Malta was a British naval base because of its strategic position in the Mediterranean and the good dockyard facilities that it offered.

During the Gallipoli campaign in World War I, thousands of wounded British and ANZAC soldiers were taken to Malta to

recover. In fact, Malta was called the "Nurse of the Mediterranean". Some 250 ANZACs died in Malta and are buried there, mostly at the Pieta cemetery, which is only opened to the public by special permission on ANZAC day.

At first the wounded soldiers were taken to Egypt, but the hospitals filled quickly and they had to find another place. Malta was chosen, though the Island was unprepared for this. Schools were converted to serve as hospitals and camp hospitals were set up too. Between July and September of 1915, around 2000 soldiers were nursed in Malta.

During WW2, the ANZACs were also linked with Malta. Malta assisted the ANZACs of the 8th Army in North Africa. They left from Malta by air and sea towards Egypt to hamper the German convoys supplying the German army. Also, there were ANZAC pilots



MHA President Mrs Frances Bonnici thanking Mr Mifsud

and ships in Malta. They contributed to the defeat of the enemy on its attacks on Malta. It was an ANZAC who piloted the Sunderland which transported the George Cross medal to Malta.

Every year on ANZAC day, there is a service at the Pieta Cemetery. Among the distinguished guests, the Australian High Commissioner for Malta and the New Zealand counterpart preside over it. 

MHA Event — March 2013

The Sacred Music of Malta's National Composer Nicolò Isouard

By Agnes Cauchi

On Tuesday 12 March 2013 Frà Professor Richard Divall was guest speaker at the MHA Event held at the Maltese Centre, Parkville. The presentation consisted of two parts: the first part was about music in Malta under the Knights, with a special focus on the Maltese composer Nicolò Isouard. The second part consisted of a playback of the sound tracks of the televised concert of sacred music by Nicolò Isouard, performed at St John's co-cathedral in Valletta and conducted by Prof Divall.

Before the Knights came to Malta, there was already a music life in Mdina, especially in the cathedral of St Paul. However, the Knights brought a musical establishment to St Lawrence's church in Birgu (Vittoriosa). For 200 years, music composition flourished in Malta. Maltese priests were sent to Naples to study music, among them we find a certain Grixti and Balzan. Grand Master de Vilhena even built a baroque opera house five storey high. Some operas were performed there for the benefit of the Italian Knights who always favoured operas. Unfortunately, all music of that era is lost, except for some sacred music.

Nicolò Isouard (1773–1818) is considered to be a national composer of that era. He was born in Valletta of a French father and a Maltese mother. His father was a



Left: Nicolò Isouard.

Right: Frà Prof. Richard Divall

Below: The audience




revolutionary with strong French sympathies. The Isouards were also members of the Freemasons. The son took after his father and was also an agnostic. His father sent him to France to study music. Then he was sent to a military college. Meanwhile, the French Revolution intervened and Nicolò was sent back to Malta. From there, he went to Palermo to study music under well-known composers.

What was he like? By all accounts Isouard was charming, good-looking and very credible. He always believed in himself. He wrote numerous operas and sacred music.

There are six or seven operas which everyone knows about in Paris. He offered 37 compositions to the Grand Master of the time. He was well-liked.

Isouard made friends with the French when they arrived on the Island. When the French were banished from the Island, Nicolò tried to escape to France on a French ship which was captured by the British. Luckily for Nicolò, he was simply sent back to Malta.

His sacred music survived. Dun Gwann Azzopardi, the curator of the museum in Mdina, has collected his works and he wrote a book in Maltese. 

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



By Rita Ellul

Generation AusMalts (GAM), in partnership with the MCCV, is working to promote an appreciation of Maltese heritage and culture in Australian-Maltese youth (5 – 25 years). We are taking small steps, but even small steps will eventually reach their destination.

It has been great to watch the activity steadily grow on the GAM Facebook page. Posting of images of Malta often results in comments and 'Likes'. It's a great way to get young people talking about Malta and Maltese culture, and perhaps provoke their curiosity and inspiration to find out more about their heritage.

GAM is currently planning its activities for 2013. Coming up over the next few months will be:

- A series of cooking classes for children (July)
- Children's literature celebration (August)
- Annual Children's Christmas Party (December).

Further details about these activities will be in the next MCCV newsletter.



Nisga Cook-Off

If you have a Maltese culinary interest, love cooking with your family, or just like Maltese food (and who doesn't?), tell us about on the AusMalts Facebook page.

Better still, get a family team together and enter the 2013 Nisga Cook-Off. The date for this year's Cook-Off is **Sunday, 13 September 2013**.

In 2012 this event was won by the *Generation AusMalts* team, led by Rita Catania. We are looking for a new AusMalts team to take us to a back-to-back win!

So start practising your *pulpetti* and stirring that *stuffat* with your mum, your *nanna* (grandma), your *zija* or your *tifel* (son) or *tifla* (daughter)!

Register your team at Nisga:
<http://nisga.org/page/2/>



Merhba Exhibition

GAMmers might also be interested in an exhibition to celebrate the Maltese culture being developed by Hobson's Bay City Council.

The exhibition, to be called *Merhba*, will include:

- A photography wall made up of photos taken by local community members and which highlight the Maltese heritage of immigrants who settled in the Hobson's Bay area
- Live story telling sessions.

There will also be a large map of Malta on display and visitors to the exhibition are invited to mark the Maltese village of their heritage.

Merhba Exhibition will run from **14 to 28 June 2013** at:

Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre
5 Sargood Street, Altona.

The launch of the exhibition will take place on **Friday, 14 June from 6pm**. (RSVP to attend the launch by **Thursday, June 13** by contacting the Hobson's Bay City Council Arts and Culture Unit on **9932 2001**). ☒

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

Facebook:
www.Facebook.com/GenerationAusMalts

Twitter:
Twitter.com/@GenAusMalts

Email:
generationausmalts@gmail.com



Participants at the 2012 Nisga Cook-Off

Landslide victory for Labour in Malta's General Elections

After serving for the past 15 years in opposition, the Labour Party won a landslide general election victory in the General Elections held in Malta on 9 March 2013, sweeping to power with 55% of primary votes (170,642 votes) and a margin of 37,163 votes, the largest obtained by a party in Malta's post-independence history. The Nationalist Party won 43% (133,479 votes). The third party, Alternattiva Demokratika (AD), won 1.8% (5,573) but none of their candidates will be elected.

Labour won a parliamentary majority of nine seats, the biggest since 1955. Current predictions are that the new Labour government will have 39 seats in parliament to the opposition's 30, after a proportionality adjustment of two additional seats for the PN.

The election result became clear the morning following the voting. In the counting hall at Naxxar there were euphoric scenes of Labour party agents hugging each other with tears in their eyes. Fireworks were let off in some localities. The election results confirmed what the pre-election polls has been clearly indicating, a comfortable Labour victory.

Dr Lawrence Gonzi conceded defeat after the first sample of votes as the sorting of ballot papers started. He telephoned Joseph Muscat to congratulate him.

The new Prime Minister, Dr Joseph Muscat, said he was 'humbled' by the result but promised to work with the Opposition and give the people Malta for all the Maltese. A large crowd of Labour Party supporters assembled outside Labour headquarters in Mile End, Hamrun, beeping their horns and waving party and Maltese flags.

Governing for all Maltese

Dr Muscat made his long-awaited appearance on the balcony of Labour headquarters yesterday afternoon to acknowledge the applause and cheers of thousands of people gathered at the Mile End in Hamrun. Introduced as Malta's prime minister, Dr Muscat said Labour was elected as a movement, and would govern as a movement.

"The sun has not risen for half of Malta, but for Malta as a whole, both for those who voted for change as well as our fellow Maltese who did not," he said.

"This was not a Malta for the victors, but Malta Tagħna Lkoll (Malta is for all of us), he said to applause. This was the strongest mandate given by the people to a government since independence. It was a mandate which was so strong that it humbled him," said Dr Muscat.

"The people have loaned us their trust to represent them all and that is what we will



Dr Joseph Muscat

Malta's new Prime Minister

do." He promised that he would work as hard as he could for no one to feel a stranger in his own country. "We will show that we believed what we campaigned for," he said.

He urged his listeners to help ensure that this was a government which would not cut itself off from the people. He expressed particular gratitude to young people for having been protagonists, not spectators. "Now extend the arm of friendship for everyone," he stressed to cheering.

PN Leader to step down

Nationalist Party leader outgoing Prime Minister, Dr Lawrence Gonzi, announced that he assumed complete and total responsibility for the general election defeat and will be stepping down from the party leadership. He confirmed that he would not be a candidate when the party held the election of its leader and deputy leader as it was required to do in terms of its statute after a general election.

He also told a press conference yesterday that the party accepted the people's verdict. "I shoulder total and complete responsibility for what has happened," Dr Gonzi said.

Dr Gonzi said he was not completely surprised by the extent of the election defeat, but it had been difficult to make a complete assessment because of the large number of undecided voters.

"I promise that my colleagues and myself will continue to serve the people and their country. This country had potential and can overcome its challenges. We will continue to work for the country's progress, this time from the Opposition. We will serve with honesty and loyalty," Dr Gonzi said.

Dr Gonzi congratulated the Labour Party and its leader Joseph Muscat on their victory. "He is now the prime minister, and he deserves respect and recognition as the person who has to lead the country in the challenges which it faces. The burden is a heavy one," he said.

Dr Gonzi said he had no doubt that the PN would contribute its share for the country to continue to move forward and to create jobs. He thanked all those who had worked with the government as well as those who had worked in the Nationalist Party.

He thanked all those who had voted for the PN and said his message was one of courage. "Stay positive, continue believing in the country which can overcome the rough weather which engulfed other countries. The PN will need to re-examine itself, re-establish its roots and renew itself," he said.

He said he would not participate in the process for the election of a new leader of the party but would do his part to ensure that the party was modernised.

Historical perspective of electoral win

The massive margin of 36,475 votes obtained by Labour in Saturday's election was the largest obtained by a party in Malta's post-independence history. The margins between the political parties have varied substantially, particularly in recent elections.

The Labour Party's biggest victory was in 1945 when it won 76.2 percent of the vote, but that was an unusual contest, with the PN and the Constitutional Party having refused to take part, insisting that Malta should first be given a new constitution. That was the general election which saw Dom Mintoff elected for the first time.

The second best electoral result for the Labour Party was in 1947 with 59.9% of the vote (compared to 18% for the PN, its worse result, conditioned by the post-war situation). The difference between the parties was 44,104 votes.

The PN did best in 1932 when it won 59.8% of the vote after a general election which was delayed by constitutional upheaval.

Closest Results

The closest general election result was in 2008 when the PN got 49.34% and the MLP got 48.79%, meaning that no party got an absolute majority. It was also close in 1981, with the PN winning 50.91% to Labour's 49.07%.

The PN had a five-seat parliamentary majority after the 1998 and 2003 general elections (35 to 30), the biggest since 1966 when the PN had 28 seats to Labour's 22 when the Chamber had 50 seats. The difference varied after previous elections but in those cases more than two parties made it to parliament. ✖

New Labour Cabinet appointed in Malta

On Wednesday 13 March 2013 the members of new Cabinet were sworn in at a ceremony held at the Palace in Valletta presided over by President Dr George Abela, with Prime Minister Dr Joseph Muscat, the Chief Justice Dr Silvio Camilleri and the Attorney General Dr Peter Grech in attendance. The guests included the families of the new ministers and parliamentary secretaries.

The Cabinet is composed of the Prime Minister and fourteen Ministers as follows:

Joseph Muscat - *Prime Minister* — Responsible for Cabinet Office, Internal Audit and Investigations, Public Administration, Strategic Policy Coordination, Management Efficiency Unit, Information, Planning, Policy and Priorities Coordination, Malta Environment and Planning Authority, Government Printing Press, Lands, Land Registry, Joint Office

Louis Grech - *Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of European Affairs* — Responsible for relations with the European Union EU Internal Coordination, EU Presidency 2017, EU Funds and Programmes

George Vella - *Minister of Foreign Affairs* — Responsible for relations with Foreign and Commonwealth Countries, Relations with International Organisations and Institutions, International Economic Relations, Maltese Communities Abroad

Karmenu Vella - *Minister of Tourism* — Responsible for Tourism, Tourism Studies, Cultural Heritage, Restoration, External Transport, Airport, National Library, National Archives, Culture and the Arts, National Orchestra, Theatres, Valletta 2018 Local Government

Evarist Bartolo - *Minister of Education and Employment* — Responsible for Childcare and Early Education, Compulsory Education, Higher Education (including MCAST), Life-long Learning, Examinations, Public Libraries, Employment and Training, Research and Innovation, Centre for Development, Research and Training, Science and Technology Policy, Youth, Sport and Sport complexes.

Leo Brincat - *Minister for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change* — Responsible for Climate Change Policy, Environmental Policy, Waste Management Strategy, National Parks, Afforestation and the Countryside, Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries, Aquaculture, Animal Welfare Veterinary Services

Joe Mizzi - *Minister of Transport and the Infrastructure* — Responsible for Manufacturing and Servicing, Construction and Maintenance, Oil Exploration, Cleansing, Coordination of Major Government Projects, Internal Transport,



The new Labour Cabinet meeting at the Auberge de Castille, Valletta

Photo - DOI - Pierre Sammut

Roads, Coordination of Road building, maintenance and landscaping.

Anton Refalo - *Minister for Gozo* Responsible for Gozo Affairs (excluding Health services and Education)

Helena Dalli - *Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties* — Responsible for Social Dialogue, Civil Liberties, Equality, Data Protection, Non-Governmental and Voluntary Organisations, Competition and Consumer Affairs, Medicines Authority, Industrial and Employment Relations.

Chris Cardona - *Minister for the Economy, Investment and Small Business* — Responsible for Economic Policy, External Trade, industry and investment promotion Government Investments, Small Business and the Self-Employed, Cooperatives, Trade Services Ports, Maritime Affairs, Promotion of Financial Services, Information and Communication Strategy, Digital Economy

Marie-Louise Coleiro - *Minister of the Family and Social Solidarity* — Responsible for Social Policy, Family Policy, Child Policy, Social Housing, Social Security, Pensions Solidarity Services, Policy concerning Persons with Disability, Elderly, Community Care

Emmanuel Mallia - *Minister of Home Affairs and National Security* — Responsible for Defence, Armed Forces, Police, Immigration, Airport Security, Correctional Services, Probation and Parole, Civil Protection, Citizenship and Expatriate Affairs, Central Visa Unit, National Identity Management, Courts of Justice, Attorney General's Office, Notary to Government, Broadcasting, Public Broadcasting Services

Edward Scicluna - *Minister of Finance* — Responsible for Budget Office, The Treasury, Inland Revenue, Indirect Taxation, Customs and Excise, Contracts, Financial Services Regulation, Malta Statistics Authority, Relations with Central Bank

Konrad Mizzi - *Minister for Energy and Water Conservation* — Responsible for Development of Alternative Energy Sources, Energy Policy, Malta Resources Authority, Enemalta Corporation, Water Policy, Water Services Corporation

Godfrey Farrugia - *Minister of Health* — Responsible for Health Services Regulation and Standards, Health Services, Occupational Health and Safety

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

The following eight parliamentary secretaries were also sworn in and will work under the various ministers.

Michael Farrugia, Parliamentary Secretary for Planning and Administrative simplification within the Office of the Prime Minister.

Ian Borg, Parliamentary Secretary for EU Funds and 2017 EU Presidency within the Ministry for EU Affairs.

Josè Herrera, Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government and Culture within the Ministry of Tourism.

Stefan Buontempo, Parliamentary Secretary for Research, Innovation, Youth and Sport within the Ministry for Education and Employment.

Roderick Galdes, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights within the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change.

Edward Zammit Lewis, Parliamentary Secretary for Competitiveness and Economic Growth within the Ministry for the Economy, Investment and Small Business.

Franco Mercieca, Parliamentary Secretary for Active Ageing and Disability Rights within the Ministry for Family and Social Solidarity.

Owen Bonnici, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice within the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. 

Government promises new chapter in Malta's political history

The 12th legislature since Independence opened on Saturday 6 April 2013 in Valletta, with the government promising in the President's 'Speech from the Throne' that it will usher in a new chapter in Malta's political history.

The ceremony started with Mass of the Holy Spirit at St John's Co-Cathedral. The MPs then walked to the Palace, applauded by people who stood behind police barriers in Republic Street.

Mass of the Holy Spirit

The ceremony started with a Mass of the Holy Spirit, led by Archbishop Mgr Paul Cremona. Those present included the outgoing Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dr Michael Frendo. The two parties were led by their respective leaders, Prime Minister Dr Joseph Muscat and Opposition Leader Dr Lawrence Gonzi.

In his homily Mgr Cremona said that Parliament should serve for the MPs to lead and administer the country to the best of their abilities, knowing that as human beings they can commit mistakes. Who leads needs a bigger dose of love towards others than those who are at the receiving end of their leadership, Mgr Cremona said.

Forgiveness is a great value, he added, and without it people will be hindered from fulfilling their functions to the best of their abilities. He drew a comparison between the washing of the feet on Maundy Thursday, by which one is of service to others. Politicians must also respect and be of service to the people they represent.

Election of Speaker

At the start of the inaugural parliamentary session, Dr Anglu Farrugia was sworn in as Speaker of the House of Representatives following a motion moved in the new Parliament by Prime Minister Joseph Muscat.

Lawrence Gonzi strongly objected to the motion and the appointment was made after a division, with 39 votes in favour and 30 against. In his speech, Dr Gonzi said the Opposition objected to the appointment, saying this was a mistaken decision about which the Opposition had not been consulted and something which sowed division.

Dr Gonzi said this country needed unity, not division in such important times. He said the Opposition was reiterating that it would be constructive and it would cooperate with the government for job creation, sound finances and better quality of life for the people.

The Opposition's actions in parliament would be based on what it believed to be in the interests of the country. He said the Opposition had collaborated with the government over the past days such as in changes of protocol on Freedom Day and the parliamentary programme. It had agreed to nominate a deputy speaker after the then opposition refused in the past three years.



President Dr George Abela reading the speech with Speaker Dr Farrugia in the background

But the government was not reciprocating. It appeared to want to tease and even challenge the opposition, as was the case with the appointment of the coordinator of the Constitutional Convention, a pity since the Opposition had had a lot to offer in this sector.

The government had also not consulted the Opposition in the appointment of the Speaker. This was in sharp contrast to what happened in the past. The former government had offered the Speaker's chair to the Labour opposition. He as prime minister had also always sought consensus on all constitutional appointments.

The present government consulted the social partners on the chairmanship of the MCESD, the majority objected, and it steam rolled over them. With regard to parliament, the prime minister did not even have the courtesy of consulting him.

Dr Gonzi insisted that in view of its big majority, the Speaker should have been appointed from within the government majority. The constitution itself spoke of how the first preference in the appointment of the Speaker should be to appoint the Speaker from the government. Such an appointment should not have been used by the prime minister to make friends with the person whom he had 'politically assassinated' - to use Dr Farrugia's own words.

Dr Gonzi said the Opposition would continue to respect the Chair because Dr Farrugia was not to blame for what was happening.

Replying, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said the message sent by the people on March 9 had not been heard by the Opposition. He had expected disagreement, but he had expected a more positive start to the legislature. The Opposition had spoken like the end of the world was near.

The government remained ready to work with the Opposition. Labour was elected on the slogan 'Malta Tagħna Lkoll' ('Malta belongs to all of us') and he hoped the Opposition would let its members join government institutions so that they could work in the national interests.

Following the election of the speaker, the Prime Minister moved the appointment of Nationalist MP Mr Censu Galea as Deputy Speaker. The motion was seconded by the Leader of the Opposition.

The new speaker then presided over the swearing in of the Members of Parliament.

President's Speech

The government's programme was outlined in a 24-page speech read by President Dr George Abela that was to spark considerable controversy, with the Opposition claiming that the tone and wording of the speech was highly insulting to them and to the Office of President. The address was mostly a reproduction of the governing party's electoral programme.

In the days following the event, suggestions were made by the President that a change in process ought to be considered so that the speech is read out by the Prime Minister rather than the President to avoid similar embarrassing situations that may demean the Office of President.

In the speech, the government said the time of pique, partisan politics and arrogance in the government and all levels of the administration must become a thing of the past. It also promised to keep in constant touch with the ordinary people and to work in serenity for the country's progress.

Malta had also fallen back on its alternative energy targets because they were based on a wind farms project which had also fallen back considerably and might not even be viable, the government added. It would therefore invite the private sector to partner it in an aggressive investment in solar energy, while studies into wind energy would continue.

The President said the government wanted to see the highest standards of public administration and it wanted to see new public confidence in politics and politicians. Ministerial pay would be reviewed by independent persons and any change would come into force in the next legislature.

The enactment of a Whistleblower Act and a law to oversee party funding would be priorities. With regard to civil liberties, the government said a bill to allow marriage for people who changed their gender would be moved shortly. The government would also move legislation on cohabitation and civil unions between people of the same gender.

Concluding his speech, Dr Abela said that this was a government that was committed to writing a new page in Malta's political history. It would extend a hand of friendship to everyone and it would remain committed to the promises it made before the election. ❖

Resignation request made to CMLA members withdrawn

In an [interview](#) on the Maltese program on SBS Radio broadcast on Thursday 28 March 2013 new Foreign Minister, Dr George Vella (right), confirmed that there was a misunderstanding when the request for resignation was made last week to members of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA). Dr Vella said that they were appointed according to law for three years and their appointment was not a political one. The members were selected from Maltese communities around the world and they were also made by the former government with the consensus of the then Labour opposition.

CMLA members were formally advised on Friday 19 April 2013 that the request for the submission of resignations has been withdrawn.

Last month the Government had requested the members of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad to submit their resignation. The Secretary of the Council, Ms Doris Zammit, had informed the members by email that this request was being made pursuant to the issuing of a circular requiring members of all boards to resign without affecting the boards' continued operation, until the relevant Minister makes a decision on their composition. This was in line with usual practice of reviewing political appointments when there is a change of government.

However, Minister Vella clarified that someone, probably by oversight, requested the resignation of the Council members. He said that the Office of the Prime Minister has sought the advice of the Attorney General's Office, on the basis of that advice he has recommended that the request for resignations be withdrawn so that the members will continue to serve on the Council for their 3-year term of appointment.

Asked whether the Labour government has different priorities as far as the Maltese living abroad are concerned, Minister Vella said that, when he had his first meeting with the ambassadors to give them a briefing on how the government intends to proceed in foreign affairs, he stressed that there will be continuity with the foreign policy of the previous government. He said that the Labour government wants to build on what had been done by the previous government, bearing in mind that most of this had been done with consensus with the Labour opposition, now in government.

As regards the Maltese living abroad, the Minister said that he is proud that he had been instrumental early in the piece, as can be witnessed by Mr Victor Borg, when the Minister had suggested to him in the late 90s that a conference on a large scale should be



organised for the start of the new millennium. Dr Vella said that conferences took place in 2000 and 2010, and as most of what was agreed at the 2000 convention was not acted upon during the period between the two conventions, lately there has been a push for things to happen. There has been a very strong consensus between the former government and the then opposition, which led to the passing of the legislation setting up the Council for Maltese Living Abroad with unanimous support in parliament.

Minister Vella said that the functions of the Council are many. While the way the Council was designed cannot be said to be the most ideal because to find a way that ensures proportional representation of all Maltese abroad is difficult, the Maltese in Australia are well represented on the Council in terms of both numbers and the people representing them.

Minister Vella said that there will be no changes as far as the Council for Maltese Living Abroad is concerned. He has just had a briefing by the Council's Secretary on the Council's work so far. He said that several proposals and suggestions have been made, giving a sense that there is life in the Council. Dr Vella said that this Council is here to stay and has its own importance. Certain things can be improved and he expects that Council members will react by providing their feedback and suggestions.

Dr Vella referred to the issue of establishing a Maltese Cultural Institute, which will have a presence around the world. There are several ideas coming in about this Institute and we need to find a way on how it would work and be funded.

Minister Vella said that the objective is to send a message to the Maltese diaspora around the world that they are still "Maltese like us" and have a close affinity of their country of origin. The Maltese living in Malta are constantly thinking of them and want them to be involved when the government makes several decisions that may directly or indirectly affect them. This is the idea behind the establishment of the Council. He said that he will be doing his best to meet the expectations that were set when the Council was established. ✂

Inquiry into Migration and Multiculturalism in Australia

On Monday, 18 March 2013, the Joint Standing Committee on Migration of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia tabled its report on the inquiry into Multiculturalism in Australia entitled [Inquiry into Migration and Multiculturalism in Australia](#).

Chapter 2 of the Report provides a brief history of the migration to Australia, resulting in the cultural diversity that currently exists. Australia is now "one of the world's top three culturally diverse nations. When Australians with one or both parents born overseas are included nearly 45 per cent of the population has a close overseas connection." It also states that "Today, over 260 languages are spoken in Australia, by people of 270 different ancestries".

In 1978, the Galbally Report was published, which was the first national policy on multiculturalism in Australia. The key principles of this report emphasized the right to equal opportunity, the right to retain one's culture, and the right for migrants to expect special services to be provided in the first instance.

Re citizenship, "Australia now has one of the highest take up rates of citizenship among Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, with nearly 80 per cent of the Australian population being citizens".

The migration program includes persons from all over the world. The top countries from which migrants have come to Australia over the past year were India (29,018), China (25,509), UK (25,274) and Philippines (12,933).

A new multicultural policy, The People of Australia, was launched in February 2011 by the then Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, the Hon Chris Bowen, based on four principles:

- It celebrates and values the benefits of cultural diversity
- It gives a commitment to a just, inclusive and socially cohesive society
- It welcomes the economic, trade and investment benefits which arise from the resulting multicultural nation
- It promotes understanding and acceptance, while rejecting intolerance and discrimination.

Among key initiatives announced are the establishment of a new Australian Multicultural Council (AMC), to oversee and monitor policy implementation; the strengthening of the Government's Access and Equity Strategy; the establishment of a new National Anti-Racism Partnerships and Strategy between key Government agencies; and prioritisation of Multicultural Arts and Festivals grants funding. ✂

Tnedija ta' ktejjeb fuq il-hajja ta' Dr Joe Abela

Minn Paul Vella

Nhar il-Hadd, 24 ta' Marzu 2013, il-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria, organizza t-tnedija ta' ktejjeb fuq il-hajja ta' Dr Joe Abela, kitba tas-Sur Joe Axiaq. Dan inżamm fis-sala taċ-Ċentru Malti ta' Parkville.

Kien programm sabih hafna imżewwaq b'tifkiriet minn dawk li kienu jafuh, poeziji tiegħu, li hafna minnhom instema' jaqrahom hu stess u affarijiet oħra.

Is-Segretarja tal-Grupp, is-Sinjura Rosemary Attard, li mexxiet il-programm, tat merħba lil dawk kollha li kienu preżenti u qalet fi x'kien se jikkonsisti l-programm. Għall-ewwel hija għamlet apologija mill-President, Dr Victor Sammut, li ma setax jattendi minhabba li kellu xi attività tal-familja u wara ntroduċiet lis-Sur Joe Axiaq, l-awtur tal-ktieb, li kien l-ewwel kelliemi.

Is-Sur Axiaq tkellem fuq Dr Joe Abela u l-hajja u l-karriera tiegħu. Is-Sur Axiaq beda biex qal li fil-15 ta' Marzu, Dr Abela għalaq 22 sena mejjet. Huwa qal li madwar sena u nofs ilu beda jikteb artiklu fuq Dr Abela li għall-ewwel haseb li se tkun kitba qasira u mhux se tkun daqshekk dettaljata. Kien Prof. Maurice Cauchi li tkellem ma' Joe Axiaq u qallu li tkun haġa tajba jekk dak li kiteb jingabar fi ktejjeb għaliex b'hekk dak li kiteb żgur li jibqa' miżmum. Prof. Cauchi ha hsieb li jirrangħ għall-pubblikazzjoni filwaqt li l-Grupp Letteratura Maltija ha hsieb l-ispejjeż biex gie stampat. Is-Sur Axiaq qal li huwa għadu sejjer biex jikteb fuq Dr Abela b'aktar dettal u



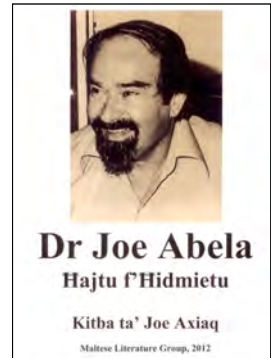
Joe Axiaq, l-awtur tal-ktieb



Prof. Maurice Cauchi

jittama li aktar 'il quddiem forsi jkun hemm pubblikazzjoni oħra aktar dettaljata. Huwa talab jekk hemm xi hadd li kien midhla ta' Dr Abela, u forsi għandhom xi dokumenti li forsi hadd ma sema' bihom, jgħadduomlu biex ikun jista' jinkludihom fil-ktieb u wara jerġa' jagħtihomlhom.

Wara tkellmet is-Sinjura Marie Louise Anastasi, Viċi-President tal-Grupp, fejn tkellmet fuq is-snin 70, meta gie ffurmat il-Grupp għalkemm qabel ma gie magħruf formalment. Tkellmet fuq meta semgħet għall-ewwel darba l-vuċi ta' Dr Abela, li kien l-ewwel xandar ta' programmi Maltin fuq ir-radju komunitarju 3ZZ. Tiftakar sewwa meta kienet qed iddawwar id-dial tar-radju biex issib il-programm tas-soltu u ssahret x'hin semgħet lil Dr Abela jgħid bil-Malti: "Dan hu Guze' Abela jistidinkom għal xandira bil-Malti". Hija qalet li kienet għamlet kuntatt miegħu u offriet is-servizzi tagħha. Marie Louise spiccat billi qrat poezija ta' Dr Abela, "Lix-Xemx Niezla".



Wara li Paul Vella semma' lil dawk preżenti poezija ta' Dr Abela mill-vuċi tiegħu stess, "X'qed tagħmel bħalissa", kien imiss lis-Sur Manuel Casha li tkellem fuq l-esperjenza tiegħu ma' Dr Joe Abela. Huwa beda biex qal li waqt li Dr Abela kien qiegħed jipprepara wieħed mill-ewwel programmi bil-Malti fuq 3EA fl-1975, Manuel kien urieh poezija li kien għadu kemm kiteb u Dr Abela qallu biex jagħmilha fuq il-programm u jaqraha Dr Abela stess imma talab lil Manuel biex jagħmillu ftit kordi tal-kitarra fl-isfond. Din il-poezija, "Il-Mewg" giet ipprezentata wkoll waqt id-diskors ta' Manuel Casha, li kienet mill-vuċi tal-istess Dr Abela. Manuel qal li wara dan l-esperiment gie mitlub minnu biex jirrekordja aktar poeziji ta' Dr Abela bil-mużika ta' Manuel Casha fl-isfond. Wara li Manuel spicca d-diskors tiegħu, smajna żewġ poeziji oħra mill-vuċi ta' Dr Abela: "Mumentu" u "Lill-Gamiema".

Għal aktar tagħrif dwar dan il-ktiejeb, ċemplu lis-Segretarja tal-Grupp Letteratura Maltija, Rosemary Attard (03) 9338-3920. ✉

Reskeon Maltese Association member activities

By Paul Vella

Trip to Mornington Beach

On Sunday, 24th February, a group of 40 members and friends of Reskeon Maltese Association enjoyed a trip to Mornington Beach.

The coach left the car park of St. Joseph the Worker Church, in North Reservoir and headed for Mornington, travelling through the new freeways. The trip took just over one and a quarter hours.

On arrival, Coach Captain, Terry, organised free tea and coffee and biscuits for the members. As always, members brought a lot of goodies with them to share around.

After this, members went for a walk down to the beach. Being a nice warm 32 degree day, some even had a swim in the lovely sandy beach. However, though the weather forecast included storms in the afternoon, the storms never happened.

For lunch, members went to different pubs or eateries along the main strip of shops. After more walks to the beach or to the shops, members boarded the coach around 3.30 pm arriving home at 5 pm.

All members enjoyed this day out. We would like to thank Coach Captain, Terry, for the way he looked after us. ✉



Above: Mornington bus trip.

Below: Seniors' BBQ.



Reskeon Seniors BBQ

Reskeon Seniors Group organised a barbecue for all members on Thursday, 21st March, at the park of Edwardes Lake, Reservoir. This was attended by about 100 members.

We were always lucky on our last events when we had good weather on the day. On this All week had good warm days but for Thursday the forecast was rain, strong wind and thunderstorms. Although few members were worried about this, almost all of them turned up.

Members of the committee were at the park at around 9.30 am to prepare a few things and as the weather looked promising in the morning, cooking started at around 10.45 am. we had a lot of members helping on the barbecues and cooking was done in a very short time.

By 12 noon all members arrived and food started to be served. Members were served with two sausages and a steak, salads and bread. Red and white wine and soft drinks were served with the meal and everyone was invited to help themselves. Seconds were offered after all members were served with their meals. Later on dessert was served consisting fresh fruit. ✉

**Community Events Calendar**

For up-to-date and more detailed information, **click event link below**
or visit our website at www.mccv.org.au

Date	Title	Venue	Suburb
Sat 27 Apr 12.30 pm - 4.00 pm	<u>Celebration of Maltese heritage in the City of Melton</u>	<u>Rockbank Community Hall</u>	Rockbank
Sun 28 Apr	<u>Mother's Day Dinner - Newport Maltese Seniors Group</u>	<u>Melrose Receptions</u>	Tullamarine
Sun 28 Apr 12.00 pm	<u>Mother's Day Lunch - San Gejtanu Society Inc.</u>	<u>St Martin de Porres Church</u>	Avondale Heights
Wed 01 May 7.00 pm	<u>MCCV Council Meeting</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
Sat 04 May 6.00 pm - 12.00 am	<u>Feast of the Cross/Mothers Day function - St Helena Maltese Australian Social Club Inc.</u>	<u>Melrose Receptions</u>	Tullamarine
Sun 05 May 12.30 pm	<u>Feast of St George Preca 2013 - Pilgrimage to Monument - Society of Christian Doctrine (MUSEUM)</u>	<u>St Patrick's Cathedral</u>	East Melbourne
Wed 08 May 6.30 pm	<u>Mother's Day Dinner - Maltese Language Teachers Association Fund Raiser Event</u>	<u>Galli Estate Restaurant</u>	Plumpton
Wed 08 May 7.30 pm	<u>Feast of St George Preca 2013 - Maurice Mifsud Memorial Mission (MUSEUM)</u>	<u>Society of Christian Doctrine - Preca Centre</u>	Sunshine North
Sat 11 May 10.00 am - 3.00 pm	<u>Feast of St George Preca 2013 - Eucharist Adoration (MUSEUM)</u>	<u>Society of Christian Doctrine - Preca Centre</u>	Sunshine North
Sat 11 May 6.30 pm - 11.30 pm	<u>Mother's Day Eve Dance - Our Lady of Grace Assn Vic.</u>	<u>St Mary MacKillop Church</u>	Keilor Downs
Sun 12 May 6.00 pm	<u>Feast of St George Preca 2013 - Mass (MUSEUM)</u>	<u>St Paul's Chapel</u>	Parkville
Sun 19 May 2.30 pm	<u>Members Meeting - San Gejtanu Society Inc.</u>	<u>St Martin de Porres Church</u>	Avondale Heights
Sun 26 May 2.00 pm	<u>Get Together - Reskeon Maltese Association</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
Wed 29 May	<u>MCCV Executive Committee Meeting</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
Thu 30 May 10.30 am - 11.30 am	<u>Your Brain Matters: A Guide to Healthy Hearts & Minds</u>	<u>MCCV Sunshine Office</u>	Sunshine
Wed 05 Jun 7.00 pm	<u>MCCV Council Meeting</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
Sat 08 Jun	<u>Activity Fun Night - Newport Maltese Seniors Group</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
Sun 09 Jun	<u>Pokie Trip to NSW - San Gejtanu Society nc.</u>	-	-
Fri 14 Jun - Fri 28 Jun	<u>Exhibition Celebrating Maltese Culture - Hobsons Bay City Council</u>	<u>Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre</u>	Altona
Tue 18 Jun 10.30 am - 11.30 am	<u>Your Brain Matters: A Guide to Healthy Hearts & Minds</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville
Mon 24 Jun 10.00 am - 12.00 pm	<u>Fair Go For Pensioners Coalition - Annual Affiliates Meeting</u>	<u>AMWU</u>	Carlton South
Wed 26 Jun	<u>MCCV Executive Committee Meeting</u>	<u>Maltese Centre</u>	Parkville