



MCCV News

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www.mccv.org.au

Maltese Community welcomes Speaker of Maltese Parliament to Melbourne

On Tuesday 10 September 2013 the Maltese Community Council of Victoria held a welcome reception in honour of the Speaker of the Maltese Parliament, the Hon. Dr Anġlu Farrugia, who was on a two-day visit to Melbourne.

Standing in for the MCCV President Prof Maurice Cauchi, who was unable to attend due to other commitments, Vice President Mr Victor Borg welcomed Dr Farrugia to the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville. Mr Borg thanked Dr Farrugia for visiting the Maltese community in Melbourne and said that it was a great honour and a pleasure to welcome him to the Centre.

Mr Borg provided some background information about Dr Farrugia's career. He said that Dr Farrugia was first elected to parliament in 1996. He was subsequently re-elected in 1998, 2003 and 2008. He spent many years as opposition shadow spokesperson for justice and for employment and workers' rights. On 6 April 2013 he was appointed as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Mr Borg said that Dr Farrugia started his working life after completing his education as a teacher. Between 1977 and 1996 he was a member of the Malta Police Force and left office with the rank of police superintendent to go into politics. While in the police force, he undertook a law degree and graduated as Doctor of Laws from the University of Malta.

Mr Borg said that, as a member of parliament, Dr Farrugia represented Malta in a number of international conferences organised by the European Union and other bodies and made a great contribution to the proceedings in the conferences that he attended. The most recent one, from which Dr Farrugia had come to Australia, was a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference held last week in Johannesburg, South Africa. Earlier in the week Dr Farrugia met with his counterparts from the State Parliament of New South Wales.

Mr Borg said that, while many members of the Maltese community in Melbourne have been away from their country of origin for more than 50 or 60 years, there is still a love of country that is never lost. Any news of Malta is always taken very well. "We listen, we look forward to seeing Malta



Speaker Dr Anġlu Farrugia

advance and maintaining communication with our relatives and friends in Malta," said Mr Borg.

Mr Borg then spoke briefly about the MCCV and the Maltese Community Centre that was built by the Maltese community in partnership with the MSSP.

Mr Borg said that in the morning Dr Farrugia had the opportunity to visit Rosary Home aged care facilities run by the Maltese Dominican Sisters, where he was able to meet some of the residents of the home.

Mr Borg spoke about the other cultural activities regularly held at the Maltese Centre and Maltese language classes. "We are very conscious that we need to leave a Maltese heritage behind when we pass on," said Mr Borg. It is important that the younger generations get involved and enthused about Maltese values and culture. The MCCV has an active Youth Committee working hard to get the younger generation of Maltese Australians involved using modern means of communication, such as, Facebook and other electronic social media.

Mr Borg said that overall we have a great community in Victoria and each member is a great ambassador for our country of origin. "We all do our utmost to contribute to the Australian community and we are appreciated by Australian governments of any political persuasion," said Mr Borg.

Mr Borg then spoke of the many successes achieved by Maltese living in Australia. "We always encourage our children when it comes to education ... and you will be pleased to know what great successes have

been achieved within the Maltese community. There is not one aspect of life or one profession that is not well represented by persons of Maltese background," said Mr Borg.

Finally, Mr Borg thanked Dr Farrugia for his visit and hoped that this would be his first visit of many visits and that Dr Farrugia would enjoy his stay in Melbourne and Australia.

In his address in reply, Dr Farrugia thanked Mr Borg for the welcome and introduction. He said that, when he was appointed Speaker on 6 April of this year, he felt the need to elevate that role, if possible, above the traditional one of Speaker as the person who presides in the House of Parliament to keep the order. The Government and the Opposition have the right to speak within the time allocated to

[Continued on page 4](#)

In this Edition

• President's Column: Council for Maltese Living Abroad met again in Malta	2
• Malta's national football team captain joins Melbourne Heart FC	
• Notes from Council Meetings	3
• Maltese Speaker on two-day Melbourne visit	5
• Newport Maltese Association celebrates 40 years	6
• Maltese classes in Victoria for 2014	
• MHA Event September 2013: The Great Debate: Most important period in Malta's history?	7
• Maltese for Foreigners	8
• Calling all former Maltese Child Migrants	
• Hitting the books to keep the Maltese language alive — Rita Catania	9
• The Maltesers win this year nisġa's Cook Off!	10
• Feast of Maria Bambina celebrated in Melbourne — Paul Vella	11
• Council for Maltese Living Abroad Meeting in Malta	12
• Community Calendar	



The President's Column

Council for Maltese Living Abroad met again in Malta

The third meeting of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) was held in Malta in October, under the auspices of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon George Vella (*see photo on page 12*). Both Dr Edwin Borg-Manché and myself attended this meeting as Councillors for Victoria.

The meeting was spread over two days and a very wide agenda was discussed. Several Heads of Departments from the various Ministries attended the meeting and responded to issues and questions that were raised.

Among the issues that were discussed, one could include the following:

- Issues relating to passports and particularly the problems met by persons who live away from places, like Queensland or WA where facilities are not available
- Problems met by Maltese when they visit Malta, relating particularly to the need for an Identity Card which allows cheaper travel by bus
- Right to vote at elections for the European Parliament and even the Maltese Parliament
- The setting up of a Cultural Institute to facilitate maintenance of language and culture
- The need for assistance in teaching Maltese language
- The importance of introducing teaching of history of migration within the curriculum in Malta
- And finally, the organisation and planning for the next Convention for Maltese Living Abroad in 2015. The last one was held in 2010, and it is now hoped that such a Convention will be held every five years.

It is obviously impossible to summarise a full two-day conference in a few words, but anyone who is interested in further details is invited to approach us and we can provide further information.

It is also worth emphasizing that the role of Councillors is to become aware of issues that need to be tackled, and it is therefore important for anyone to contact us with any issue that you feel should be discussed.

I believe that the Council for Maltese Living Abroad is a very important forum which ensures that the Minister for Foreign Affairs in Malta is made aware of issues that face Maltese wherever they live. It also provides a mechanism where different government departments in Malta are brought face-to-face with issues that affect Maltese living abroad, and hopefully will be in a position to endeavour to find a solution.

Prof. Maurice Cauchi

MCCV President

21 October 2013

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

Malta's national football team captain joins Melbourne Heart FC



On 18 September 2013 Melbourne Heart FC announced on its website that it strengthened its strike force for the Hyundai A-League 2013-14 season, signing Maltese national football team captain Michael Mifsud (above) on a one-season deal.

Mifsud, 32, remains Malta's most prominent footballer and is the country's all-time top scorer, twice being crowned Maltese Sports Person of the Year during an international career that spans 13 years and has yielded 37 goals in 99 appearances.

Melbourne Heart FC Head Coach John Aloisi is excited at Mifsud's arrival. "Michael has scored goals at whatever level he has played at," Aloisi said. "He is an exciting footballer and will be a dynamic influence in our attack. As the captain of Malta, he has played against the very best teams in the world and held his own. It's not easy to lead the line against the likes of Italy and Croatia, and test those defences, something which he has done regularly."

On Wednesday morning he was getting his first glimpse of his new surroundings at Melbourne Heart's Latrobe University training ground and meeting his new teammates after inking a one-year deal with the A-League club.

At 1.65 metres tall, the most noticeable thing about Mifsud is his height. Or lack of it. But that has never stopped him from scoring a steady stream of goals at a high level in various European leagues. 🇲🇹



Notes from MCCV Council Meetings

SEPTEMBER 2013

The following items were discussed at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4 September 2013:

MCCV Council Annual General Meeting. The MCCV AGM will be held on Wednesday 6th November 2013. All Associations are asked to send their representatives to the meeting.

Farewell Function for Mr Charles Mifsud. The Farewell Function for Mr Charles Mifsud, Consul General of Malta in Victoria, which was held on Saturday, 31st August 2013 at the Maltese Community Centre, Parkville, was very well attended. Thanks to all who volunteered their services.

MCCV Community Awards and Bishop Joseph Grech Scholarship Award. The MCCV Community Awards function was also held on Saturday, 31st August 2013 at the Maltese Community Centre, Parkville. This year's Awards were presented to the following: Professor Fra Richard Divall OBE, Professor Mary Galea, Mr George Brimmer, Mr Emmanuel Cassar, Mr Charles Farrugia, Mr Charles Portelli, Mr Alfred Asciak (in absentia), and Mr Victor Bartolo (in absentia). The Bishop Joseph Grech Scholarship 2013 was awarded to Ms Kristy Galea.

Welcome Reception for Speaker Dr Anġlu Farrugia. A welcome reception will be held on Tuesday, 10th September 2013 at the Maltese Community Centre, Parkville, to welcome the Hon Dr Anġlu Farrugia MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Malta.

MCCV Hall Hire. The use of the MCCV hall was discussed. The following rates of hire were approved at the meeting:

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

It is important that Associations start using the Centre's hall again for their social functions as soon as possible in order to ensure that the MCCV does not lose its right to use the hall for such functions. A demonstration of the newly installed sound control equipment should be organized for representatives of Associations to see how it works.

Maltese Language Immersion Morning. The annual Maltese Language Immersion Morning organised by the Maltese Historical Association of Australia was held on Saturday, 31 August 2013, at the Maltese Community Centre, Parkville. Mario Bonnici spoke of the morning activities. The children arrived by bus from Taylors Lakes. Some 50 children were in attendance, many came dressed in fancy dress. All costs were met by MHA. MCCV donated 10 dozen pastizzi.

Free Lectures by Dr Victor Shields. Dr Victor Shields mssp will be delivering a series of 2 lectures at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville. The first lecture will be held on Monday 16th September 2013 at 7pm on "Ageing with Dignity". The Second lecture will be held on Monday 23rd September 2013 at 7pm, on "Overcoming Loneliness". ☒

OCTOBER 2013

The following items were discussed at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2 October 2013:

Welcome function for Speaker Dr Anġlu Farrugia. Given the short notice that was provided for the function held at the Maltese Centre, the numbers of those present was reasonable. Those who were able to make it had the chance of personally meeting and speaking to Dr Farrugia, the Speaker of the House of Representatives in Malta, who was on a brief visit in Melbourne. Dr Farrugia appreciated the opportunity to visit the Maltese Centre and address members of the Maltese community.

New Malta High Commissioner and New Malta Consul General for Victoria. His Excellency Mr. Charles Muscat is the new High Commissioner for Malta in Australia and Mr. Victor Grech is the new Consul General for Melbourne. Both took office recently. A function to welcome the two dignitaries to Australia will be held at the Maltese Centre in Parkville on Saturday 9 November at 6.00 pm.

Meeting of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad. MCCV President Professor Maurice Cauchi and MCCV PRO Dr Edwin Borg-Manché are currently in Malta attending the third Council meeting in Malta. Among the matters for discussion are assistance in relation to teachers of Maltese in Victoria and the Maltese language classes and applications for biometric Maltese passports in Australia to hopefully find some way to make it easier for all Maltese living abroad in locations where the Maltese consulates do not have the required equipment. It is expected that portable equipment for finger printing and other requirements for the passport will be made available in coming months. It is noted that Mr Roderick Bovingdon has resigned from this Council and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr George Vella has appointed Professor Stephen Gatt in his place.

Youth Committee. Ms Kristy Galea, recently awarded of the Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship 2013 and Ms Hayley Hougee have joined the Youth committee and will be assisting Rita Catania and Rita Ellul. Rita Ellul attended Nisga AGM and is now on the Nisga Committee as the GAM/Youth Committee representative. Nisga would like to support the Youth Committee to run a Figoli Fun Day In April 2014 by assisting with funding, marketing and "hands on deck" on the day. December Children's Christmas Party will take place on 7 December 2013.

Bingo Nights at the Maltese Centre. The Bingo Night on Fridays is still not making any profit. It has been decided to continue until the end of this year and in the new year a sub-committee will be formed to consider organising some social activities on Friday evenings to encourage more people to visit the Parkville Centre. It was mentioned that the billiard table is not in use on a Friday night. It would be a good idea to make this available for the men while the wives were playing bingo. ☒

Maltese Community welcomes Speaker of Maltese Parliament to Melbourne

Continued from page 1

them and the Speaker gives his rulings from time to time on issues that arise during debates in order to ensure the business of the House is conducted as smoothly as possible.

Dr Farrugia said that, when he was appointed Speaker he felt that such a role was too monotonous. In fact, in his presiding role in the House, he also represents the highest institution of the country. The role of the Speaker is a national one and is clearly defined in Maltese Constitution, which is a written constitution, as the person who presides over the highest institution and has national functions above every level of political involvement and conditioning.

Dr Farrugia said that he is the first Speaker in Malta's political history to resign from the political party he belonged to upon his appointment as Speaker. He said that he took this step with total conviction because he believed then, and even more so now, after his has occupied the position for a while, that the role of Speaker is there for all the Maltese and Gozitans. To be able to carry out the role properly, one needs to have "a convincing moral authority".

Dr Farrugia said that when the Australian High Commissioner visited him after his appointment, he asked her about ways how the Maltese Parliament could exchange ideas and work with the State Parliaments of Victoria and New South Wales as well as with the Federal Parliament of Australia on matters that would be of interest to the Maltese communities in Australia. He suggested to her that meetings for this purpose be organised with the respective Speakers to start working along these lines.

Dr Farrugia made reference to the passing of Act XX of 2011 which established by law the Council for Maltese Living Abroad, having the function to safeguard the interests of all generations of Maltese living overseas. He said that, as a result of this legislation, in his role as Speaker, he is able to receive reports from this Council and place them on the agenda for discussion by the relevant Parliamentary Standing Committee, foremost among them being the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Dr Farrugia then spoke about the benefits of having friendship groupings between the Maltese Parliament and the state parliaments of Victoria and NSW. He said that, after visiting South Africa for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, he felt the need to travel to Australia to establish and strengthen the relationships of the Maltese Parliament with the NSW and Victorian State Parliaments. Dr Farrugia said that the day before he had a meeting in Sydney with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the NSW Parliament, the Hon Shelley Hancock MP. The next day Dr Farrugia was due to meet with the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Victorian Parliament, the Hon



Christine Fyffe and other Victorian MPs, some of whom had visited him in Malta last July.

Dr Farrugia said he was pleased to take the opportunity of his first visit to Australia to meet with the members of the Maltese communities in Sydney and Melbourne and particularly, those people whom he had heard a lot about, such as, Mr Victor Borg, who has done great work for the community, members of the Missionary Society of St Paul, and Sister Doris Falzon of the Dominican Sisters of Malta who run the Rosary Home, where he was pleased not only to see the great work of the nuns but also to experience the love that one feels in that place. This work shows the values of the Maltese that are very strong and it is important that we give our children the opportunity to participate in them, so that these values are transmitted to our younger generations.

Dr Farrugia spoke about Maltese values. He said that the Maltese, wherever they live, apart from remaining Maltese, have values that are not always easily found in other peoples. Thanks to our religious faith and beliefs, we are also a tolerant people. He said that he visited another aged people's home also run by the Dominican Sisters in Sydney and he was told that some of the residents were Muslims. This was a nice thing as it send a message that we, Maltese, not only tolerate but give space to those who perhaps do not agree with us, he said.

Finally, Dr Farrugia thanked those present for the opportunity to address them and said that he hoped to have an opportunity to come back for another visit to Australia so he can further discuss matters on which work would have already begun.

Following the addresses, Dr Farrugia presented Mr Borg with a publication of the history of the role of the Spaniards in Malta during the time of Count Roger that

includes a detailed map of Malta and of Valletta in the Spanish language. The publication was produced by people in Spain of Maltese origin.

Dr Farrugia also presented three copies of the first edition of the publication *Il-Parlament* recently published by the Parliament of Malta. While Parliament in Malta has existed since 1921, there has not been any such publication and he felt there is a need for it. When the next issue is published, the MCCV will be on the mailing list. It can also be downloaded from the Parliament's website – www.parlament.org.mt. He said that for those who have the time, they may listen and view live streaming over the internet of all proceedings of Parliamentary Committees from this website. Dr Farrugia said that he strongly believes that whatever is discussed in Parliament should be discussed openly in a transparent manner, everything above board, as this is what true democracy is all about.

Finally Dr Farrugia presented Victor Borg on behalf of the MCCV with a limited edition stamp issued by Malta Post to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Maltese Parliament and democracy in Malta.

On behalf of the MCCV, Vice President Victor Borg presented Dr Farrugia with three interesting books about the Maltese in Australia, the first about the history of the MCCV, *Under One Umbrella*, written by Prof. Maurice Cauchi; the second called *Maltese Achievers in Australia* also by Prof. Maurice Cauchi; and the third called *From Humble Beginnings – Mackay Maltese Pioneers* about the Maltese migrants who settled in Mackay, Queensland written by Carmel Barreta and Lorraine Schembri and launched at the Maltese Centre in Parkville in 2001, describing the very hard work of the early Maltese settlers in Australia. ❀

Maltese Speaker on two-day Melbourne visit

The Speaker of the Maltese Parliament, the Hon Dr Anglu Farrugia, paid a two-day visit to Melbourne, while on a week-long visit to Australia, after attending a conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Johannesburg, South Africa. The highlights of his brief visit were a meeting with members of the Malta Friendship Parliamentary Group of the Victorian Parliament, a visit to Rosary Home aged care facilities run by the Dominican Sisters of Malta and a welcome reception held in his honour by the Maltese Community Council of Victoria.

Dr Farrugia arrived in Melbourne on Tuesday 10 September. In the morning he paid a visit to Rosary Home in Keilor Downs accompanied by the Hon Consul of Malta in Victoria, Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, MCCV Vice President Mr Victor Borg and Dr Victor Shields of the Missionary Society of St Paul, who is currently visiting from Malta. Sr Doris Falzon of the Dominican Sisters of Malta and Administrator of the Home and Mr Paul Borg, the Financial Controller of the Home, greeted Dr Farrugia and showed him around the facilities. Dr Farrugia was very impressed with the Home and had the opportunity to talk with some of the residents.

In the afternoon Dr Farrugia visited the General Consulate of Malta in the Melbourne CBD, where he was met by the staff members, Ms Miriam Cassar and Ms Pauline Theuma, and signed the visitors' book.

Dr Farrugia then visited St Patrick's Cathedral in East Melbourne where he was able to view the monument of St George Preca located in a prominent place in the cathedral grounds (photo right).

In the evening, the MCCV held a Welcome Reception for Dr Farrugia, where he met members of Maltese associations and community. Click here for a full report of this event.

On the second day of his visit, Dr Farrugia visited the Shrine of Remembrance on St Kilda Road and the Shelter of Peace located on the eastern lawn next to the Shrine and dedicated to the Maltese who fought and died in the two world wars (photo right).

Dr Farrugia then proceeded to the SBS Radio studios where he was interviewed by Senior Broadcaster, Ms Marlene Galea, for the Maltese Program. The first part of the interview was broadcast on Friday 13 September and the final part on Saturday 14 September.

In the afternoon, Dr Farrugia was greeted at Parliament House in Spring Street by Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly the Hon Christine Fyffe, the Hon Don Nardella MP, Labour Member for Melton and the Hon Andrew Elsbury MP, Liberal Member for Western Metropolitan. Dr Farrugia was shown around the two



SBS Senior Broadcaster
Marlene Galea interviewing Dr Farrugia

parliamentary chambers, the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. During the meeting Dr Farrugia discussed various issues, including the progress report of the Friendship Group between the Maltese Parliament and the Parliament of Victoria. Also discussed were the role of the Maltese living abroad and parliamentary democracy and the possibility of exchange regarding legislation that relates to the Anti-Corruption Select Committee.

Later in the afternoon Dr Farrugia visited the Immigration Museum in Flinders Street, before flying back to Sydney in the evening. ✠



Dr Victor Shields mssp and Dr Farrugia near the monument
for St George Preca in the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral



Dr Victor Shields mssp, Dr Farrugia and Dr Edwin Borg-Manché at the Shelter of Peace

Newport Maltese Association celebrates 40 years

By Lydia Cole, Newport PRO

On 5th October the Newport Maltese Association celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a Gala Dinner Dance held at Melrose Reception in Tullamarine.

The night was extremely successful and everyone had a ball. The menu was especially selected and the hall was beautifully decorated.

On this special night, Life Membership Certificates were issued to the committee members for continuous service to the Association during the past ten years.

A small token was handed to everyone by the ladies of the committee. Towards the end of the function a toast with Champaign and cutting of a 40th celebration cake was made and the Newport Innu was played with everybody joining in. It was a terrific night. ✠



Klassijiet tal-Malti f'Victoria għal 2014

Ir-registrazzjoni għall-klassijiet tal-Malti f'Victoria għas-sena 2014 għat-tfal u l-kbar infetħet.

- **Klassijiet tat-tfal** minn Prep sa VCEnharr ta' -Sibt filgħodu bejn 9.00- 12.30 go Taylors Lakes.
- **Klassijiet għall-kbar** go Parkville fiċ-Ċentru Malti nhar ta' -Ħamis filgħaxija bejn 6.00 u 7.00.
- Għal min jixtieq javvanza l-istudju tal-Malti se tinfetħ **klassi tal-VCE għall-adulti**.

Adulti u żgħar li jixtiequ jitgħallmu l-Malti f'Ċentri oħra, u għal kull tagħrif iehor, għandhom iċemplu fuq **0412 115 919** jew imejl fuq admin@mccv.org.au

Edwidge Borg
Maltese Language Classes Co-ordinator—MCCV

Maltese classes in Victoria for 2014

Registration for Maltese language classes in Victoria for 2014 for children and adults is now open,

- **Classes for children** from Prep to VCE level on Saturday mornings from 9.00 am to 12.30 pm at Taylors Lakes
- **Classes for adults** on Thursday evenings from 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm at the Maltese Centre in Parkville.
- For those who wish to advance in the study of Maltese, a VCE class for adults will be held.

Young and adults, who wish to learn Maltese in other Centres in Victoria and for all other information, should call **0412 115 919** or email

admin@mccv.org.au

Edwidge Borg
Maltese Language Classes Co-ordinator—MCCV

MHA Event — September 2013

The Great Debate: Most important period in Malta's history?

By Agnes Cauchi

The Maltese Historical Association held its September event on Tuesday 17th. It was an unusual presentation - a debate on the topic of which is the most important period in Malta's history. Instead of one guest speaker, there were three: Prof Maurice Cauchi, Mr Joe Borg and Mr Albert Agius. Each one of them chose a period in the Maltese history and they tried to convince each other and the audience which period was the most important for Malta.

Prof Maurice Cauchi spoke on Pre-history as the most important period. He made three point to support his thesis.

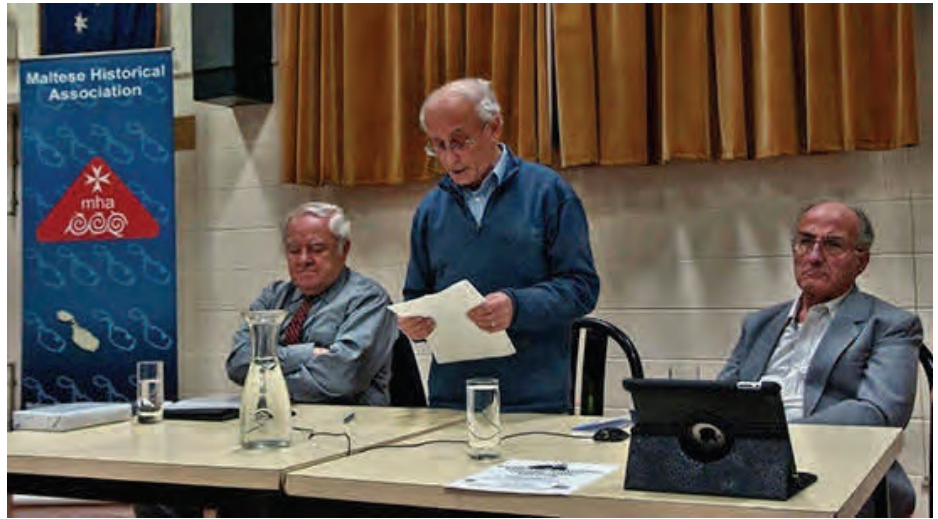
- The Ggantija, Tarxien temples the Hypogeum, Ghar Dalam and Hal Saflieni were very advanced structures compared to what was happening in Europe and elsewhere at the time.
- The above structures have a world Heritage status, which in turn,
- makes them a tourist attraction, which help the Maltese economy.

Mr Joe Borg took the Knights of Malta as his most important period. Under the Knights, Malta changed from a rural population to an urban population. Not only did the Order build Valletta and fortified the coast, but also commerce expanded, and hence the economy and society flourished. The arts academia flourished. Above all, Malta ceased to be an appendix of Sicily. It came on its own.

Mr Albert Agius chose modern Malta as his topic. He stated that after World War II, Malta was almost destroyed. Though she did not get any money from the Americans, somehow the Maltese managed to rebuild Valletta, the Cottonera and other places. However, there was much unemployment which resulted in mass migration to America, Canada and Australia. Later on, Malta became independent from England and later still, she became a republic. For the first time, in recorded history, Malta became an independent nation!

Much nation building followed, e.g. infrastructure was rebuilt, new hotels and marinas popped up, airport and harbour facilities were improved, the free-port was established. In the meantime, Malta joined the EU and the economy boomed. Now Malta enjoys the privilege of being a member of the EU.

Afterwards, the three presenters debated each other's points. The audience was also given the chance to have a say in the discussion. ✠



Above: from left, Guest speakers Mr Albert Agius, Mr Joe Borg and Prof Maurice Cauchi with MHA President Mrs Frances Bonnici

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WELCOME RECEPTION

in honour of

H.E. Mr Charles Muscat

Malta High Commissioner in Australia
and

Mr Victor Grech

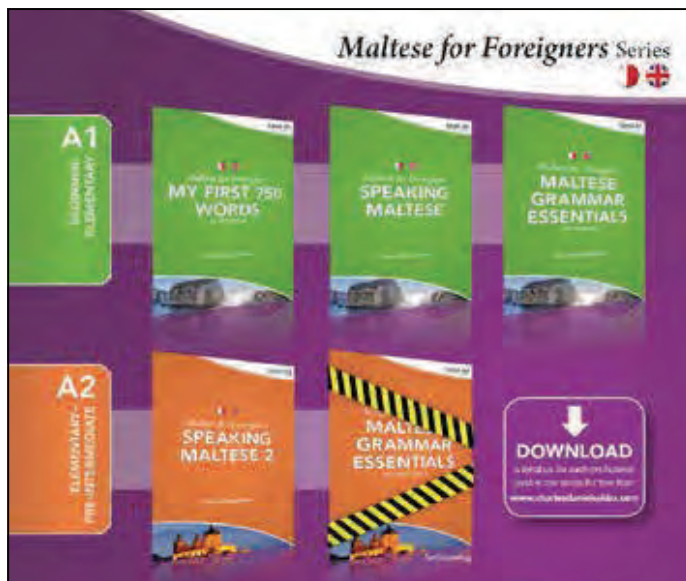
Consul General of Malta in Victoria

Saturday 9 November at 6.00 pm
at the Maltese Centre, Parkville

Donation: \$15.00 per person

Contact Maltese Centre
on (03) 9387 8922

Maltese for Foreigners



Charles Daniel Saliba has published a Maltese/English book series entitled *Maltese for Foreigners*. This series, which is based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), consists of three levels.

Level A1 (Beginners–Elementary) includes three books: *My First 750 Words in Maltese*, *Maltese Grammar Essentials in Context* and *Speaking Maltese*.

These three books are perfect for beginners and are suitable for use by individuals, by groups or in a school setting.

Level A2 (Elementary–Pre-Intermediate) includes the book *Speaking Maltese 2*. Saliba has plans to publish *Maltese Grammar Essentials in Context 2* to further the lessons taught at this level.

Level B1 (Intermediate) includes two bilingual readers:

Reality and *Rocco Learns Karate*. In the future, Saliba will publish *Maltese Grammar Essentials in Context 3* to complete this level.

Saliba has also produced a CD containing the audio files linked to the books so learners can listen to native Maltese speakers reading the text and acting out the dialogues. In addition, Saliba has also devised a syllabus for each level based on the CEFR, which can be downloaded for free from his website under the heading *Maltese for Foreigners*.

The bilingual series, featuring the latest developments in Maltese orthography, is aimed at beginners who want to learn Maltese and advance to the intermediate level.

This series is based on a needs analysis Saliba conducted with foreigners learning Maltese and instructors teaching Maltese to foreigners. *Maltese for Foreigners* is a byproduct of Saliba's PhD research, undertaken at the University of Sheffield, focusing on teaching Maltese as a foreign language and sponsored by a Malta Government Scholarship Scheme Grant.

For more information about each book, please visit www.charlesdanielsaliba.com. ☒

Calling all former Maltese Child Migrants



AHA Australian Healthcare Associates

A Survey is currently being conducted which will help evaluate the effectiveness of existing support services for former child migrants. The survey is being directed by Dr Trish O'Connor, from Australian Healthcare Associates. Responses to this survey we help in identifying areas of support that may need to be improved.

The research team have difficulties reaching all former child migrants, particularly the Maltese. Of the 310 former Maltese Child migrants only 1 has responded to the survey. Dr O'Connor, says it is important that as many Former Child Migrants as possible get in touch and complete this Survey. By taking part in this Survey, they can play a real part in helping to inform how services are delivered.

Maltese former Child Migrants are urged to take part in this survey EITHER by accessing the Survey on-line http://aha.bradallica.com/FaC_Survey.php OR by phoning 1300 788 667 (cost of a local call).

The Survey, which should take less than 10 minutes to answer, will be conducted from now until the end of December 2013. All responses are voluntary, all information will be kept strictly confidential and no individuals will be identified.

Find and Connect (<http://www.findandconnect.gov.au/>), one of the key support services funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), helps Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants to trace and access their records and reconnect with their families where possible, access specialist and mainstream support services, and build a positive future.

Dr Patricia O'Connor PhD
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Hitting the books to keep the Maltese language alive

By Rita Catania

Over recent times, the Maltese language as a VCE subject nearly got shelved permanently by the Education Department, due to the decrease in participating numbers. A disappointing outcome for those studying the language at a young level hoping to continue on to senior level, and very sad for our culture as a whole, if this were to be the final result.

After much rallying by the Victorian Maltese Language Coordinators, Maltese Teachers Association of Victoria and interstate counterparts, a group of people put their hand up to assist in helping to save the language from being axed. A minimum of 15 students were required and I, along with my mum and mother-in-law were some of those people who participated. Not the strongest of writers in Maltese, I thought I would give it a go anyway, and be a part of something that I felt was not only extremely worthwhile, but culturally beneficial... even if it was with a bit of trepidation! Plus, the idea of going back to school with my two mums would be an experience within itself!!

Under the tuition and patience of Emma Navarro (a.k.a. 'Miss Emma'), who also teaches Maltese language classes at the Taylor's Lake campus on Saturday mornings, our class came together every two weeks on a Saturday afternoon to learn how to write, read and speak the Maltese language and prepare to sit the VCE exam.

Our class was made up of different age groups, mostly Maltese and Gozitan natives, a first generation Aussie/Malteser (me) and an Englishman! An Englishman you say? Clive is his name; he is married to a Maltese woman and absolutely loves the Maltese language along with Malta itself. To me, Clive was pretty inspiring. He didn't grow up with the Maltese language like I did, nor was he exposed to the culture like I was, but he certainly could have passed as someone who did! His knowledge and passion for the Maltese language was very humbling. Like several other languages, Maltese (especially the writing), is no exception in terms of its difficulties, and is not an easy feat to accomplish - even when you have some knowledge of the language. Either way, Clive was also in the class to give the VCE a crack!

Each week, Miss Emma would teach us about a different topic including World War 2, pastimes and traditions, Easter festivities, migrants who came to Australia, verbs (the Maltese love these), and how to pronounce the

many different Maltese consonants! One of the best experiences about being in the class was the conversation and stories our class work would always generate. For those who grew up on the islands, their take on the Maltese (and



Some of the students involved (from left) - Agnes Cauchi, Doris Catania, Georgina Farrugia, Elaine Cotter, Miss Emma Navarro & Clive Dickinson

Gozitan) language, their knowledge about Malta and Gozo and memories, were all worthy of a discussion. In fact, they were another lesson within themselves! And you know how the Maltese love to talk? (Miskina Miss Emma!) From learning about what it was like growing up in Malta and Gozo, to people making shoes out of cardboard for amusement, to playing in abandoned forts built by the Knights, to the sound of air raid siren, to others remembering how their parents would be fined time and time again for them not returning to school in the afternoon because their mothers needed them at home. The conversation and learnings were endless, often resulting in reactions from some of us saying things like... "Really?... I never knew that!...What does that word mean? How do you pronounce it again?"

It was also quite the role reversal at times for both the younger and older generations. The younger generation knew what it was like to sit the VCE exam and its formats, but the writing, reading and speaking could be difficult at times. I know my dictionaries got an INTENSE workout - all 3 of them! On the flip side, writing, reading and speaking was not as hard for the Maltese and Gozitan natives (even though some didn't get to finish school and words had changed since they were there), but what on earth are Reflective, Persuasive and Blog pieces all about?! And what is a SAC piece Miss? Don't you mean 'xkora' Miss?!

So, after weeks of SACs, practice exams, cups of tea and coffee and a few Panadol for Miss Emma after class, the big days had arrived - October 15 & 16. This is what all of the hard work was leading to. 'Orals' assessments on Day 1 and 'Written' assessments on Day 2. There we were! Our afternoon class with 4 of Miss Emma's morning class students. It was nice to see a full class for the Maltese language, after seeing how many students were there sitting exams for other languages like Greek, Italian and Spanish to name a few. We had 2 hours and 40 minutes to make Miss Emma

proud, but most importantly, enough people were sitting the exam to secure the language for another 3 years. The clock was ticking and I remember my mother-in-law sitting to my left and my mum sitting directly in front of me, as we all sat a VCE exam together. Surreal, but pretty awesome!

Of course, the Maltese and Gozitan natives finished a few minutes early, whilst others (including me) were still sweating it - dictionary pages flying back and forth, from left to right and right to left. And then the time was up. Pencils and pens down. 15 students nationally, had managed to sit the Maltese VCE exam. 10 minutes hadn't even passed and my mum was already asking about when she would be getting her results! Being a student again wasn't so bad after all. As our group began to exit the classroom, one of the examiners said... "I have to ask... What makes a... group of... err... older people sit the Maltese VCE Exam?!" Denise went on to answer... "We are trying to set an example and encourage more kids from a Maltese and Gozitan background to study the Maltese. It's about preserving the language."

And the moral of the story is? Maltese language classes do exist folks! So, if you have kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews, friends or you want to participate yourself - do it! Get involved and keep the language alive. Studying a language is great for the brain and one of the best ways to preserve/ learn about one's culture.

Support the passionate and endless efforts of all our teachers and coordinators of the Maltese language school. Maltese is taught at the MCCV Centre in Parkville and at various VSL locations. The MCCV email address is admin@mccv.org.au while the VSL contact email address is learnmaltesevic@gmail.com.

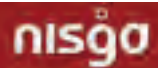
What a positive experience. I now have a new set of friends and some great memories. *Prosit lil kulhadd!*

Hope I passed. ✂



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/GenerationAusMalts](https://www.facebook.com/GenerationAusMalts) (GAM).

The Maltesers win this year *nisga*'s Cook Off!



The Maltesers triumphed at this year's Maltese Cook Off, held in Melbourne, organized by *nisga*! Sandra Galea, Darren Attard and Nicholas Galea's team The Maltesers had the winning combination of stuffed eggplants and rice pudding! A panel of 4 judges had the difficult task of choosing the top 3 winners.

Phyllis Restall and her twin sons Matthew and Christopher's steamed meat and potatoes and date cushions (Imqaret) came in 2nd place, followed closely by Sue Edwards, Jarrod Edwards and Lena Cassar with their widow's soup and bread pudding.

The teams with the most Malteseness in their menus were The Maltesers and Maltese Tucker and the People's Choice Award went to Jacinta Portelli, Gavin Dudley & Carmen Deguara's eggplant relish (kapunata) with homemade bread and beef olives (bragoli).

The afternoon was a mixture of food and music... the 200 guests were entertained by musicians Nicky

Bomba and Michael Caruana as well as singer songwriter Jacinta. An impromptu drumming session on pots & pans by Nicky Bomba had the crowd in awe of this talented musician!

This was the third edition of the Maltese Cook Off held by community group *nisga*. The event brings together 10 teams made up of 3 people, in some cases 3 generations from one family, cooking Maltese traditional food.

This year's judging panel consisted of Maltese chef Anton Camilleri,

former MasterChef contestant Tregan Borg, chef Shane Delia's mum Doris Delia and last year's winner Doris Catania. You can see more photos of this year's *nisga* by clicking here:

www.facebook.com/nisga.org. 



Feast of Maria Bambina celebrated in Melbourne

By Paul Vella

Reskeon Maltese Association was again in charge in organising the Feast of Maria Bambina on behalf of the Missionary Society of St. Paul.

Because this year the 8th of September fell on a Sunday, the Mass at the Maltese Centre during the week was not held as this is normally held on the day of the actual Feast.

On Saturday, 7th September, Reskeon organised the Vittoria Dinner Dance at Firenze Receptions, Fawkner, which was well attended by over 200 members and friends.

Distinguished guests were the Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud; Fr Victor Shields, mssp; Honorary Life Members of Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group Inc., Dr Clemente Zammit and Mrs Mary Zammit; Life Member of Reskeon Maltese Association, Mr Laurie Bartolo and Mrs Theresa Bartolo; the MCCV Vice-President, Mr Victor Borg and Mrs Terri Borg; the MCCV Treasurer, Mr Paul Borg and Mrs Pauline Borg. Apologies were received from Fr Edwin Agius, mssp, and Life Member of Reskeon and Mrs Anne Gauci.

On Sunday, 8th September, Reskeon organised the Feast of Maria Bambina on behalf of the Missionary Society of St Paul, at St Mary Star of the Sea Church, West Melbourne.

This year it was a nice, warm Spring day and around 1000 of the Maltese Community attended for this Feast. A large number of Maltese associations attended with their banners and presented flowers to Our Lady.

Among those present were the Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud, the President of MCCV, Prof Maurice Cauchi and Mrs Agnes Cauchi; members of the MCCV Executive; Dr Clemente Zammit and Mrs Mary Zammit; members of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta and members of the Maltese Ex-Services Association of Victoria. A large number of Maltese Associations attended as well along with their banners, as well as the banners from the four villages and towns where the Bambina is celebrated in Malta and Gozo: Senglea, Mellieha, Naxxar and Xagħra, Gozo. Also present were Sisters from Religious Orders, members of the Society of Christian Doctrine and the Chief Representative in Australia of the Bank of Valletta plc, Mr George Portelli and Mrs Portelli.

Rosary was recited at 2.30pm by Mr Emmanuel Farrugia, which was followed by a Concelebrated Mass. Prime Celebrant was the MSSP Provincial in Australia, Fr Ivano Burdian; Concelebrants were Fr Edwin Agius, Fr Dr Victor Shields, Fr James Bonello, Fr Emmanuel Adami, Fr Denis Carabott, Fr John Taliana, all of mssp; Fr Karm Borg and Fr Raymond Bugeja. The homily in English was delivered by Fr Ivano Burdian, while Fr Dr Victor Shields delivered a short homily in Maltese.

The First Reading was by The Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud, who was attending the last function of the Maltese Community in Victoria, before returning to Malta after the end of his term of office. The Second



Reading was read by Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, Hon. Consul of Malta in Victoria and MCCV PRO. The Prayers of the Faithful were read by Ms Antoinette Bajada and Mrs Phyllis Vella while the Sacrificial Offerings were brought to the Altar by Mr Joe Borg of First National, Deer Park and Mrs Borg, along with Mrs Anne Gauci and Mrs Tessie Cachia. Master of ceremonies was Emmanuel Farrugia helped by Frank Sirianni. The music and singing was provided by the Maltese Choir of Victoria under the direction of Mr Charles Schembri and Ms Lydia Gusman.

This was followed by a procession with the beautiful Statue of Maria Bambina in the streets around the church accompanied by the Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society under the direction of Maestro George Aquilina, members of a large number of Maltese associations carrying their respectful banners and a large crowd from those attending the Church service. The procession was concluded by the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. ☩

Council for Maltese Living Abroad Meeting in Malta

The Council of Maltese Living Abroad held its third meeting in Malta on 3rd and 4th October, 2013. The meeting was chaired by the Hon Dr George W Vella, Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Council discussed a variety of issues on its agenda such as the Malta Culture Institute, Maltese language teaching overseas, the teaching of the history of the Diaspora in Maltese schools, biometric passport services, banking services, and other matters that impact directly or indirectly Maltese communities in other countries.

Photographed right are the Council members—back row, from left: Larry Zahra (USA), Guzi Muscat (Gozo), Franklin Mamo (EU), Joe Sherri (Canada), Lawrence Dimech (Aust); middle row: Edwin Borg-Manché (Aust), Frank Scicluna (Aust), Gejtu Pace (Aust), Bernard Scerri (UK), Louis Vella (USA), Maurice Cauchi (Aust); front row: Council Secretary Ms Maria Calleja, Fr Alfred Vella (Malta), Minister George Vella, Carmen Galea (Canada) and Rosalie Rivett (UK).



Community Events Calendar

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

Date	Title	Venue	Suburb
Wed 06 Nov 7.00 pm	<u>MCCV Annual General Meeting 2013</u>	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Sat 09 Nov 6.00 pm	<u>Welcome Reception for new High Commissioner and Consul General</u>	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Sun 17 Nov	<u>Trip to NSW - San Gejtanu Society Inc.</u>	-	-
Wed 27 Nov	<u>MCCV Executive Committee Meeting</u>	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Sun 01 Dec	<u>Christmas Get Together - Newport Maltese Association</u>	Melrose Reception	Tullamarine
Wed 04 Dec 7.00 pm	<u>MCCV Council Meeting</u>	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Sun 07 Dec 1.30pm - 4.30pm	<u>'Festín Tal-Milied Għat-tfal!' - Children's Christmas Party!</u> including Christmas Card Making, 'The Amazing David' Magician, Face Painting, Presejju Mural, Christmas Treats Class, Music, Games and of course... Santa! \$5 per adult. Primary school students FREE! Please bring a small gift, wrapped & labelled with your child's full name for Santa to give out to them. Dress Code: FUN or FANCY! Prizes to be won for best costumes!	Maltese Centre 477 Royal Pde, Parkville Contact Carmen Mamo or Lillian Calleja on 9387 8922 by no later than Wednesday, 27th November.	Parkville
Sat 14 Dec 7.00 pm	<u>Christmas Get Together - San Gejtanu Society Inc.</u>	St Martin de Porres Church	Avondale Heights
Tue 31 Dec	<u>New Year's Eve Ball - Newport Maltese Association</u>	Lakeside Reception	Taylors Lakes