



MCCV News

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Melbourne Maltese community farewells Malta's High Commissioner

On Monday 10 June the Maltese Community Council of Victoria held a Farewell Reception at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville in honour of His Excellency Mr Francis Tabone, Malta's High Commissioner in Australia, whose six-and-a-half year tenure comes to an end on 30 June.



From left: MC George Saliba, MCCV President Prof Cauchi, High Commissioner Mr Tabone and Consul General Mr Mifsud

MCCV President Professor Maurice Cauchi said that the MCCV has always worked very smoothly with Mr Tabone as Malta's High Commissioner in Canberra. Mr Tabone was always very keen to promote issues that affect the Maltese community, and has always been at the forefront in ensuring that Maltese in Australia are not short-changed. He gave as an example the recent issue with SBS Radio in which Mr Tabone was at the forefront, working with persons in Authority, without much fanfare, but with enormous zeal and played an important role in getting back two more Maltese language programs than originally allocated in the revised schedule. Prof Cauchi also thanked Mr Tabone for his role in persuading SBS TV to introducing a second news program in Maltese on Thursdays.

In his reply, Mr Tabone thanked the MCCV for the farewell function and the members of the Maltese community for honouring him with their presence. "Every beginning has its own end," said Mr Tabone. It was time for him to pass on his responsibilities to his successor. He said he

was glad to have been lucky to have had the opportunity to spend almost seven years of life as an emigrant, with its times of satisfaction and others of sorrows that the decisions we take in life bring with them.

Mr Tabone said that he was satisfied that the reputation of the Maltese and the

Gozitans in Australia is one of hardworking people, good people who care about their families. Their achievements were made possible thanks to the values that they brought with them and lived in their daily life, values that identify us as Maltese.

"You treasured everything that is Maltese, religion, culture and traditions. Somehow, we need to pass these down to our children, and they to their children. When you appreciate all this, that things did not happen by chance," said Mr Tabone.

Mr Tabone said that the legislation that granted dual citizenship to our children was probably one of the best decisions that were taken for their benefit. Maltese citizenship brings with it the benefits of also automatically being citizens of the European Union.



MCCV Vice President Mr Victor Borg making a presentation to High Commissioner Mr Tabone

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The President's Column

Farewell to H.E. Francis Tabone Malta's High Commissioner

Those pioneers who arrived in their thousands in the immediate post-war period will tell us about the miserable state of affairs that was Australia. They tell us of the primitive conditions they met, the unmade roads, the overcrowding, often staying in unsanitary accommodation, sharing space, Sharing even beds to save money to send home. They tell us of the poor reception they had, when racism was rife, and one was afraid of even of talking loudly in Maltese lest someone abused them with a derogatory remark. They tell us of the isolation when families were split, with male workers leaving their family behind in Malta in order to first sort out some sort of life here.

But all that has passed now. There has been a veritable revolution in the way of life in Australia. Cities here have become some of the most-liveable in the world. Much more importantly, we have seen our children grow into respectable members of society, occupying posts which we could only dream of when we first arrived here. That was the main reason for leaving our country, our friends, our family and our well-established links within society.

We have taken a crucial part in building the new Australia. We hacked into mountains to provide railways, dug deep to extract coal, loaded and unloaded ships on the wharves, and even took part in educating the next generation. Now that most of us have reached the biblical three-score and ten, we can now retire peacefully and reflect on a life that was hard, but that was certainly productive and worth-while.

I hope that this is the message that the departing High Commissioner will pass on to our friends and compatriots at home, namely, that we are still Maltese, that we still speak your language which we will continue to do until we die. There is no such thing as 'Maltin ta' Barra' or 'Maltin ta' Gewwa': there are only Maltese, wherever the winds of change have driven some of us.

Over the past years, I am sure that the High Commissioner has appreciated his contacts with the Maltese community all over Australia and New Zealand. He has always been very keen to promote issues that affect the Maltese community, and has always been to the forefront in ensuring that Maltese in Australia are not short-changed.

To illustrate this, one need only mention his involvement relating to the unconscionable rescheduling of the Maltese program on the SBS radio. We fought hard and we have rescued the Maltese program from a most drastic pruning which the SBS board considered was due. In all of this the High Commissioner was at the forefront, working with persons in Authority, without much fanfare, but with enormous zeal. We have to thank him also for introducing a second television program in Maltese on television on Thursdays.

The Maltese Community Council has always worked very smoothly with the High Commissioner. I must remind you that his has not always been the case. I remember the situation when I was President of the MCCV in the 1980s when we boycotted the proposed High Commissioner, not for any personal animosity, but because of the expectation that this person could do his duties while living permanently in Malta. We objected strongly to this, because, as we are all aware, out of sight is out of mind, and there is no way that the representative of the Maltese Government in Australia should be located anywhere except in Australia: ancient history you might say, but a salutary lesson nonetheless.

Prof. Maurice Cauchi
MCCV President

10 June 2011

Melbourne Maltese community farewells Malta's High Commissioner

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Mr Tabone said that together we worked to ensure that the aspirations of the Maltese in Australia have been achieved. We saw a commitment of the Maltese Parliament which unanimously passed the law that established the Council of the Maltese Living Abroad. We expect that the Maltese Cultural Institute will come about and serve to ensure that the Maltese language, culture and traditions are appropriately supported and maintained as required.

Mr Tabone recalled that during his tenure a record number of visits to Australia were made by Maltese people in high authority. Some came more than once. In 2007 Prime Minister Dr Lawrence Gonzi came for a visit, while the Deputy Prime Minister Dr Tonio Borg visited twice. Two Maltese Presidents, Dr Eddie Fenech Adami and Dr George Abela, as well as then Leader of the Opposition, now Prime Minister, Dr Joseph Muscat, came to Australia. EU Commissioner, Dr Joe Borg, and a delegation of Maltese MPs led by Speaker Dr Michael Frendo, paid a visit. Malta's Archbishop Mgr Paul Cremona and Gozo Bishop Mgr Mario Grech both paid a pastoral visit to the Maltese community in Australia.

Mr Tabone spoke about the visits of Australian authority figures visiting Malta. The Governor-General Quentin Bryce, who travelled to Malta with her husband, was the first Australian Governor-General to make an official visit to Malta. Foreign Affairs Ministers, Mr Stephen Smith and, more recently, Senator Bob Carr, also visited Malta.

Mr Tabone said that all this shows that the respect that Malta enjoys in Australia is tangible and appreciated, thanks to the great reputation that the Maltese enjoy in Australia. It also shows that the Maltese authorities consider the Maltese in Australia as one family.

Mr Tabone said that there were other milestones reached during his tenure, such as, the establishment of the Federation of Maltese Language Schools. Mr Tabone said that the message is one: 'united we succeed'. Where others though otherwise, we saw that, as in the case of Maltese language programs on SBS Radio, we succeeded. We had one objective; we had strong arguments and a strong Maltese community. Mr Tabone also spoke about Maltese news programs on SBS TV. Mr Tabone said that now we have a system whereby we have two programs transmitted weekly, one on Thursdays and another on Sundays, no repeats.

Before closing, Mr Tabone thanked the Maltese associations and the religious in Australia, as well as the staff of the Maltese Consulate General in Melbourne, led so ably and so energetically by Consul General Mr Charles Mifsud. Mr Tabone finally thanked the MCCV for its work and commitment in ensuring that the Maltese in Victoria play their part to progress the achievement of the aspirations of the community.

On behalf of the MCCV and the Maltese community, MCCV Vice President Mr Victor Borg presented Mr Tabone with a memento for the occasion. Mr George Saliba OAM was MC for the

Notes from MCCV Council Meetings

MAY 2013

The following items were discussed at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 1 May 2013:

Melbourne City Council Matter. Vice President Victor Borg reported on progress regarding the complaint about the noise levels at the Maltese Centre. He said that, following the advice obtained from the barrister that was sent to the City Council, Melbourne City Council advised the MCCV that they will not be taking any further action on the complaint at this time. Noise levels monitoring equipment meter will be installed at the Centre and it will cut off the electricity for a certain time to prevent the noise exceeding the permitted level. Once the equipment is installed, the sound engineer will configure it to the permitted sound levels. Associations will then be able to start using the hall again for their social functions. The Executive Committee proposed that an additional amount of \$50 be charged for the use of the hall for each event to cover the cost of engaging a person to be present for the evening to supervise functions held at the Centre. It is very important that Associations hiring the hall adhere to the rules.

Bishop Joseph Grech Scholarship 2013. Applications are open for the Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship 2013 from persons of Maltese background between the ages of 18 and 40 years. Applications close on 15 July 2013.

SBS Radio Programmes. Under the new schedule Marlene Galea and Joe Axiaq are the Maltese broadcasters. The times and days are as follows: *Tuesday and Thursday* – 12.00 till 1.00 pm on digital SBS Radio 3. *Friday and Saturday* – 2.00 pm till 3.00 pm on analogue 93.1FM and digital SBS Radio 2.

Donations to Malta Migration Museum. The MCCV received \$12,000 by way of donations for the Malta Migration Museum and this money was forwarded to Fr Alfred Vella, Director of the Malta Migrants Commission responsible for the Museum.

Youth Committee. Rita Catania had advised the Council that she intended to put together a proposal for the MCCV to provide assistance to the Youth Committee for events and activities. The proposal is yet to be submitted to the Executive Committee.

Tony Bonnici Memorial Service. Tony Bonnici, who became the second President of the MCCV in 1968, sadly passed away. A memorial service was held at St Paul's chapel Parkville, on Thursday 11th April at 7.00pm. Professor Maurice Cauchi and Victor Borg spoke about the memorial service for former President of the MCCV Tony Bonnici which was organised as the family had chosen to have a private funeral service. It was a very successful evening and well attended by members of Tony's family, colleagues of Tony from the Victorian Bar, Presidents and committee members of Maltese associations, and other members of the Maltese community. A wake was held after mass in the foyer of the Maltese Centre. Prof Cauchi thanked Victor Borg for organizing the event on behalf of the MCCV. ❀

JUNE 2013

The following items were discussed at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5 June 2013:

Melbourne City Council Matter. The electrician has installed the sound equipment in the main hall of the Maltese Centre and the next step will be for Vice President Victor Borg to arrange for the Sound Engineer to calibrate the equipment to the permitted sound levels. It is expected that the installation of this equipment would avoid any neighbours' complaints in the future.

MCCV Library. Maurice Cauchi spoke about the reorganisation of the library. He said that he has spent a lot of time in the library organising it completely, removing all duplicates. All duplicates have been moved to an archive housed in the room near the back door. Library books have been appropriately shelved according to subject matter category. The library should be supervised at all times in accordance with the library roster provided. Books (except for those marked "Reference Only") may be borrowed at any time, as long as they are authorised by the person supervising the library who will keep appropriate records of their loan. The computers currently in the library will be moved to the room adjoining the President's Room with access being made available to those who may wish to use them. .

Farewell Reception for outgoing High Commissioner. The MCCV will be holding a Farewell Reception on Monday, 10th June 2013 at the Maltese Centre to farewell the outgoing High Commissioner HE Francis Tabone, whose tenure will end on 30 June.

Memorial Service. The MCCV will hold a Memorial Service on Saturday 22 June 2013 at 6.00 pm at St Paul's Chapel for Edwin Baldacchino and Laurie Armato which is a date that is as close as possible to one month from their passing away. The service will be held in conjunction with Newport Maltese Association.

Bishop Joseph Grech Scholarship 2013. Maurice Cauchi said that he was disappointed with the response to the advertisements in leader newspapers for the Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship 2013 that the MCCV has paid for. The response was much less than that received for a similar advertisement about Maltese language classes. Applications close on 15 July 2013.

Kitchen Inspection. Melbourne City Council carried out an inspection the kitchen at Parkville on Monday 27th May 2013. On Friday 31st May 2013 a letter was received from the MCC advising that the overall result of the food safety evaluation was excellent. The MCCV thanked Marilyn and John Pace for their efforts in comprehensively cleaning the kitchen in time for the inspection. ❀

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

Tislma lil żewġ membri prominenti tal-komunità Maltija

Minn Paul Vella

Edwin Baldacchino



Nhar il-Gimgha, 17 ta' Mejju, hadna l-ahbar kerha tal-mewt ta' Edwin Baldacchino, persuna maghrufa hafna fil-komunita' Maltija. Edwin dejjem kien wiehed li hadem bi shieh fost il-komunita' Maltija f'Melbourne u forsi qatt ma rcieva l-apprezzament li kien misthoqq. Hadem hafna fit-twaqqif ta' Ċentru Malti ta'

Parkville. Edwin kien bniedem ġenwin u kif ngħidu ahna l-Maltin, jagħtik qalbu. Dejjem kien lest biex jgħin f'xi haġa jew oħra u qatt ma jgħrab ix-xogħol.

Edwin, flimkien ma' martu, Mary, kienu membri ta' hafna għaqdiet Maltin, fosthom Reskeon Maltese Association, Newport Maltese Association, Stella Maris Maltese Association, Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria, il-Maltese Performing Arts u St Albans Maltese Pensioners. Serva wkoll fuq kumitati fosthom r-Reskeon Seniors Group u Stella Maris Association.

Edwin twieled Hal Tarxien fl-1940, imma ta' 14-il sena il-familja tiegħu kienu marru joqgħodu l-Isla. Edwin iżżewweġ lil martu, Mary, fl-1961. Huma emigraw lejn l-Awstralja f'Awwissu tas-sena 1964. Għandhom żewġ itfal, Joseph, li twieled Malta, u Ingrid.

Huwa kien kantant u attur. Kien ikanta f'hafna avvenimenti fejn jidhlu l-Maltin u kien hadem hafna fuq il-palk, forsi l-iktar waħda għal qalbu kienet [Il-Hanut ta' Dwinu](#) ta' Manuel Casha. Hargu hafna kanzunetti sbieħ minn dan ix-xogħol teatrali fosthom [Il-Hanut ta' Dwinu](#) u [Id-Destin](#). Huwa kien irrekordja hafna kanzunetti, spejjeż tiegħu, u kien iqassamhom lil kull min kien jitolbu. Il-gost tiegħu kien li jara lill-Maltin ferħana b'dak kollu li hu Malti.

Edwin kien kanta u rrekordja it-*Theme Song* tal-Għaqda tar-Reskeon fuq mużika tal-mejjet u qatt minsi Laurie Armato u versi ta' Dr Clemente Zammit.

Huwa kien membru fuq il-kumitat tax-Xandara Maltin ta' 3ZZZ kif ukoll fuq il-Consortium ta' Channel 31 flimkien ma' Joe Montebello, Frank Sargent u oħrajn, fejn il-Maltin ta' Melbourne kienu jgawdu programmi Maltin fosthom il-*Waltzing Matilda*.

Edwin halla jibku lil martu Mary u żewġ uliedhom, Joseph u Ingrid, u l-familja tagħhom. *Agħtih, O Mulej, il-mistrieħ ta' dejjem.* ❧

Laurie Armato



Nhar il-Gimgha, 3 ta' Mejju 2013, filgħodu kmieni, hadna l-ahbar tal-mewt tal-membri tal-Grupp Letteratura Maltija u ħabib tagħna, Laurie Armato.

Laurie kien membru ta' hafna għaqdiet Maltin u dejjem ta s-sapport tiegħu għax dejjem habb dak kollu li hu Malti. Huwa kien membru għal numru kbir ta' snin tal-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria għax l-Ilsien Malti kien l-għaxxa tiegħu.

Laurie kien jikteb hafna poeziji sbieħ, hafna minnhom b'toghma umoristika, u hafna mix-xogħlijiet tiegħu qrahom u ġew ippubblikati f'diversi pubblikazzjonijiet, speċjalment fil-kteb tal-Programm Mużiko-Letterarju li l-GLM jorganizza kull sena.



Barra li kien kittieb ta' klassi, Laurie kien ukoll mużiċista, u kiteb hafna kompożizzjonijiet, fosthom il-Marċ tar-Raħal, li l-kollega tiegħi fuq 3ZZZ, Mario Sammut, jużah bħala ssigla tal-programm tiegħu, "Ejjeu Oqgħodu", u għamel dan għal 24 sena.

Kiteb xogħol għall-Għaqda ta' Santa Liena, ta' liema kien ukoll membru, u wiehed ta' min jinnota li miet f'jum il-festa ta' Santu Kruċ, fejn f'Birkirkara toħroġ il-vara ta' Santa Liena, li hu tant kien iħobb. Laurie kiteb ukoll l-innu għall-għaqda ta' Reskeon Maltese Association u Reskeon Seniors Group, fuq versi ta' Dr Clemente Zammit.

Huwa kien espert fid-daqq tal-mandolina, u kien iferrahna bid-daqq tiegħu kemm fil-Programm Mużiko-Letterarju ta' kull sena kif ukoll fil-Festin tal-Milied, flimkien ma' shabu, Manuel Casha, Joe Gauci, Fredu Cachia, Joe Camilleri, Joe Cutajar u Alfie Xuereb.

Jiena ningħaqad mal-kumitat u l-membri kollha tal-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria, kif ukoll mal-membri tal-Komunità Maltija in ġenerali, biex noffru l-kondoljanzi tagħna lill-familja tiegħu. It-telfa tiegħu se tinħass minn kull min kien jafu. Dejjem kien lest li joffri l-għajjnuna tiegħu u dejjem ta s-sapport tiegħu biex l-Ilsien Malti u l-Kultura Maltija jkomplu jikbru u jinfirxu fost il-komunita' tagħna fl-Awstralja.

Agħtih, O Mulej, il-mistrieħ ta' dejjem. ❧

MHA Event — April 2013

Colourful Bus Trip into Nostalgia

By Agnes Cauchi

Guest speaker at the April 2013 MHA Event held on 16 April 2013 at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville was Mr Albert Agius, who took us through the years beginning in 1905 when the first bus route was established between Valetta and St Andrews. A year later, the route was expanded to St Julians with nine double-decker buses, but it soon stopped.

During WWI Malta had an influx of wounded soldiers. With them came doctors and nurses, and they all needed transport. By 1920, the British Motor Company (BMC) was manufacturing bus bodies in Malta. In 1921, a new bus route started between Valetta and the Cottonera, and a Valletta bus terminus was established.

Other routes opened up, eg, the Sliema and St Julians route, the Zebbug and Birkirkara route. At this time all busses were owned by the drivers. It was felt that the public transport needed organisation. It was proposed that all bus transport should be nationalised, the

number of buses to be increased, and all the buses should work in a single company. The latter was favoured by the driver-owners.

In 1930, the Traffic Control Board was formed and it was decided that the drivers' cabin be cut off from the passengers. It is to be noted that in 1928, Joe Gasan appeared on the scene. He imported 42 new buses and obtained 10 licences.

Most of us remember the various colours for each bus route. That was in the 1950s. The reason for this was that because of illiteracy the colour served a purpose for identification.

In 2011 there was a dramatic change. All the old buses were either scrapped or put to other uses. The new buses were taken over by Arriva. The fleet was new, more comfortable, and the number of seats was increased. The bus stages were modernised, and the bus times were electronically shown. Arriva created other bus routes, and the time-table improved. That is not to say that everything



MHA President Mrs Frances Bonnici with guest speaker Mr Albert Agius

ran smoothly: they had teething problems.

What happened to the old buses, one might ask? Some of them found themselves in London where they were converted and used for the London Olympic games of 2012. Others were salvaged and pushed in a hangar close to Gudja, waiting for a bus museum. Another one is being used as a souvenir shop. ❧

MHA Event — May 2013

The Plagues in Malta

By Agnes Cauchi

On Tuesday 21st May, Mr Joseph Borg gave an interesting presentation on the plagues in Malta. Plagues have been with us since time immemorial. They were first described around 80-100 AD, being found in Libya, Egypt and Syria.

There are three kinds of plagues:

- bubonic, characterised by swollen lymph nodes,
- Septicaemia, involving the blood
- Pneumonic, which affects the lungs.

What caused the plague?

The bubonic plague in most cases is contracted through the bites of an infected rodent, fleas, lice, cats, dogs, squirrels etc. The bacteria enter through a cut in the skin, either from a piece of contaminated clothing used by an infected person, or it was spread through coughing and shared living quarters.

As a consequence to this, the marriage rate rose sharply, the birth rate rose, there was a notable increase in violence and debauchery, and upward mobility took place on a small scale.

Malta had a plague almost every century. Sometimes even four in one century, as in the sixth and seventh century.

The first possible contact with the plague was in the late 13th century. An ancient cemetery in Rabat Gozo is said to contain the corpse of King Louis IX of France.

At the start of the 16th century there was a great risk of the introduction of contagious diseases due to ships coming from shores where epidemics were rampant. Hence, ships coming from the north African coast were moored in Marsamxett harbour for a certain period of time (quarantine). Bishop's island (aka Manoel Island) was used for the segregation of contaminated cargo, passengers and crew. Later on the island was developed into a Lazaretto by the Knights.

Soon after their arrival the Knights took steps for the protection of the Islands against the introduction of contagious diseases.

Valletta was founded in 1566 and the Knights built a large hospital and established a quarantine station. Passengers and goods were required to stay

in quarantine and those afflicted were sent to Lazaretto or to the hospital.

How did the Maltese react to the plague of 1676? Many terrified people left their homes and headed for the open fields in spite of wintry conditions. Towns were emptied and the fields became towns. This plague took 11,600 lives. Among the dead were many medical personnel as well as many priests. When the plague was over, all houses were fumigated, the streets were cleaned and accumulated garbage collected. Infected mattresses, bedding and clothing were burned. All those who were in contact with the sick and the dead were quarantined.

The Knights had to put Malta back on its feet, and measures were taken, namely: duty was raised on wine, cheese, meat, bird-seed, firewood and coal, even though the people were starving. The Knights had to try to get the embargo between Sicily and Malta lifted, and industry had to find its feet again.

The plague of 1813 was introduced by a British brigantine the San Nicola which was coming from Egypt. A series of health regulation were set in motion. Among them were public gatherings were prohibited, people were to stay indoors, shops remained closed, Mass on Sundays and feastdays were suspended, persons showing symptoms of the disease were to report to Fort Manoel for diagnosis, dead corpses were buried in lime to accelerate their decaying process.

The risk of another outbreak remained for years but thankfully they finally ended due to preventive measures. As a result of the last plague, commerce and agricultural produce nose-dived. However, Sicily opened its harbours to Malta ships in 1815. Many villages built cemeteries for plague victims. Below is the cemetery at Lija village. ❧



BISHOP JOSEPH GRECH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

My Malta Experience

By Rita Catania

As the inaugural recipient of the 2012 Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship, I received \$1,000 to put towards the cost of a flight and/or, accommodation in Malta and Gozo as part of the MCCV's initiative to encourage Australian-Maltese youth to visit the islands. I recently had the pleasure of using my scholarship money when I visited Malta and Gozo in May this year for three weeks. Although I had been to the islands previously, it had been a few years since my last visit. In my family, I am the first generation of Australian-Maltese and was really looking forward to revisiting the place of my heritage, experiencing the Maltese culture first hand and connecting with my roots.

Obviously living in Australia, geographically, we are not exactly positioned next door to Europe, so my aim was to make the most of each minute that I had there, and savour everything Malta and Gozo has to offer - in particular its HISTORY. As many of you would know, its an old, long, rich and beautiful history... which means there's plenty to see! So, I set off with a big list of sights and historical attractions to visit including 'must do's' like The Hypogeum, Prehistoric Temples, Air Raid Shelters, St John's Co-Cathedral, The Lascaris War Rooms, Mdina - The Silent City, Grandmaster's Palace, Fort St Angelo and so on. The goal was to tick each one off, one by one!

Being May, it was a great time to be in Malta. Although windy at times, overall the weather was warm without being stifling hot, which made it perfect for running around all over the island. The joy of feeling the Mediterranean sun on your face, as you explore what to me, is a living history book, is by far one of the best feelings I got whilst there. It's also not everywhere in the world that you can walk around and happen to pass a bastion or fort dating back to the 1500s, that also happens to be a part of a street's everyday landscape. The shimmering, crystal blue waters of The Blue Lagoon, Blue Grotto, Mellieha Bay and Xlendi just added to the bliss! I also learned that wherever you go there is a story to be told, something significant to see and someone interesting to meet. Each village is unique. Someone is always related to someone living in Australia.

The island was already rife with tourists of all ages, from everywhere around the globe including Canada, China, Italy, England, Scotland, Ireland, America, Australia, New



Rita Catania (left) visiting Rosette, Bishop Joe Grech's sister, at her home in Malta

Zealand, France, Greece, and Spain to name just a few. It seems Malta's popularity as a tourist destination has increased even more over the years. This is always nice to see for the economy given the island relies heavily on tourism as one of its main sources of income. Although, I am not so sure if the locals always think so, when trying to get on a bus and can't, especially when the proper Summer hadn't even started yet! Arriva drivers were always busy directing passengers and buses were always full, particularly in the areas touristy areas or those where buses weren't so frequent.

Having heard so much about the new Arriva buses and routes, it was good to experience the new system first hand, to get a proper appreciation of the new service and the changes it has brought. On the other hand, the roads do seem a little different now with the absence of the old, colourful buses missing. Occasionally, you will still come across a few of the old buses, and it reminds you of the character they brought to the islands.

These days, those legendary buses are solely used for private tour groups who hire them for charter. There is also one that lines Tower Road in Sliema, which has been converted to a moving souvenir shop aptly called the 'Souvenir Bus'! I suppose changes like those made to the transport system have stirred a few differences of opinion and one can understand the arguments on both sides. Either way, you can still get around fairly easily, it may just

take slightly longer at times, and it might be a bit more of a tight squeeze when passing through those famous narrow streets the islands are so famous for!

When looking back on the trip there were so many different highlights, that I found it hard to pin point just a few. I enjoyed it all. I loved the experience of the Limestone Heritage in Siggiewi, where by day you learned about the history and process of limestone cutting in the quarries, and by night in the open air, enjoyed a Maltese folk evening with traditional food, dancing and music. It was the perfect setting.

One Sunday, it was all about Marsaxlokk, the famous fishing village and walking around the huge outdoor market which offers all sorts of goods and tempting treats. A perfect destination for fishlovers who are looking to buy or eat the fresh catch of the day. It is also probably one of the best photographic opportunities to capture a photo of the traditional Maltese fishing boat 'il-Luzzu'.

The mesmerising Hypogeum that silently sits in the village of Paola. Part of the UNESCO World Heritage list, and dating back to over 3,000 years before Christ, I will never forget the sensation I felt as we entered into the dark and damp underground halls, passages and chambers to get a closer glimpse. A definite 'must see', I still can't believe this sacred treasure lies in a normal residential area, beneath street level! If it weren't for the name 'Hypogeum' above the main entrance that resembles a regular front door, you wouldn't even know it's there.

Then there's the elaborate architecture of Valletta and its surrounds like the Grand Harbour - just some of the handy work the Knights of St John were responsible for. I could walk around Valletta all day, over and over. And, the more I learn about the Knights, the more it makes me realise how truly amazing they were for their time and for Malta.

What about Mdina? Another amazing place to visit, where it truly lives up to its nick name 'The Silent City'. I could have stayed there all day. It's a very calming place. I love the simple things like walking around a village and seeing the older generation sitting outside their front doors as they watch the world go by, pick up *pastizzi* to go and engage in general chit chat with people you happen to come across along the way.

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My Malta Experience

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At a meeting with the President of Malta, Dr George Abela, where after listening to him address the Maltese community in Melbourne on his Australian visit a couple of years ago, I had the opportunity to meet him personally at his office in the Grandmaster's Palace in Valletta ... another architectural gem by the Knights. An experience I will never forget and a chance for me to fill him in on the Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship, launched the very same night he made his address in Melbourne. The breathtaking St John's Co-Cathedral, informative Malta Experience, intriguing Tarxien Temples and much, much more.

Another significant moment for me was when I got to meet Rosette and Carmel – Bishop Joe's siblings. In true Maltese fashion, Rosette and her family welcomed me into their home and extended their warm hospitality. You could tell Rosette was Bishop Joe's sister. She resembled him very much as did Carmel. You could also tell how much they miss their brother. Unfortunately, Bishop Joe who resided in Victoria, passed away on 28 December 2010. We talked about him and the wonderful work he did throughout his career in the priesthood, with youth groups and his love for Malta. This is why it was so fitting the scholarship was named after him. Rosette has a lovely family and it was a nice meeting. Again, I will always appreciate this experience given the scholarship was a part of the reason why I was there.

And what would a trip to Malta and Gozo be without eating fresh bread, *gbejniet*, *fenek* (rabbit) and *hobż biż-żejt*. Speaks for itself really! How I love walking in Hal Qormi, to one of the few remaining traditional wood fired bakeries with my *qoffa* in hand to collect a hot *ftira* and a loaf of bread. An always pleasant chore my grandmother used to reserve for me (and my stomach), when I was a little girl visiting Malta. This time I was fortunate enough to experience the inner sanctum of Maltese bread-making, when I got to watch the tradition of a father and son making the day's bread, in the silence of their 60 year old bakery. With just the warmth of the light streaming in through a skylight above them, it truly was a beautiful thing to watch.

What about family? The ones who remind you of yourself, the ones who you liken to your parents and the ones who have all the stories! As much as family can drive you mad, they are one of your strongest links to your heritage and culture, and your reminder of the different generations carrying on your families' name and traditions on the islands. They're loud too! Seriously though, they are indeed one of the best links to your roots. Something that hits home, time and time again when you are around them. This is very evident for me also as most of my



At the Blue Grotto in Żurriq

family lives in Malta, so I don't really get to see my aunties, uncles, cousins etc... in person as much as I would like.

Needless to say, in 3 weeks that I was there, I crammed it all in - history, sights, family, food, people, stories and the language. Many a time people would be very complimentary towards the fact I could speak in Maltese knowing I had grown up in Australia. This trip was definitely a great opportunity for me to practise my Maltese and pick up on the language even more. There's nothing like being around the natives!

I also learned, that apart from the recent change in government, it was quite evident to me that Malta has progressed in a number of

ways, especially in the areas of restoration and upkeep of many historical sights, their professionalism with tourists and catering for their needs.

So, as you have read, my trip was extremely beneficial and rewarding on a number of levels, hence why the Bishop Joe Grech Scholarship is such a great opportunity for any Australian-Maltese youth like me to receive.

All Australian youth born of Maltese and Gozitan heritage should experience the islands at least once in their lives. There is nothing like experiencing a place first hand, because it is then that you truly realise what it means to be of Maltese and Gozitan bloodlines, and essentially, what you are a part of. You see, you smell, you feel, you experience, you learn, you understand and you APPRECIATE. Plus, it then all makes sense.

For those who haven't had any exposure at all to their Maltese and Gozitan heritage, it's a chance to make a start, as well as make up for lost time. It is a culture breakdown when people don't know anything about their background, and quite simply, a real shame.

So, if you know anybody between the ages of 18 and 40 years who would be interested in experiencing Malta and Gozo, please encourage them to read this article and apply for the Bishop Joe Grech Scholarship like I did. Visit www.mccv.org.au. Applications close on Monday, 15 July 2013. Help us to keep the Maltese and Gozitan culture alive in Australia amongst Australian-Maltese youth.

I am so proud to have Maltese blood flowing through my veins and will endeavour to keep the tradition going when I have my own children. ✠

Jade Colver-Vella — 12/13-year-olds Australian Open Karate Champion

After winning the Oceania Karate Championships in September last year, young Jade Colver-Vella, 12, who is the granddaughter of Caesar and Phyllis Vella, members of Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group, has again made the headlines.

This year competing with older children was again a big challenge for her. With Sensei Peter's guidance and hard work, Jade has successfully gained the title at the Australian Open Champion second year running and has her sights set on the National Titles later this year.

Jade is hoping to travel to Greece in 2014 to compete at the Greek Karate open and try her skill at the International level. Jade also won the Black Belt 1st. Dan in April 2013. ✠



Jade Colver-Vella (centre) on the winners' podium

From economist to politician, EU auditor and Central Bank Governor

By **Edwin Borg-Manché**

Late last year newsletter Editor, Edwin Borg-Manché, had the pleasure of interviewing the Governor of the Central Bank of Malta, **Professor Josef Bonnici**, for the *MCCV News*. In this article we get an insight into Prof Bonnici's career that has taken him from the relatively private world of academia into the public limelight of politics and public administration.

Professor Josef Bonnici is no stranger to the Maltese-Australian community in Victoria. Between 1980 and 1988 he worked as an economics lecturer at Deakin University's main campus in Geelong. It was at an exciting time when the university had just opened its doors. Prof Bonnici was recruited from Canada, where he was still finishing his PhD, to develop their new MBA program. Since they were using some teaching material from the academic who had been his thesis supervisor in Canada, they thought it would be appropriate to secure Prof Bonnici's services on the project.

During his eight years in Geelong Prof Bonnici contributed to the creation of the MBA Program and its evolution to a mature tertiary education program, mostly in the macroeconomics area and quantitative economics, his areas of specialisation. This program was quite challenging and interesting and involved travelling to the main capital cities of Australia to give lectures. Prof Bonnici lived only a stone's throw from the university.

Life in Politics

Prof Bonnici enjoyed immensely his time in Australia. At Deakin he also supervised some PhD students in economics and he was all set to have his career in Australia. Then an opportunity came up in 1988, when he was invited to return to Malta to take up the position of economics adviser to the Prime Minister and also lecture at the University of Malta as a Visiting Professor for three years. He found this opportunity to be too tempting a challenge not to give it a go. He was eventually persuaded to enter politics in Malta and eventually became a Minister responsible for investments and industrial policy, a role he played for eight years.

As a politician, the aspect that he used to enjoy most and found most challenging was the investment promotion element which fell under his ministry. Of particular note was the great achievement in attracting Lufthansa Technik to invest in Malta by re-locating the servicing of the aircraft in a joint project with Air Malta. This investment laid the foundation for growing a successful aviation industry in Malta, attracting other overseas investments.

Prof Bonnici observed that in terms of strategic value to the Maltese economy, the aircraft maintenance industry has replaced the



Photo: timesofmalta.com

servicing of ships which has become uncompetitive. Malta was able to move up the value added ladder. The plan was to attract other companies servicing the aviation industry, such as, maintenance and upgrading of the cabin furniture.

Prof Bonnici also had a major input into the establishment of Malta Enterprise, piloting the relevant legislation through Parliament. Malta Enterprise replaced the Malta Development Corporation (MDC), Malta Export and Trade Corporation (METCO) and the Institute for Small Enterprise and took over the functions of all three organisations.

Prof Bonnici was not really attracted to the life of a politician and he could see a time of making an exit from politics very willingly.

Part of the downsides of politics, as he sees it, is that there is always an element of negative criticism, no matter what you do. He observed that there are always risks associated with what you do. If everything was perfect and foreseeable there would be no problems, but when you are overseeing the management of so many enterprises, the management aspect is often easier said than done. You have to rely on people handling issues with unions, productivity and so on.

Prof Bonnici has seen Malta going through a big change, from a mentality when everybody used to, at one point, look to the UK as their major employer and anything one can get out of that is good to a situation where we need to be economically viable and sustain our own standard of living and its improvement.

EU membership

Prof Bonnici described Malta's journey to join the EU as a very interesting challenge. It was one of the things that motivated him to enter politics because his fear was always that, if Malta had not joined the EU, there would have been some significant risks attached to having its own currency and in a very volatile financial market it could have easily been overwhelmed, even though it had big reserves.

"We needed to anchor ourselves to a system which first of all ensured market access and provided us with a safety element that attracts foreign investors with no currency risks as we now have the Euro as our currency. EU membership also gave Malta a more stable orientation in terms of what is happening in the Mediterranean," said Prof Bonnici.

He recalled that it was a big challenge because there was a lot of scepticism about Malta joining the EU, just as there had been before Malta gained its independence in 1964 when people were sceptical about whether we could live independently of the UK.

Appointment to EU Court of Auditors

Following his exit from politics, Prof Bonnici accepted a six-year appointment to the European Court of Auditors with some scepticism because of his background as an economist, who is monetary and quantitatively oriented at that, and not an auditor.

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From economist to politician, EU auditor and Central Bank Governor

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Each EU member country nominates one member to the Court of Auditors but members represent the interests of the whole EU and not their nominating country. If any issues arise that involves the member's nominating country, the member steps back and someone else deals with the issue.

The Court of Auditors is similar to a National Audit Office but is managed by a Board designed along the models of Germany, France and Italy. Unlike in France and Italy, however, the Board is not a court and cannot impose fines. The EU Court of Auditors oversees the EU budget spending but, rather than impose fines, it issues reports which are sent to the EU Commission and the European Parliament, which can impose conditions on the EU Commission.

The scope of the audit is the whole of the EU budget which was about €130 billion per year and specifically how it was spent from an efficiency, effectiveness and economy perspective. In addition, to this performance evaluation, it also looks at the regularity and legality of the spending.

Prof Bonnici's role was to work on a model that needed upgrading used for statistical sampling of expenditure. With his strong background in statistics, he developed and set up the whole system that was used EU-wide and became the member responsible for reporting the Court's findings to the EU Parliament and the EU Commission.

Prof Bonnici recalled that his time on the Court of Auditors turned out to be a more interesting and challenging experience than he had anticipated. So when his term came to an end, he thought it was time for him to move on. He returned to Malta and returned to the University of Malta, as he had been given unpaid leave to perform his role in the Court of Auditors. He became head of the Economics Department and then the position of Governor of the Central Bank was offered to him.

Central Bank Governor

In 2011 Prof Bonnici accepted the position of Governor of the Central Bank of Malta. While the Malta Financial Services Authority (MFSA) plays a supervisory role as the regulator of the banking system, the Central Bank's key function under its establishing Act is to ensure financial stability. It advises the government, where necessary; provides Euro currency to the economy and manages the reserves of the Banks and of the country, consisting of significant investments. These investments finance the running of the Central Bank and each year the Bank also provides the government with between €40 and €50 million from the returns on investments. The Central Bank also issues reports on the basic economic performance of the Maltese economy as an independent and objective assessment.



Prof Bonnici explained that the role of the Central Bank of Malta had changed drastically since Malta joined the EU and it has been a big challenge for the Central Bank to participate in a European body, which is responsible for the whole EU. As Governor, Prof Bonnici is a member of the Governing Council of the ECB, which is based in Frankfurt, Germany, and meets twice monthly. He is joined by the other 16 Governors from the EU member countries belonging to the Euro Zone.

Prof Bonnici's appointment as Governor coincided with the height of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC), the most serious and dramatic crisis since the Great Depression. The first summer after his appointment he had to participate in many European Central Bank (ECB) meetings to decide what to do to respond to the huge instability that had been resulted especially from the Greek sovereign debt crisis, and later the precarious situations in Spain and Italy.

According to Prof Bonnici, one of the key factors that helped Malta survive the GFC unscathed is the fact that the banking structure in Malta is very traditional and has preserved its financial system. Most of the funding of the local banks comes from small depositors. The fact that the loans to deposit ratio is between 70% and 80%, while in those countries that experienced problems, the ratio was above 130%, as they had so many loans compared to deposits that they could not sustain them.

Prof Bonnici further explained that another factor was that in Malta, borrowing by the government is all financed locally, unlike countries, such as, Slovenia and Cyprus, whose governments had to finance their borrowing internationally and, with some anxiety about what is going to happen, at unsustainable rates.

Maintaining links with Australia

The Central Bank of Malta has very little interaction with the Reserve Bank of Australia. However, Prof Bonnici has a great respect for the RBA and, while working in Australia, he had written an economics textbook in which he reviewed several of the RBA functions. He still follows the various aspects of the Australian economy.

While living in Australia Prof Bonnici was involved in the Maltese community often

attending activities of the Maltese Historical Association (MHA). He has kept in contact with the MHA through his brother Mario who is Treasurer, providing information about the numismatic coins that the Central Bank of Malta issues. The Bank produced a La Valette commemorative medal with a DVD about Malta and has plans to issue similar medals about various aspects of the economy.

The Bank produces certain types of coins in a limited edition. These are normally produced in quantities that depend on the size of the country, and since Malta is a small country, the Bank has to produce them in smaller quantities so that become more of a collector's item. These coins can be ordered through the Bank's website (www.centralbankmalta.org) or by email. Some of these coins can be an investment as their value appreciates quickly.

Prof Bonnici misses Australia and thinks that the connection between Australia and Malta needs to be preserved and strengthened. According to him, in a sense, Malta has given up part of its most valuable resource, the people who settled there for various reasons and it is important that these links are kept alive, sometimes remembering that Malta may need some support in a number of ways, such as, for its development or about things that sustain the country. According to Prof Bonnici, it is a strength that Malta has such connections with certain countries and they should be appreciated more.

The Central Bank often looks for experts with experience in the financial sector with a Maltese background. They already know about Malta and understand the environment better and their exposure is a first class resource for the Bank. Knowing a bit more about what people are doing provides more possibilities for such engagements. The register of Maltese individuals living overseas that the Council of Maltese Living Abroad will be setting up will be a useful source of information.

Prof Bonnici has been back to visit Australia a couple of times since 1988. While he would like to come for another visit, unfortunately his current hectic work commitments do not allow him to make any concrete plans. ❖

Melbourne concert of Baroque Music on July 11 to celebrate 900th Anniversary of The Order of Malta

A special concert titled *A Little Knight Musik* featuring Baroque Music of the Knights of Malta will mark the celebration of the 900th Anniversary of The Order of Malta. An Opera Downunder event, the concert will be held at **Newman College Chapel, University of Melbourne on Thursday 11 July 2013 at 7.30 pm**. The concert is proudly sponsored by the Robert Salzer Foundation and supported by Newman College, Multicultural Arts Victoria, the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Maltese Consul General and radio station 3MBS Fine Music.

The concert program will feature Julia Fredersdorff (violin), Donald Nicolson (harpichord), Jamie Hey (baroque cello), Dimity Shepherd (mezzo soprano), Greg Dikmans, Meredith Beardmore and Sophie Weston (baroque flutes), and an early music orchestra under the baton of **Frà Prof.**




Richard Divall, who is himself a Knight of Malta and well-known to the Maltese community in Australia.

The concert will include Chamber Music, Opera and Sacred Music by Michel'Angelo Vella 1710-1792, Girolamo Abos 1715-1760, Francesco Azopardi 1748-1809, Tommaso Prota b.1727, and Michael Christian Festing 1705-1752.

Baroque Malta saw the flowering of great European Culture. The Knights as patrons brought artists like Caravaggio, Mattia Preti and de Favray who painted the people and embellished the palaces and churches. Opera and Sacred Music also flourished in this cultural centre.

In this concert, music from this fascinating world will be presented for the first time, including music from the Baroque Opera, from the Grand Masters Palace and from St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta.

This concert comprises a selection of concertos for violins and flutes, as well as arias composed for the castrato singers of the period, performed by Melbourne's leading baroque artists together with our finest young early musicians.

Tickets may be purchased for **\$30** (\$20 for students) at www.trybooking.com/53009 [Click here](#) to download event brochure. 

ANZAC Memorial in Malta inaugurated at Argotti Gardens

On a bright Spring morning on Saturday 25 May 2013 Malta's Foreign Minister, Dr George Vella, and the chairman of the ANZAC Memorial Committee Malta, Mr Nicholas Bonello OAM, inaugurated the ANZAC Memorial at the Argotti Botanical Gardens in Floriana, Malta before a gathering of over 200 guests. The monument designed and built by sculptor Gianni Bonnici commemorates the thousands of Australian and New Zealander servicemen and women killed during the wars.

The Msida Sea Scouts band opened the ceremony with a march starting at the garden gates and ending beyond the Memorial, after which Master of Ceremonies, Mr Charles Coleiro, called on the Hon Dr George Vella, Malta's Minister for Foreign Affairs, and on Mr Nicholas Bonello OAM, Chairman ANZAC Memorial Committee-Malta to deliver their inauguration speeches.

Before delivering his speech, Dr George Vella read a message from the Hon Dr Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of Malta, who due to pressing commitments was unable to attend. Dr George Vella and Mr Nicholas Bonello then read their inauguration speeches.

These were followed by the blessing of the memorial by Monsignor Philip Calleja OAM who also recited a prayer for the war victims and their families. The Msida Sea scouts rendered a Short music program.




Next on the program was the reading of messages by Her Excellency Ms Jane Lambert, High Commissioner of Australia in Malta, and Ms Jill Camilleri, Hon



Foreign Minister Dr George Vella (left) and Mr Nicholas Bonello inaugurating the memorial

Consul for New Zealand. Ms Jane Lambert also read a message of congratulations from the Hon Bob Carr, Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs. Mrs Mary Bonello and Miss Claire Bonello then read the messages received for the occasion.

The national anthems of the three countries were sung in this order: the National Anthem of Australia, sung by the full choir, followed by the National Anthem of New Zealand was sung in Maori and in English by two solo girls, and finally the Maltese Innu Malti was sung by the full choir.

In closing the ceremony, MC, Mr Charles Coleiro thanked those present. The Msida Sea Scouts closed the ceremony by marching back to the Argotti Garden gates. 

Informative Talk on Dementia to Reskeon Seniors

By Paul Vella

On Thursday, 19 June, members of Reskeon Seniors Group had the chance to attend a very informative talk on Dementia at their Wednesday meeting held at Merrilands Community Centre in Reservoir.

About three months prior, Ms Norminda Forteza, CALD Project Officer with Alzheimer's Australia Victoria contacted Reskeon Secretary, Paul Vella, to see if the Reskeon Seniors Group would be interested in organising such a talk.

Naturally the invitation was accepted as the group has always been interested in holding talks about topics that are of interest to its members, such as, glaucoma, diabetes, retiring homes, and so on.

About 120 members were present. The guest speaker was Simon, from Alzheimer's Australia Vic., who was accompanied by Ms Norminda Forteza, Lisa and Bernadette.

The talk, which lasted about an hour, covered very interesting points and all aspects of Dementia, including:

- When does it start? Memory/Dementia
- Is it inherited?
- Different types of dementia
- How do I know? Signs and symptoms
- Can you be tested?
- What causes Dementia?
- Does it affect the brain?



Presenters from Alzheimer's Australia Vic, from left: Bernadette, Norminda, Lisa and Simon

Simon covered the subject fully and very professionally. He was very happy with the response from those present, especially with the very important questions that came from the floor.

The Dementia group provided a lot of literature about the subject in both English and Maltese which were distributed among the members.

All those present felt that this was a very important subject to learn about. Some members have been affected by dementia,

with some members losing a member of their family from it. Following the talk, the Reskeon Seniors Group committee organized a free sausage sizzle with free tea and coffee and soft drinks for all members.

The MCCV held similar talks on dementia by Alzheimer's Australia titled *Your Brain Matters* for senior members of the Maltese community on 30 May at the MCCV Regional Office in Sunshine and on 18 June at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville. 🇲🇹

Reskeon Seniors' two one-day trips to Mulwala

By Paul Vella

On Thursday, 16th May, the Reskeon Seniors Group organised a one-day trip to Mulwala Ski Club. The list was filled in no time with a lot of members finishing on the waiting list. So the committee decided to organise a similar trip the week after, 23rd May.

Both trips enjoyed beautiful days. Members enjoyed both trips.

Mulwala Ski Club is a beautiful club set on the lake with a nice large outside deck where patrons can enjoy a drink and a chat.

On both trips members enjoyed a stop at SPC Warehouse in Shepparton where most of them stocked on a lot of cans of fruit at a very discount prices.

Both trips were with Harlan Coaches. Harrison was the Coach Captain on the first trip while Bernie was Coach Captain on the second. 🇲🇹



Reskeon Seniors in Mulwala

**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	Town/Suburb
Wed 03 July 7.00 pm	MCCV Council Meeting	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Fri 05 July 10.30 am	Make yourself stroke free—Health Information session—MCCV & National Stroke Foundation	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Sat 06 July	Annual Dinner Dance - Newport Maltese Association	-	-
Thu 11 July 7.30 pm	Baroque Music Concert to celebrate 900th Anniversary of The Order of Malta	Newman College Chapel, University of Melbourne	Parkville
Sun 14 July 11.00 am	Anniversary Members BBQ - San Gejtanu Society Inc.	St Martin de Porres Church	Avondale Heights
Sun 28 July	Christmas in July Dinner - Newport Maltese Seniors Group	Melrose Receptions	Tullamarine
Wed 31 July	MCCV Executive Committee Meeting	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Sun 04 August	Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Fund - Fundraiser Lunch	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Wed 07 August 7.00 pm	MCCV Council Meeting	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Fri 09 August 7.00 pm	St Gaetan's Feast 2013 - San Gejtanu Society Inc.	St Martin de Porres Church	Avondale Heights
Sat 10 August 6.30 pm	St Gaetan's Feast Ball 2013 - San Gejtanu Society Inc.	Lakeside Reception Centre	Taylors Lakes
Sun 11 August 2.00 pm	St Gaetan's Feast Mass and Procession 2013 - San Gejtanu Society Inc.	St Martin de Porres Church	Avondale Heights
Fri 23 August 7.30 pm	Mass in English - Feast of Sant'Elena 2013 - St. Helena Maltese- Australian Social Club Inc.	St Leopold Croatian Church	Ardeer
Sat 24 August 6.30 pm	Dinner Dance - Feast of Sant'Elena 2013 - St. Helena Maltese- Australian Social Club Inc.	Melrose Receptions	Tullamarine
Sun 25 August 3.00 pm	Mass, Procession and Concert - Feast of Sant'Elena 2013 - St. Helena Maltese- Aust. Social Club	St Leopold Croatian Church	Ardeer
Wed 28 August	MCCV Executive Committee Meeting	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Wed 04 September 7.00 pm	MCCV Council Meeting	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Sat 07 September 6.30 pm	The Vittoria Dinner Dance - Reskeon Maltese Association & Reskeon Senior Group Inc	Firenze Receptions	Fawkner
Sun 15 September 2.30 pm	Members Meeting - San Gejtanu Society Inc.	St Martin de Porres Church	Avondale Heights