



MCCV News

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Maltese in Melbourne farewell Malta's Consul General for Victoria

On Saturday 31 August the Maltese Community Council of Victoria held a well attended Farewell Reception at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville in honour of Malta's Consul General for the State of Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud, whose term of office that started in late 2009 has been terminated effective end of September.

Among the guests present were the Hon. Andrew Elsbury MLC, the Co-Chair Victorian Parliamentary Friendship Group Malta; Mr Diego Velasco von Pilgrimm, the Consul General of Chile and Dean of the Consular Corps; Mr Linton Lethlean, the Honorary Consul-General of the Republic of Maldives and Hon. Secretary of the Consular Corps; and Dr George Luk, Hon. Consul General for Poland.

In his speech, MCCV President, Professor Maurice Cauchi said that, during his term of office, Mr Mifsud been indefatigable in making himself available to members of the Maltese community, not merely to serve their needs in issues relating strictly to consular matters, but much more broadly indeed. He referred to Mr Mifsud's religious attendance at functions organised by the various Maltese organisations which often consumed most of his weekends, normally cherished by most of us as time to relax and spend time with one's own family.

Prof. Cauchi then spoke of Mr Mifsud's encouragement of cultural activities to ensure that Maltese culture is maintained within the community. Mr Mifsud has extensive knowledge of Maltese history, particularly of the period of the Second World War. He has been a regular presenter of talks at the monthly meetings of the Maltese Historical Association, giving interesting talks on his favourite topics, particularly relating to the role of Malta in the Second World War. One of his favourite hobbies is constructing model aeroplanes of that era, building a collection running into the hundreds and in developing this passion became an expert on the subject.

Prof. Cauchi made a special mention of a particular initiative for which Mr Mifsud's



Consul General Mr Charles Mifsud

contribution to the Maltese community in Victoria will be remembered, referring to his organisation last year of a special celebration on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the award of the George Cross to Malta in April 1942. With the assistance of a specially selected committee, he organised a program of activities that ran over a two-week period, culminating in a photographic exhibition of wartime images and a special commemoration function held in this very hall and attended by special guests from both sides of the Victorian Parliament. "We had not seen such a huge turnout by the Maltese community or a function at the Maltese Centre for quite some time, with standing room only for late arrivals and some even having to stay out in the foyer. It was a truly memorable occasion," said Prof. Cauchi.

Prof Cauchi then referred to Mr Mifsud's involvement more recently in relation to the dire situation relating to maintenance of Maltese language teaching, and particularly at VCE level. Mr Mifsud has been at the forefront of ensuring that no stone is left unturned in his effort to convince the Maltese community of the necessity to encourage our children to persist in their effort to learn Maltese. He managed to forge an effective relationship with the Principal of the Victorian School of Languages to ensure the continuation of the teaching of the Maltese language in that school. For some time Mr Mifsud even rolled up his sleeves and took it upon himself to teach Maltese to one of the adult classes held at the Maltese Centre.

Prof. Cauchi said that Mr Mifsud was always helpful whenever the MCCV asked for his assistance. The latest example of this was his participation in examining the applications for the Bishop Joe Grech Scholarship in the process of selecting the successful candidate. The MCCV always appreciated its close relationship with the Consulate in Victoria. He said that, with people like Mr Mifsud, such a relationship has been not only been useful but actually pleasurable and productive.

Finally, Prof. Cauchi thanked Mr Mifsud for his contributions to Maltese society in Victoria. "We regret that it has been terminated, but hope that he will continue to serve as an ambassador for the Maltese living in Australia, and especially those in Victoria, when he goes back home to Malta," he said.

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The President's Column

The new High Commissioner and the Maltese community in Australia

On Wednesday 28 August the appointment of the new High Commissioner for Malta to Australia was reported in the Maltese media. The appointee is Charles Muscat, a long-time resident of Canberra and the representative of Malta's Labour Party in Australia.

The appointment of an Australian resident and presumably citizen, who has lived in this country for half a century, is in itself quite surprising, given the typical demands of the position of High Commissioner requiring the appointee to be well-versed in the prevailing social and political conditions and the workings of government in Malta. The office of High Commissioner is the highest diplomatic position representing the Malta Government and an appointee to that position needs to have sufficient relevant experience to be able to perform such a critical role confidently and competently.

To do one's job effectively as Malta's top diplomat in a country, an appointee must have the full confidence not only of the Government that he represents, but also that of the government of the host country to which he has been posted. While Mr Muscat clearly enjoys the full confidence of the former, he still has a long way to do so with respect to gaining the latter, especially given the reports about the processing of his nomination, such as, that published in *The Times of Malta* last Wednesday that "according to sources, the Australian government was reluctant to agree to Mr Muscat's appointment."

Moreover, to do this job properly from the Maltese community perspective, such a person must also enjoy the full confidence of the Maltese living in Australia. We expect our representation within the Malta Government to be untainted with partisan leanings. We, as representatives of Maltese living overseas, have always taken extreme care in ensuring that party politics does not muddy relationships between ourselves.

And this is precisely the area where one looks on with serious concerns about the suitability of this appointment. It is widely known that Mr Muscat has for decades exclusively represented the Labour Party's interests in Australia. So it is not unreasonable to ask how he is going to interact with, and represent, non-Labour interests without political allegiance perceptions still lingering on in the minds of members of Maltese communities in Australia. This, of course, still remains to be seen.

While the MCCV is critical of the appointment, this is no reflection on the character or goodwill of Mr Muscat, who will no doubt be under considerable pressure to perform and meet the expectations of the Australian government and the Maltese community in Australia.

Despite the Maltese community's concerns, the MCCV will continue to maintain its close relations with the High Commission in Canberra and will collaborate and work closely with the new High Commissioner in the best interests of the Maltese community residing in the State of Victoria whom the MCCV represents..

Prof. Maurice Cauchi
MCCV President

31 August 2013

Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Scholarship 2013 Award




At the reception held on Saturday 31 August the outgoing Consul General Mr Charles Mifsud (above) presented the Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Scholarship 2013 to Ms Kristy Galea.

Kristy has completed a Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Melbourne, a Certificate IV in Business Administration, and a certificate IV in Occupation Health and Safety at the Australian National Institute of Business and Technology. She also completed a Graduate Diploma and is now completing a Master's degree in Teaching.

Kristy has been very involved with the Maltese community in Springvale. She plays the organ at the local church on a regular basis. She helps at the Wantirna Festa. She has been involved in working bees and helping in stores to raise funds for worthwhile projects.

She intends to promote Maltese music on Facebook and cooperate with the MCCV Youth group to further attract Maltese youth to become part of the Maltese community.

Before the presentation, Ms Rita Catania, who was awarded the inaugural scholarship last year, spoke about her first-hand experience of Maltese culture and history during her visit to Malta earlier this year. 



Notes from MCCV Council Meetings

JULY 2013

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

Farewell Reception for Malta High Commissioner. The farewell reception held for the Malta High Commissioner to Australia, His Excellency Mr Francis Tabone was well attended. Mr Tabone has returned to Malta and Council is awaiting an announcement about the new High Commissioner to be appointed by the Malta Government.

Council for Maltese Living Abroad. A meeting of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad will be held in Malta in early October 2013. The representatives of Victoria on the Council, Prof Maurice Cauchi and Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, will be attending the meeting.

Victoria Senior Award. Council received information about nomination for the Victoria Senior Award with a closing date of 19 July 2013.

Melbourne City Council Matter. In order for the MCCV to retain its right to hold community functions in the evening, it is important that functions organised by MCCV-affiliated continue to be held at the Maltese Centre in Parkville. The Melbourne City Council has acknowledged past use of the Centre for that purpose. The MCCV has now installed equipment that measures noise levels in the hall to ensure that the legally accepted noise level is not exceeded. A person will need to be employed to attend private and association functions to be held at the Centre to monitor proceedings and ensure that all equipment is handled properly and also make sure everything in the kitchen is left clean and nothing is missing. As a result the Hall Hire policy and rules have to be updated and fees increased to cover additional expenses.

Bishop Joseph Grech Fund. Four applications have been received for the Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship. These will be evaluated by the Selection Committee and the successful candidate selected.

Future of Bingo at the Centre. Due to the dwindling attendance at Bingo on Friday nights, it was agreed that Council will need to review the situation and decide whether Bingo nights will continue to be organised. 🇲🇹

AUGUST 2013

The following items were discussed at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7 August 2013:

Farewell Function for Consul General. A Farewell Function will be held on Saturday 31 August 2013 for Mr Charles Mifsud Consul General of Malta for Victoria. Invitations will be sent out, requesting a donation of \$10. Catering for the function will be organised by MCCV. It is also likely that the MCCV Community Awards 2013 and the Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Scholarship Award 2013 will be held on the same night.

Book Launch. A Book Launch function of a historical novel, *Island of Dreams*, by author Aline P'nina Tayar about a Jewish family living in Malta, will be held at the Maltese Centre in Parkville on Saturday 21 September 2013. Invitations will be sent out and a donation of \$10 will be requested redeemable upon the purchase of the novel (price \$17).

Melbourne City Council Matter. Although the Melbourne City Council confirmed that MCCV can carry on as usual with functions in the evenings, subject to ensuring noise control, no affiliated association has agreed to hold one of its functions at the Centre. It would appear that no association is keen to be the first one to make use of the sound equipment that controls the noise level. It was suggested that associations should be invited to come to the Centre to listen to music at the played at the acceptable noise level to demonstrate to all present that the equipment is safe to use. A motion to increase the schedule of fees for the hire of the Hall was proposed and approved. The new fees are as follows:

- Saturday – private use / non-members \$600 plus \$200 bond
- Saturday – member associations \$400
- Sunday and weekdays - private use / non-members \$400 plus \$200 bond
- Sunday and weekdays – member associations \$300

Donation to Dar Tal-Providenza. On a motion proposed by Victor Borg, it was agreed that Council makes a donation of \$500 to Dar Tal-Providenza in Siggiewi, Malta.

Maltese Language Immersion Morning 2013. This year's Immersion Morning organised by Maltese Historical Association of Australia will be held on Saturday 31 August 2013 at the Maltese Community Centre, Parkville.

MCCV Community Awards 2013. The committee to make the final decision on the selection of successful nominations for the MCCV Community Awards will consist of the MCCV President and the two Vice Presidents.

Maltese Tenor's Concert. Mr Joe Busietta's son, Christopher, who is a tenor, will be performing at a concert on Sunday 1 September 2013 in the afternoon in a church in Toorak. He had won a scholarship to Germany to continue his studies and he is now performing and living overseas. Chris is indeed a credit to our community. 🇲🇹

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

Maltese in Melbourne farewell Malta's Consul General for Victoria

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In his farewell speech, Mr Mifsud recalled his arrival in Melbourne on 28 November 2009 and taking office three days later. He then gave an account of his Maltese community activities attendance record during his term of office: 206 celebrations of Maltese feasts and 179 other attendances in activities which were not feasts. He also participated in 170 consular activities and had about 300 meetings to promote trade with Malta. Moreover, his consulate processed thousands of applications for Maltese passport and citizenships, responded to thousands of phone enquiries.

Mr Mifsud then spoke about the other highlights of his tenure of office:

- In April 2012 the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the granting of the George Cross to Malta, amalgamating the annual activities held for this commemoration with a purposely organized activity by the Consulate. These were a big success and for the one organized by the Consulate, we packed this hall and we saw the Maltese Film *Heroes in the Sky*.
- In September 2012 the celebration of the National Day of Malta, organized and funded with the Victorian Government. He was planning to have this year's national day by an event organised by the Maltese Community but time was not on his side.
- During his stay, he made every possible effort to increase cultural awareness. Apart from his attendance with his wife at *festa* celebrations, he made talks on Maltese folklore, the Air war in Malta during the Second World War and the George Cross. The talks were organized by the Maltese Historical Association and he was always pleased with the numerous attendances.
- In order to enhance Maltese Australian relations, and in particular, with the State of Victoria, he gave a talk at the Shrine of Remembrance about the *Anzacs and Malta*. This was a well attended event. One must realize that, although Malta's contribution to the Gallipoli campaign was substantial, to the tune of 80,000 wounded were cared for in Malta during the campaign, little is known about this in Australian quarters. In this regard, the Malta Post and Australia Post will be cooperating in a joint issue on the centenary of Gallipoli in 2015.
- Under his watch, a Victorian parliament Friendship Group Malta was set up. Mr Mifsud said he is proud to have worked with this group and pleased that some members of this group made a visit to Malta last July and they were impressed with our Island and its culture. He is confident that such contacts will bear fruit and enhance relations between Victoria and Malta.
- On the educational level, after he approached Deakin University, and after long discussions between the University of



Malta and that of Deakin, a memorandum of Understanding was signed which will enable student from both countries to study in the other University. Although at a very early stage, a similar agreement is being discussed with Monash University.

Mr Mifsud said that he was honoured to be part of the Bishop Joe Grech Scholarship Award Selection Committee. This Award was set up by the MCCV to sponsor young people to go to Malta and immerse themselves in our culture and their roots. The winner is required to engage themselves in the Maltese Community when they return.

In trade relations, Mr Mifsud said that he was proud that an Australian Estate Agency has set up a back office work concern in Malta. This was done since this company found it more economical to work from Malta. On the other hand, contacts were established between a Maltese-Australian businessman in Australia and a company in Malta which resulted in the importation into Australia of *galletti* (Maltese crackers) and other packed snacks, a business relationship that has grown and is flourishing.

On the question of the teaching of the Maltese Language, Mr Mifsud said that much work has been done by all concerned. We were at a point of losing VCAA accreditation since we were not finding 15 students to sit for the VCE. Efforts were made by all teachers concerned to address the situation and he joined the teachers in discussing solutions with the Victorian School of Languages. The efforts from the teachers' side included a publicity campaign and now we are proud to say that the number of children studying Maltese increased three fold and we had added adult's classes.

Mr Mifsud thanked all the teachers involved for their great strides and efforts. He personally knew what big personal sacrifices they made to keep the teaching of Maltese going, having for a time been himself helping

out by teaching Maltese to Adults. He encouraged the Maltese to send their grandkids to learn Maltese and secure the future of the language in Australia.

Mr Mifsud referred to a request he had received from the Maltese Museum of Immigration, when he initiated contacts between the Maltese Museum and the Melbourne Immigration Museum to cooperate and exchange information. Discussions are still going on and he hoped that these will bear fruit.

Mr Mifsud referred to the introduction of captions on the Maltese TV news programme to identify persons being interviewed, following his contacting PBS in Malta and highlighting this deficiency.

Mr Mifsud said that it was one of his wishes to see the three Maltese bands in Victoria give a joint concert, and he still hopes that the concert will still be held.

Mr Mifsud thanked the radio stations which transmit in the Maltese language. He participated in interviews and talk backs on various stations and this helped him to keep contact with the Maltese community.

He thanked the MCCV for their continued cooperation and for the projects carried out together. He also gave his sincere thanks to the Missionary Society of St Paul for their dedication and hard work in the Maltese Community.

Mr Mifsud also thanked the whole Maltese community for its support during the past almost 4 years, and all those who helped him and my wife to settle in, and live the Australian way and to serve the community.

He finally thanked his staff at the Consulate: *Miriam Cassar* "the strongest pillar in the consulate" with her invaluable 27 years of service in the consulate; *Dr Gioconda Schembri* with her legal and technical support that is crucial to solve certain problems, recently blessed with baby Thomas; and the newest member, *Pauline Theuma*, who has settled into her role very well, filling in for Dr Schembri.

On a personal note, he thanked his wife who constantly supported him during her stay with him in the last 3 years. Together they learned and lived the Australian way of life.

Mr Mifsud concluded that this posting was priceless to them and he is going back home with his head held up high, knowing that he did everything in his power to serve and assist the Maltese Community, who are the judges of his efforts. He said that he will keep the community close to his heart. "As much as I am looking forward to join my family in 10 days' time, just as much I regret leaving a community which I have grown to love. I hope to meet many of you in Malta in the future," concluded Mr Mifsud.

Prof. Cauchi then made a presentation of a farewell gift to Mr Mifsud, consisting of a model aeroplane kit.

Mr George Saliba OAM was MC for the evening. ❧



MHA Event — June 2013

Education Reforms and Schooling in Malta

By Agnes Cauchi

On Tuesday 18 June 2013 Mrs Maria Catania (right), guest speaker at the Maltese Historical Association monthly event, gave a presentation on Education Reforms and Schooling in Malta between 1800 and 1974.



After a brief introduction, Mrs Catania developed the topic around three areas of the history of education in Malta:

- Education reforms and the personalities involved in these reforms.
- Some of the schools in towns and villages which were restored, extended or newly built.
- Our school years' experiences.

Education Reforms

The British rule in Malta started in 1800. During the period 1800-1836, very little was done towards Primary Education because the Government did not want to embark on a costly program of educating the people. The Royal Commission of Inquiry of 1836 reported the low level of education of the Maltese people. The Commissioners criticised the widespread illiteracy, which was due to poverty and the poor school attendance, and recommended the opening of more schools, better pay for teachers and doubling the annual expenditure on education.

In 1840, Mons. Panzavecchia was appointed Inspector of Primary Schools and he started the hard work towards better education in Malta. Many other personalities, including Chief Inspector of Schools, Canon Paolo Pullicino, Minister for Education Mons. Dandria and Directors of Education Albert Laferla, John Brennan and Joseph Vassallo worked hard towards this aim.

In 1878, a number of Royal Commissioners came from Britain to investigate possible reforms in Education. A Department of Education was set up headed by a Director of Education. Teachers had to receive better training provided by the Government and to encourage children to learn. Prizes were to be distributed every year.

It was proposed to start teaching students English before Italian in primary schools. These reforms were put into practice by Director of Education Sigismondo Savona (1880-1887) and Chief Secretary Gerald Strickland (1889-1902).

The 1921 Constitution placed Education under the responsibility of the Maltese Government. However, school attendance was still poor because many parents still were against sending their children to school. For this reason, the Compulsion Attendance Act became law in 1924.

After the Second World War, people became more eager to learn and the Government introduced the Compulsion Attendance Ordinance of 1946. Parents became obliged to send their children to school at the age of five.

During the 1950s and 1960s, more primary and secondary schools were built throughout the Island. St Michael's Teacher Training College for males and Mater Admirabilis Teacher Training College for females were opened in the early fifties. The University at Tal-Qroqq was inaugurated in 1964.

In 1970, the Secondary Schools for All Act made secondary education compulsory from 11 to 14 years and with the Education Act 1974, the school leaving age was extended to 16.

By the end of the Seventies, all schools in Malta had reached the level of some of the most advanced countries in Europe.

MHA Event — August 2013

City walk to admire street sculptures

By Agnes Cauchi

On a cold and wet Sunday 18 August a keen group of MHA members and others met Mr Joseph Borg, a sculpture engineer, led our guided walk around the city of Melbourne. The idea behind it was to appreciate some sculptures dotted around the City's landscape in which Joe had been involved in their engineering aspects.

We started from the new stand of the MCG and there Joe explained the structure and why it had to be so. The engineers had to keep in mind the safety of the public and how the wind plays around these structures. From there we walked towards the Birrarung Marr. We stopped to admire the huge colourful sculpture called "The Angel" (below). This used to be outside the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) and it was thought that it needed a better place it could be viewed from all angles. Joe explained how it was transported, keeping in line the overhead tramlines! While we were there, we were fortunate enough to listen to the Federation Bells.



We proceeded to the outdoor area of the NGV. There we looked at the waterfall shaped like the inside of a seashell and why it was so – a practical idea. There was also a sculpture called 'The Wave' (above). Again Joe gave us a detailed account of how it was structured.

Then on towards Southbank. We stopped for lunch and then resumed our walk. We looked at three other sculptures. My favourite one was a number of gold bees on the face of a building. Again Joe Borg explained the difficulties the engineers had with this sculpture, namely the effect of the wind and possible danger to the public.

It was a very informative walk and, as a result, one can now better appreciate the sculptures. ❀



Schools

During the second part of the presentation, pictures of various schools in Malta were shown. These schools were either newly built, extended or restored. Some were large houses or *auberges* which were used as schools. The government primary school in Tarxien (pictured above), to the best of the speaker's knowledge built in 1889, was the first purpose-built primary school in the Maltese islands. Before this children were taught in large houses rented by the authorities from private owners.

The audience showed great interest, especially when pictures of the schools which they had attended were shown. Some discussions occurred. ❀

MCCV Community Awards 2013

On Saturday 31 August the MCCV held a reception at the Maltese Centre in Parkville to farewell the outgoing Consul General Mr Charles Mifsud and to present the MCCV Community Awards 2013 to the successful nominees, namely:

Prof Frà Richard Divall – for his contribution to Scholarship and Education

Prof Mary Galea – for her contribution to Scholarship and Education

Mr Emmanuel Cassar – for his contribution to Culture

Mr Charles Farrugia – for his contribution to Welfare Services

Mr Victor Bartolo – for his contribution to Welfare Services (in absentia)

Mr Charles Portelli – for his involvement in general within the community

Mr Alfred Asciak – for his involvement in general within the community (in absentia)

Mr George Brimmer – for his involvement in general within the community.

Prof Frà Richard Divall



Prof Richard Divall is a well-known personality in the musical world of Australia. He is conductor and Principal

Fellow in the Department of Music at the University of Melbourne. For his services to music, he has received several honours, including Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE), doctorates from several universities, and fellowships of several institutions.

For several years he has been involved with the Maltese community. He has been active within the Maltese community and has encouraged participation in dissemination of music appreciation through his lectures to the Maltese Historical Association. He has more recently been heavily involved in researching Baroque music manuscripts in Malta and organising performances of these works. He has facilitated publication of catalogues of the Order of Malta. He is currently involved in a 15-volume edition of Baroque Maltese Music for the Wignacourt Museum in Malta.

Richard Divall has also been very helpful to the MCCV, and has been a prominent supporter in our recent negotiations with the SBS in support of maintenance of Maltese radio programs.

He is a member of the Order of St John in Australia and has helped in many of its humanitarian projects.

Prof Mary Galea



Prof Mary Galea is a physiotherapist and neuroscientist and was appointed as Foundation Professor of Clinical Physiology at the University of Melbourne at the Austin Hospital. She is Director of the Rehabilitation science Research Centre based at the Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre.

She has been involved in extensive research with patients to improve recovery

after stroke. She has several publications relating to these issues.

She has won several prestigious scholarships to work overseas, including USA, Canada, Switzerland and the UK.

Professor Galea was elected Dame of the Order of St John.

Emmanuel Cassar



Born in Malta in 1933, **Emmanuel Cassar** migrated to Australia in 1955. He founded the *Ghaqda tal-Letteratura tal-Malti* in 1959 to encourage fellow writers to get together and continue writing Maltese literature.

He has been a prolific writer of poetry in Maltese and published his poetry both in Australia and in Malta. He has also published articles about various issues in Malta and Australia.

Mr Cassar was the sub-editor of the journal *Malta*. He was also literary editor of anthologies of poetry by Maltese-Australian Authors. He has also translated several works.

He is a corresponding member of the *Akkademja tal-Malti*. He was a member of the Victorian Association of Multicultural Writers. He has been President of the Maltese Literature Group (1988-1992). He has been a book critic on the Maltese programme on Radio 3EA (now SBS Radio) for several years.

He has been interested in the dramatic arts and has been involved in organizing various dramatic and literary shows with the *Ghaqda*

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Letteratura Maltija, Maltese Performing Arts Association, Malta Star of the Sea Assoc.

Mr Cassar is also well known for his painting, having obtained a Diploma in Fine Arts in 1984, and Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1985. He has had several exhibitions of his painting.

Charles Farrugia



Charles Farrugia has been involved on the committee of the Green Gully Soccer Club for the last 40 years and has been President for 26 years, a position which he holds still. Many young players started their career at this club under his direction and still find encouragement from him.

For more than 50 years that he has been in Australia, he has always supported Maltese associations, and has helped in fund-raising for the community, the latest effort being fund-raising for the Maltese Herald newspaper.

Mr Farrugia is Honorary Life Member of the Green Gully where he devotes his time on a full-time basis to help the club and the Maltese community.

Victor Bartolo

Victor Bartolo has been President of St. Helena Social Club Inc. for several years, and represents his association on a regular basis at MCCV Council meetings as a delegate. Victor has given his association great leadership and is responsible for the large number of registered members. The association has maintained an extensive social calendar throughout the years for the benefit and enjoyment of its membership. Victor has been supportive of the MCCV regularly attending monthly meetings and

encouraging other affiliated associations to take part.

From time to time he has been a benefactor of the council donating various items for the welfare programme. He is constantly assisting many members of his association who require help and support.

Charles Portelli



Charles Portelli joined the MCCV in the early 1960s. He has been active both in the Phoenicians' Association and was instrumental in starting the La Vallette Association.

His involvement with the MCCV included his role as Social Secretary which involved him in fund raising for the Miss Maltese Community Quest. Charles has also been involved in organising the 2007 Cultural Festival. He has also been Assistant and Acting Treasurer, as well as Welfare Officer and Senior Vice- President of the MCCV.

Alfred Asciak

A member of the Salesians Association, **Alfred Asciak** has over many years made a considerable contribution to the maintenance of Maltese culture within the Community.

He has been responsible for setting up and decorating the MCCV hall and premises on special religious and social occasions. These include Christmas crib and Easter [Passion of Christ]. He has displayed his skills for the

enjoyment of all those attending the Centre on these special occasions particularly the young.

He maintains a large stock of statuettes and other decorations for this purpose. Without his constant help and attention it would have been almost impossible to maintain.



George Brimmer



George Brimmer has been part of the Bingo group at the Maltese Centre for over 24 years. He comes from Vermont almost every Friday night and with him and his partner he brings three other persons in his car.

In earlier times he was always available to act as the official photographer on various functions including visits from personalities from overseas. 🇲🇹

Maltese Language Immersion Morning 2013

By Frances Bonnici, Maltese Historical Association President

On Saturday 31 August the committee of the Maltese Historical Association hosted the annual Language Immersion Morning (LIM) for the students who are currently studying the Maltese language at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville. The morning was filled with activities targeted towards the students who were multi-aged, ranging from primary to VCE level.

The theme for the youngest group was *Holm u Fantazija*. The students were encouraged to come dressed as their favourite 'fantasy' character. It was such a delight to see so many of the girls wearing 'fairy' costumes and the boys turning up as Ninja Turtles, skeletons or the Tortoise from the fable *The Hare and the Tortoise*.

During the first two hours, the very young students (Levels 1-3) listened to an imaginative story about fairies, coloured in and assembled a fairy or an elf and then were assisted by the adults in writing a few sentences in Maltese about their fantasy characters.

A different activity which required a higher skill in the language was organised for a group of students (Level 4-6). Working in groups, they completed a Board Game. After the introduction and discussion as to what words and phrases were to be used, the students sat down to finish the given task. All groups are to be commended on the ideas they came up with and the finished games were just great.

The senior students had a PowerPoint presentation run by Mr Paul Lia about the *Festi Maltin*. Paul touched on aspects of the *festi* as celebrated in Malta and here in Victoria. He also spoke about the festivals such as *Festa tal-Ħobż*; *Festa tal-Frawli*, etc. that villages in Malta have been hosting lately to attract both the Maltese and the tourists who visit the islands. This presentation was followed by a quiz and more discussion on this topic.

After a morning tea of *pastizzi*, party pies, cakes, chocolates and drinks, the students got ready for their final activity. The primary age students sang and danced to Maltese songs like *Onġi, onġi onġella*; *Jien Tifla tal-Kampanja* and *ABC*. They learnt the words, sang the songs and did the actions. Words and YouTube snippets of these children's songs were shown on the big screen and the children participated to the fullest.

The senior students participated in a cooking demonstration; they were shown how to make the *Prinjolata* - a popular Maltese sweet eaten mainly around Carnival time. Historical information and the recipe were handed out to the students.

I would like to thank the committee of the MHA who together with Rosemary Attard,



Edwidge Borg, Rosette Xerri and Dr Susan Zammit worked very hard to make this event one filled with fun and learning for the benefit of the younger generation of Maltese descent. I would also like to thank the

teachers and teacher aides who participated in the morning's activities.

My final thanks go to the MCCV Executive who provided us with the venue and the *pastizzi*. 🍷



By Rita Catania

Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship

Throughout the year, applications were called for the Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship: GAM would like to congratulate Kristy Galea on being the 2013 recipient. Kristy is the second recipient to win this scholarship and has won a \$1,000 to put towards a flight to Malta and/or accommodation. Kristy received her award at the MCCV on 31 August from Maltese former Consul-General, Mr Charles Mifsud.



GAM caught up with Kristy to get to know her a little more...

GAM: Tell us a little about yourself?

Kristy: I'm 22 years old and was born in Australia. I was born, raised and still currently live in Springvale. After high school, I

studied a Bachelor of Music and have recently completed my Masters in Teaching. I also currently teach piano at two schools and privately at home.

GAM: Where do your parents come from in Malta or Gozo?

Kristy: My mum and dad are both from Malta. My mum is from Rabat and my dad is from Mosta. Most of the relatives I have in Malta also currently live in Rabat.

GAM: Have you even been before?

Kristy: I was fortunate enough to travel to Malta on the '2012 Malta Discovery Tour' organised by the MCCV, in affiliation with the Australian Catholic University. It was a fantastic and I highly recommend it to any person looking to travel to Malta to find out about its historical elements.

GAM: What made you apply for the Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship?

Kristy: After participating in the 2012 Malta Discovery Tour 2012, I was encouraged by MCCV Secretary, Edwina Mallia to apply for the scholarship. It seemed like the perfect opportunity to get more involved with the Maltese community, and assist in promoting Maltese culture to young Maltese Australians.

GAM: What will be one of the things you look forward to doing / seeing in Malta or Gozo when you use your scholarship?

Kristy: I will be looking forward visiting my relatives that I had met for the first time last year. Even though I only got to know them for a short period of time, it was like we had known each other for years! They were all so lovely and welcoming, and I enjoyed spending time with them.

GAM is a group of Aussies with Maltese bloodlines. Working in conjunction with the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, GAM is about linking Australian-Maltese youth with their Maltese heritage to preserve the Maltese culture for generations to come. Like us on [Facebook.com/Generation AusMalts](https://www.facebook.com/GenerationAusMalts) (GAM).

Stories, Rhymes & Fun Event



At the Maltese Centre in Parkville on the afternoon of Sunday 25 August the focus was on Maltese words, rhymes and stories for a group of children aged between 4-10 years. A GAM initiative, the *Stories, Rhymes & Fun* event was held to coincide with Australia's annual Children's Book Week (17th- 23rd August).

The idea behind the event was to expose the children to Maltese authors and literature, as well as give them a taste of the Maltese language and alphabet. Activities involved live interactions, rhyming, storytelling, songs and games.

A feature of the afternoon was GAM enlisting the help of well known children's authors Clare Azzopardi and Deborah Abela. Both spoke and read to the children via Skype. Clare, who streamed in live from Malta, read

from her popular book *Ġużeppina*, about a naughty little girl, who tries to learn the alphabet using the letters that her grandfather gave her for her birthday, only to end up stamping these letters all over her arms, cheeks, legs!



Deborah, an Australian born of Maltese bloodlines, currently based in Sydney, read from one her *Max Remy Superspy* book series - *Max Remy Superspy, Mission in Malta*, about 11 year old Max who is part of an elite intelligence agency called *Spyforce* that finds herself in Malta for one of her missions!



GAM hopes the *Stories, Rhymes & Fun* event will grow to become an annual occurrence and wishes to thank all of those who participated. ❀

Il-belt ta' Melbourne tlesti l-fran għat-tisjira Maltija 2013!

Minn Marlene Galea

X'inhuma l-aktar żewġ affarijiet jew attivitajiet li jidher li jgħaqqu lill-poplu? Ikun xi jkun it-twelmin tagħhom, l-etniċità jew sesswalità? Nahseb li taqblu miegħi – wara li taħsbuha xi ftit – li l-ikel u l-mużika huma żewġ aspetti li jpoġġu tbissima fuq fomm kulhadd!!

U dan jidher li huwa s-suċċess wara attivita' li ta' kull sena qed tattira aktar interess fost ġenerazzjonijiet diversi ta' Maltin f'Melbourne!

Għat-tielet sena konsekuttiva, il-grupp komunitarju nisġa qed jorganizza tisjira Maltija – *The Maltese Cook Off* – xalata ta' ikel tradizzjonali Malti ppreparat minn 10 timijiet, li kemm-il darba huma magħmula minn tliet ġenerazzjonijiet mill-istess familja. Il-kontestanti jridu jippreparaw ikla ta' tliet korsi għal 200 persuna.

It-tisjira Maltija tiehu forma ta' kompetizzjoni bis-sehem ta' 4 membri tal-ġurija, li jinkludu chefs rinomati Maltin, fosthom Tregan Borg, kontestanta f'*MasterChef Australia* tas-sena li għaddiet u x-chef Malti Anton Camilleri.

Il-ġurija tagħżel l-aħjar platti fit-tliet korsi kif ukoll il-platt li fl-opinjoni tagħhom kien l-aktar platt Malti. Minbarra hekk, anke dawk li jattendu jivvutaw għall-aħjar platt. U fiż-żewġ edizzjonijiet tal-passat, kienu r-ravjul u l-pulpetti li ssigillaw ir-rebħa għaž-żewġ

timijiet, *Ġuza's Table* u *Generation AusMalts*.

Semmejti l-mużika u din żgħir li ma tonqosx! In-nofs ta' nhar ta' ikel Malti huwa mżewwaq b'mużika minn numru ta' mistednin, fosthom Nicky Bomba u huħ Michael Caruana. Din is-sena ser terġa' tiehu sehem ukoll il-kantanta Jacinta Caruana.

Din is-sena l-biljetti għal din l-attivitajiet inbiegħu fi żmien hamest'ijiem. Dawk li jattendu din l-attivitajiet għandhom etajiet li jvarjaw minn 5 snin għal 80 sena u żgħir li tispikka l-preżenza ta' zagħaġh ta' nisel Malti u familji bit-tfal.

Il-grupp nisġa twaqqaf sentejn ilu minn grupp ta' Awstraljani ta' nisel Malti li xtaqu li jgħaddu tradizzjonijiet Maltin li kibru bihom fil-familja... b'mod partikolari l-ikel Malti. Infatti, it-tisjira Maltija hija l-uniku attivita' li jorganizzaw fis-sena. Is-sena li għaddiet organizzaw għurata fejn il-partecipanti għamlu l-figolli u jidher li hawn domanda kbira biex din l-attivitajiet terġa' ssir.

Bil-popolarità tat-tisjira Maltija dejjem aktar tikber, qed ikun hemm talbiet biex l-



attività tidda' ssir f'post li jilqa' aktar nies. Infatti, d-domanda għal partecipazzjoni kienet tant kbira li din is-sena, in-numru ta' kontestanti żdied għal 11-il tim. Il-problema hija li jinsab post fejn il-kontestanti jkollhom kċina ndustrijali li tesgħa 33 kontestant u biżżejjed fran u wisgħa biex isajjru!

It-tisjira Maltija – *The Maltese Cook Off* – ser tinżamm fl-istitut ta' William Angliss fil-belt ta' Melbourne nhar **il-Ħadd 15 ta' Settembru**.

Għal aktar dettalji dwar il-grupp **nisġa** żuru s-sit www.nisga.org jew fittxu nisġa fuq Facebook u Twitter. 🇲🇹

Federation of Maltese Living Abroad

FMLA Committee Elections 2013: Call for Nominations

The Federation of Maltese Living Abroad (FMLA) has issued a call for nominations for the election of President and Committee Members.

Elections for positions on the FMLA Committee ('Administrators') will be held in the second half of October 2013. All positions will be declared vacant in due course. Member organisations may nominate one or several candidates to serve on the Committee. If nominated by a member organisation, candidates are required to indicate whether they accept the nomination. Individual members may nominate themselves for these positions.

The closing date for nominations was originally set at 30th September 2013, but it has been extended to 15th October 2013, after which date no further nominations can be accepted.

Nominations for President

Election for President of the FMLA will take place in October 2013.

Nominations will be accepted by the Electoral Commission according to Chapter IV of the Constitution. Such nominations should reach the Electoral Commissioners **not later than 15th October 2013**.

Candidates for an election have the right to self-nominate (Bylaw 21). Member organisations may nominate one individual to participate in these elections.

[Click here to download President Nomination Form \(31.24 kB\)](#)

Nominations for Committee Members

Elections for committee members ('Administrators') of the FMLA will also take place in October 2013.

Nominations will be accepted by the Electoral Commission according to Chapter IV of the Constitution. Such nominations should reach the Electoral Commissioners **not later than 15th October 2013**.

Candidates for an election have the right to self-nominate (Bylaw 21). Member organisations may nominate individuals to participate in these elections. Please use the Nomination Form below to indicate the name(s) of candidates nominated by you.

[Click here to download Committee Members Nomination Form \(31.53 kB\)](#)

Electoral Commissioners

Please return completed nomination forms by email to **all three** election officers below, whose email address is listed on the Nomination Forms:

- **Eddie Micallef** - Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- **Fr Victor Camilleri** - London, UK
- **Louis Vella** - San Francisco, California, USA. 🇲🇹

Reskeon Seniors lose their eldest member

By Paul Vella

On Tuesday 5th August 2013, Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group, lost their eldest member, Annetta Azzilla, of Reservoir.

Ten months previously, the Seniors Group celebrated her 100th birthday, with a special birthday cake and flowers at one of their weekly meetings, surrounded by her children Vivienne, Paul, Mitri and Alfred. She has another daughter, Lina, in Malta. She turned 100 on the 27th October last year.

Her funeral was held on the following Thursday, at St Joseph the Worker Church, North Reservoir.

Annetta, her husband and son Paul have been members of Reskeon for a long number of years.

We offer our condolences to all the family. God grant her eternal peace. ☒



Annetta Azzilla

Bocce Competitions at Reskeon Seniors

By Paul Vella

Both the ladies and men members of Reskeon Seniors Group, enjoy games of bocce throughout the year. The Group meets every Wednesday at Merrilands Community Centre, Reservoir.

The ladies organise a bocce competition which comes to an end as Mother's Day approaches so that the winners and runners-up receive their respective trophies during the Mother's Day Luncheon.

Likewise, the men organise their bocce competition towards August, when the Father's Day Luncheon is organised so that the trophies will be presented to the winners and runners-up on that day.

The men play outside under cover on a special bocce pitch, while the ladies play inside in the sports stadium.

While Angelo Farrugia looks after the men's competition, the ladies are looked after by Carmen Grech. ☒



The men's team members playing on a special pitch.

Il-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria

Minn Paul Vella



Il-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria huwa grupp li jhobbu l-ilsien u l-kultura Maltija. Kwazi kollha huma kittieba ta' proża u poezija, hafna minnhom magħrufin sewwa kemm hawnhekk kif ukoll f'Malta.

Il-Grupp jiltaqa' kull l-aħħar Gimgħa ta' kull xahar fiċ-Ċentru Malti tal-Victoria, Parkville, fis-7.30 pm. Hemm kulhadd jaqra' xi xogħol originali tiegħu jew xi xogħol ta' kittieba Maltin.

Fil-laqqgħa ta' Lulju, kien hemm attendenza mhux hażin. Preżenti kienu Ray Anastasi, Marie Louise Anastasi, Victor Sammut, Paul Vella, Salvina Vella, Michael Xuereb, Manwel Cassar, Josephine Cassar, Bernadette Cassar, Joe Lofaro, Rose Lofaro, Fredu Cachia, Vicki Cachia u Frank Bonett. Apoloġiji: Rosemary Attard, Charles Attard, Maria Catania, Armando Catania, Fr Dom Degiorgio.

Sar qari minn dawk preżenti: Manwel Cassar qara żewġ poeziji mill-ktejjeb ta' Dr Emmanuel Attard Cassar, *Vacanze Romane*. Dawn kienu *Roma* u *Magnificenza*. Fl-aħħar poezija issemmiet il-kelma "internet" u minhabba li hadd ma kellu spjegazzjoni għaliha, Paul offra li jkteb lil Emmanuel u jitolbu jfissirha għalina u malli Paul kitibtu, Emmanuel Attard-Cassar kien pront u bagħat l-isjegazzjoni mixtieqa u

Fir-ritratt jidhru dawk li kienu preżenti għall-laqqgħa ta' Lulju. Fuq quddiem, mix-xellug, Manwel Cassar, Fredu Cachia, Bernadette Cassar, Josephine Cassar u Vicky Cachia. Fuq wara, mix-xellug, Paul Vella, Dr Victor Sammut, Frank Bonett, Ray Anastasi, Joe Lofaro, Michael Xuereb, Salvina Vella, Marie Louise Anastasi u Rose Lofaro.

nirringrazzjawh. Wara Manwel qralna poezija bl-Ingliż *Gold* ta' Donald Hall. Huwa spiċċa billi qralna poezija ta' Sergio Grech mir-Rivista tal-Akkademja tal-Malti, *Hobbni*. Victor Sammut qara l-poezija bit-Taljan ta' Dr Emmanuel Attard-Cassar, mill-istess ktejjebli semmejna qabel, *San Francesco* u l-poezija *Bint it-Triq* ta' Gorg Zammit. Fredu Cachia qralna żewġ poeziji miktuba minnu stess: *Organ Donor* (poezija bil-Malti) u *Pegasus* ukoll bil-Malti. Frank Bonett qara *Il-Hlewwa tan-Natura*. Michael Xuereb qralna poezija originali tiegħu *Xaqqa Dawl*. Michael kelliinna fuq l-iskultur Malti, illum mejjiet, Antonio Agius, li kien imur jghum miegħu f'Miġra Ferħa, li għaliha kiteb din il-poezija. Marie Louise Anastasi qrat il-proża *Ir-Risq Hażin* ta' Sylvia Pisani ta' Dr Lou Drogenik li deheret fil-programm tal-Lejla Muziko-Letterarja ta' 2007. Ray Anastasi qara l-poezija tal-membru Vince Anastasi li llum m'ghadux magħna, Vince Anastasi, "*il-Laqam*".

Ray tkellem fuq telefonata li kellu ma' Mario Azzopardi li bħalissa jinsab fuq żjara

f'Melbourne minn Malta li qed jagħmel proġett dwar itejatru Malti.

Il-Grupp jipubblika *Folju* kull xahar, bl-aħħar attivitajiet tal-GLM u x'qed jgħri f'Malta fil-qasam tal-Ilsien Malti. Paul Vella, PRO tal-Grupp jiehhu hsieb dan il-Folju li jitqassam fost il-membri, kif ukoll, permezz tal-internet, imur għand madwar 400 persuna li għandhom għal-qalbhom l-Ilsien Malta, kemm fl-Awstralja, Malta, l-Amerka, l-Ingilterra, Franza, il-Kanada u postijiet oħra.

Fl-aħħar laqqgħa Marie Louise Anastasi għamlet rimarka dwar ittri li jircievi Paul Vella minn Malta dwar il-Folju u l-Grupp tagħna fejn ifahħru x-xogħol li qed naghmlu għall-Ilsien Malti.

Wahda mill-attivitajiet tal-Grupp huwa l-**Programm Muziko-Letterarju** li jinżamm kull sena fis-sala taċ-**Ċentru Malti ta' Parkville**. Din is-sena dan se jinżamm, **nhar il-Hadd 22 ta' Settembru, fis-2.00 pm**. Kulhadd huwa mistieden li jattendi u d-dhul ikun b'xejn. Il-Grupp jistampa ktieb bix-xogħol kullu li jinqara dak in-nhar u li jinbiegħ għal prezz baxx hafna.

Dawk li jhobbu l-Ilsien Malti, mhux bilfors li jkunu kittieba, u li jixtiequ jissieħbu ma' dan il-grupp għandhom jiġu xi darba fl-aħħar Gimgħa ta' kull xahar fiċ-Ċentru ta' Parkville, fis-7.30 pm. Dawk li jixtiequ kopja elettronika tal-Folju ta' dan il-Grupp għandhom jibgħatu email lil paul.vella44@gmail.com. Il-Folju jista' jitnizzel ukoll [mill-websajt tal-MCCV](http://mill-websajt-tal-MCCV). ☒

**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	Location
Sun 08 Sep 11.00 am	<u>Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin of Philermes - Order of Malta in Victoria</u>	Newman College Chapel, University of Melbourne	Parkville
Sun 08 Sep 2.30 pm	<u>The Feast of Marija Bambina - Il-Festa tal-Vitorja</u>	St Mary Star of the Sea Church	West Melbourne
Tue 10 Sep 6.30 pm	<u>Welcome Reception for Speaker Hon Dr Anglu Farrugia - MCCV Event</u>	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Sun 15 Sep	<u>Nisga Cook Off 2013</u>	William Angliss Institute	Melbourne
Sun 15 Sep 2.30 pm	<u>Members Meeting - San Gejtanu Society Inc.</u>	St Martin de Porres Church	Avondale Heights
Mon 16 Sep 7.00 pm	<u>Lecture on "Ageing with Dignity" by Priest-Psychologist Dr Victor Shields</u>	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Sat 21 Sep 6.00 pm	<u>Book Launch - Island of Dreams by Aline P'nina Tayar</u>	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Mon 23 Sep 7.00 pm	<u>Lecture on "Overcoming Loneliness" by Priest-Psychologist Dr Victor Shields</u>	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Wed 25 Sep	<u>MCCV Executive Committee Meeting</u>	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Wed 02 Oct 7.00 pm	<u>MCCV Annual General Meeting 2013</u>	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Sat 05 Oct	<u>Anniversary Gala Dinner - Newport Maltese Association</u>	-	-
Sun 06 Oct	<u>Trip to NSW - San Gejtanu Society Inc.</u>	-	-
Fri 11 Oct 6.00 pm	<u>Our Lady of Grace Feast 2013 - Our Lady of Grace Association Inc.</u>	St Mary MacKillop Church	Keilor Downs
Sat 12 Oct 7.00 pm	<u>Our Lady of Grace Feast 2013 - Our Lady of Grace Association Inc.</u>	Luxor Function Centre	Sydenham
Sun 13 Oct	<u>Annual General Meeting - Newport Maltese Association</u>	-	-
Sun 13 Oct 2.00 pm	<u>Our Lady of Grace Feast 2013 - Our Lady of Grace Association Inc.</u>	St Mary MacKillop Church	Keilor Downs
Sun 20 Oct 11.00 am	<u>Free Members BBQ - San Gejtanu Society</u>	St Martin de Porres Church	Avondale Heights
Sat 26 Oct	<u>Get Together Evening - Newport Maltese Association</u>	-	-
Sun 27 Oct	<u>MCCV Executive Committee Meeting</u>	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Fri 01 Nov 6.45 pm	<u>All Souls' Day Mass - San Gejtanu Society Inc.</u>	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Wed 06 Nov 7.00 pm	<u>MCCV Council Meeting</u>	Maltese Centre	Parkville