



Raising Maltese community awareness of palliative care services in Victoria

On Thursday 5 June the Victorian Minister for Health, the Hon David Davis, was the special guest at a function organised by the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV) and held at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville to launch the Palliative Care education program for the Maltese community. The Maltese community is one of five ethnic communities (the others being the Chinese, Italian, Turkish and Vietnamese communities) that are benefitting from funding made available by the Victorian Department of Health to raise awareness by providing information sessions on palliative care services in the relevant native languages.

The program partners working closely with each other are the MCCV, Palliative Care Victoria (PCV), the ECCV and the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health. The program entails the running of information sessions and the provision of an educational brochure on the subject in the Maltese language.

When this initiative was announced last August, the Victorian Government planned to provide Palliative Care Victoria with \$400,000 funding, through the Strengthening Palliative Care policy, to work with multicultural organisations to raise awareness of, and access to, palliative care for people with a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background.

Almost 24 per cent of Victorians were born overseas but people from CALD backgrounds only account for seven per cent of palliative care clients. The government recognised the need to address this imbalance, and one way of doing this is by raising community awareness of death and end-of-life care, including palliative care. It was felt that applying best practice approaches to health promotion and peer education within CALD communities is an effective way of raising awareness.

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(From left) Mr Eddie Micallef—ECCV Chair, Dr Joyce Jiang—Health Promotion Manager, Multicultural Centre for Women's Health, Health Minister Hon. David Davis, Ms Odette Waanders—Palliative Care Victoria CEO, Mr Michael Bramwell—Chair of Palliative Care Victoria, Mrs Marlene Grech—Member of the Maltese Community Reference Group, Mr Paul Lia—Community & Education Coordinator, MCCV and Professor Maurice Cauchi—MCCV President

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The President's Column

Looking after the older generation

It is an obvious observation that the first generation of Maltese, those who arrived on these shores more than half a century ago, are now approaching an age when they are becoming more and more dependent on others, and particularly on welfare and medical services.

There are two major issues which people face as they grow older. Firstly, they find that they cannot cope at home on their own. This is particularly the case when one of the couple, the husband or wife, departs, leaving the other to cope on his or her own. It is almost invariably the case that the urge, if not the capacity, to look after oneself dramatically vanishes when one finds oneself alone. Hence the need for some assistance from welfare services, whether provided by government or other organisations, to help them in their daily chores, and to make sure that they do not lack essential services.

The original aim of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria has been, from the very beginning in 1958, to provide such a service. While the needs of the Maltese settler have changed dramatically since then, they certainly persist in a very definite form, and will continue to do so, and actually become more obvious as the community advances in years.

Secondly, a very important issue relates to medical services, which again become more urgent as we grow older. One of these issues relates to palliative care. One might wonder what this entails. It includes, but is not restricted to, care of those who need terminal assistance. It requires an understanding of the needs of those who have severe medical problems, sometimes involving hospitalisation in special homes.

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria has also been involved in ensuring that these persons are not forgotten. While we, as an organisation, cannot become involved in this issue directly, we can however ensure that Maltese patients or clients in these homes are taken care of. One grant which the Council supervises and is being managed by one of our staff members, Paul Lia, at the Maltese Centre, is to ensure that as far as possible these homes provide the right kind of care. Mr Lia is very much involved in visiting these homes, to encourage staff to provide services, which include the type of meals they provide, for instance, for elderly Maltese residents. He has also been very much involved in encouraging the staff at these homes to become acquainted with Maltese customs and habits, and even to learn a few words of welcome in Maltese, which, I am sure, are appreciated by those find themselves in a foreign and sometimes even threatening environment.

At a meeting organised by the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria jointly with the MCCV, this issue was discussed earlier this month. The Chair of the ECCV, Mr Eddie Micallef, discussed the various issues from a wider community point of view. Launching the community awareness education program at the Maltese Centre, the Victorian State Minister for Health, the Hon David Davis MP, spoke about the need for a palliative care service, and also about the role of the MCCV and Mr Paul Lia in particular. His comments have been reproduced in the lead article of this newsletter.

The MCCV is a voluntary organisation. It consists of persons who believe that they can contribute to the welfare of the wider Maltese community. While the Council will do all it can to pursue these aims, it is essential that the younger generation of Maltese should become more involved in our work, to ensure that there is continuity for years to come.

Prof. Maurice Cauchi
MCCV President

Oriana Farrugia — an exchange student from Malta studying in Melbourne



Achieving dreams. Some people dream their life - others just travel them. I chose the latter. My name is Oriana Farrugia and I am a first generation 24 year old Maltese exchange student. I made it to the land down under after accomplishing a partial scholarship from the University of Malta, in order to study for one semester at Victoria University (VU).

My expectations of Melbourne were high; however, in reality, it was even more fulfilling. I was genuinely pleased to learn that Melbourne is home to a lot of Maltese people because it feels really good to be overseas and speak in my native language. On top of this, the Maltese Community Council has been of major support when I landed in Australia by leading me to the Rosary Home Aged Care Facility: who offered me a roof over my head and showed me kindness and respect.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the four Dominican Sisters managing the Home - with special regards to Sr. Doris Falzon OP and Prof. Maurice Cauchi.

Back to reason to why I am on this continent - I am currently studying four credits covering aspects of Social Work and Social Policy and gaining skills which will help me develop projects to better peoples' lives. These skills are also being cultivated through extra curricular activities which VU offers - like Leadership Conferences and Workshops and 'student organisation' opportunities.

My flight ticket back home is dated for the 4th of July; however I am liking Australia too much to leave so early and am going to extend my stay at least until August. This free time will give me the opportunity to travel around Australia and acquire work experience considering I am on a Working Holiday Visa. I would like to thank my mother for always supporting my choices and financially helping me pay my accommodation, meals and household needs; and my whole family in Malta for keeping good contact with me and making me feel like I'm still back home. Once I finish my academic semester I will be open to engage in new life experiences and get the best out of my wanderlust. I cannot wait! ●

— Oriana Farrugia



From the MCCV Council

Future of SBS Radio Maltese programs. Regarding the future of SBS Maltese radio programs it was agreed that, the Maltese Council in NSW and the MCCV have written a joint letter to SBS (see details on page 4) to object to any reduction in number of hours of Maltese language programs.

Bishop Joseph Grech Scholarship. The Bishop Joe Grech Scholarship is in its third year and applications are now open for the 2014 Scholarship award. Applications have been extended until 15th July. Associations are urged to encourage members of the younger generation to apply.

Palliative Care Launch. On Thursday, 5th June 2014 the Victorian Minister for Health, the Hon David Davies attended the launch of the Palliative Care Project for the Maltese Community. The launch was held by the MCCV in conjunction with the ECCV. Some 70 people were in attendance.

Community Services Program. MCCV Vice President Victor Borg has been providing support for the MCCV's CACPs program. The MCCV is currently looking to employ an experienced program manager on a part time basis. Mr Paul Lia has been attending at aged care facilities to assist their staff in learning some expressions to use in communicating in Maltese with Maltese residents at their facility. He also arranged for chefs to attend at the Maltese Centre in Parkville to speak to HACC program participants about their preferred Maltese meals for the 'meals-on-wheels' program. Ms Maree Rizzo, who looks after the HACC program at the MCCV, advised that she is making arrangements to introduce another group at Parkville. This will bring it up sessions to five sessions each week with a further session at Sunshine on a fortnightly basis.

George Cross Commemoration Function. MCCV Social Secretary Joe Stafrace advised that tickets for the social function to be held at the Maltese Centre in Parkville on 28 June have sold out. Arrangements are being made for an electrician and a sound engineer to be in attendance on that date so that appropriate sound level readings will be taken.

Use of Maltese Centre for social functions. It was decided that affiliated associations would be charged a revised fee of \$400 for the use of the hall on Saturdays. A leaflet will be sent out to all associations.

Infrastructure Grant application. The MCCV has lodged an application to express its interest for a grant from the Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund 2014 for maintenance works at the Maltese Centre in Parkville.

Maltese lace-making workshops. Mrs. Consiglia Azzopardi from Gozo will be in Australia in August to attend a Lace making conference, is a recognized teacher in lace making. A workshop has been organised for people who enjoy lace making. The sessions will take place at the Maltese Centre in Parkville. She will also be giving a talk on the history of lace making, organised by the Maltese Historical Association.

Charlie Zammit "iz-Ziffa" passes away. Victor Borg confirmed that MCCV had sent a sympathy card to convey our condolences and sympathies to Charlie Zammit's widow, Mrs Carmen Zammit and her family.

Theft from cars in MCCV carpark. Concerns were expressed about theft from cars parked in the underground garage. The MSSP priests suggested that the garage be locked at 5.00pm. It was agreed that the priests would be advised whenever there was an evening function at the Maltese Centre so that the carpark be left open for the function attendees. The MCCV will also investigate the possibility of installing video cameras in the driveway and garage as a deterrent. ●

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:

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Future funding of Maltese language programs on SBS Radio

Maltese Community Councils of Victoria and NSW express concerns in joint letter to SBS

In a joint letter to SBS dated 24 May 2014 the Maltese Community Councils of Victoria and New South Wales expressed their concern about the continued funding of Maltese language programs on SBS radio.

In their letter they refer to the revision of the SBS Radio schedule in late 2012, when SBS had advised in early 2013 that the two additional hours of Maltese language programs, which were restored after strong representations were made to SBS on behalf of the Maltese community, would be funded from within the then existing radio budget. SBS had also indicated that it was committed to funding the additional two hours for two years (until the end of the 2014/15 financial year) and the funding situation would be reviewed at the end of the two years.

With the government-commissioned review of ABC and SBS currently under way and the latest Federal Government budget measures just announced, it is our understanding that SBS would be under pressure to generate cost savings and, consequently, reduce the number of hours in some of its language programs.

The Maltese Community Councils of Victoria and New South Wales, representing the majority of Maltese in Australia expressed their objection in the strongest possible terms to any reduction in the current number of hours allotted for transmission in the Maltese language.

In setting out the reasons for their objections, the two Councils highlighted the following:

- The distribution of time on SBS radio should be based on equity criteria and not on census data relating to the gross number of persons purporting to speak that language. Compared to other much larger communities, the Maltese community in Australia is particularly underprovided in other channels of communication, especially in print media, and in transmissions in their native tongue from the mother country. In this context it is noted that the extra program of Maltese News on SBS TV, which was part of the deal that included the two additional digital radio programs referred to above, is not working as effectively as it should. In the last year there were several instances of SBS TV airing the wrong program, re-transmitting programs that had already been aired, or not airing any program because of it did not arrive in



time, etc. SBS and our Councils have been receiving a lot of complaints from members of the Maltese community about the poor quality of the service.

- SBS should endeavour to distribute the cake as widely as possible and as equitably as possible. One question that arises relates to the minimum as well as the maximum amount of time that is required for a radio program to serve as an effective means of communication. In our view, every effort should be made for every sizeable ethnic group (say, of more than 20,000 persons) to have at least a minimum of half-an-hour per day exposure to their native language. The Councils also strongly believe that no ethnic group, whatever its size, should have an extraordinary amount of radio time allotted to it to the detriment of the smaller communities. A more equitable balance in radio transmission time is required. Accordingly, the Councils firmly recommend that any reduction in hours that SBS may be considering should come from trimming of the exorbitant time allotted to the largest ethnic communities.
- It is also a fact that SBS seems to be unaware of the size of the audience of its radio programs by ethnic community and is not giving sufficient importance to this aspect when allocating the number of hours to the various communities. It is the Councils' understanding that the larger ethnic communities with abundant alternative radio programs in their language are much less likely to listen to the SBS programs allotted to their language. One indicative measure is that

hardly any listeners of these programs participate in their talk-back segments. By contrast, talk-back segments on SBS Maltese radio language programs are very popular with members of our community, who are always keen to participate in these on-air discussions.

- Basing criteria so heavily on census data relating to the proportion of persons, who state that they speak English at home, is a flawed way to allocate radio time. Much more emphasis should be placed on the specific needs of a particular ethnic community. In addition to transmitting local news from Australia, programs on all foreign language radio channels (referred to in paragraph 3 above) also communicate news from the relevant home country. For the Maltese community, such a comprehensive news service tailored to the specific needs of our community can only be obtained through SBS radio's Maltese language program and through no other English language program.
- Related to the point made in paragraph 4 above, is the importance of culture preservation, as distinct from language maintenance, to any ethnic community. The SBS philosophy that respects and promotes a patently multicultural society is partly based on the need for ethnic communities to maintain their culture. No other English-speaking radio program is available to deliver this culture element to Maltese living in Australia.

Recommendation

The two Councils strongly recommended that the criteria for distribution of language program time on SBS radio should include specific community needs and not merely size of the non-English speaking data from the census. In this respect, it is well known that the larger ethnic groups are abundantly supplied with a variety of radio program sources, which enable them to maintain their language and culture, while several of the medium and smaller sized communities lack such facilities.

They urged SBS management that, if there is to be any trimming of the available SBS radio hours, it must come from a reduction of the overgenerous allowance that was provided to the larger ethnic groups, and not from those who have so little to spare. ●

Efficiency review to recommend co-location of SBS operations at ABC headquarters

The national broadcaster Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and the multicultural Special Broadcasting Services (SBS) could be required to work more closely together as the Federal Government looks to continue slashing both their budgets. Last month's federal budget cut about \$43.5 million from both broadcasters via a one per cent efficiency dividend. However, the Government warned that money was simply a "down payment" on further savings to come, following an efficiency review.

The final report from that review is currently with the boards of the ABC and SBS, but is unlikely to ever be made public. The 146-page study, which contains 48 areas of analysis across the ABC and the SBS, identifies five key areas that it says may lead to significant operational efficiencies or savings. These include the merging of some operational aspects of the SBS and ABC, retiring old technologies and finding new ways for the ABC to raise its own money.



The report says any merging of operations between the ABC and SBS would ensure the organisations maintain their separate and unique programming identities.

The head of SBS warned coverage of the Tour de France and the soccer World Cup in Brazil due to start on 13 June were at risk if the Government slashed any more funding from the broadcaster.

Fairfax Media reported that the draft review recommends that SBS vacate its flagship Sydney and Melbourne premises and

"co-locate" with the ABC in its Ultimo and Southbank offices. This would see SBS depart its headquarters in Artarmon, North Sydney, and Melbourne's Federation Square. The move would potentially rake in millions of dollars through asset sales and efficiencies achieved through merged back-office operations. The two broadcasters would then share studio facilities, cameras, broadcasting equipment and other resources for the first time.

However, there are concerns that shared facilities would be the "thin edge of the wedge" for the broadcasters' independence – particularly the much smaller SBS. Since its creation in 1975, SBS has maintained its own studios and office space, reflecting its separate identity. Sources said shared facilities would make pooled staffing and even a total merger more likely in the long term. ●

[Sources: www.abc.net.au and www.smh.com.au]

Outrage about proposed race law changes forces Brandis to rethink

After budget backlash and a huge drop in government support, attorney-general Senator George Brandis (pictured right) is reportedly planning to back off on plans to remove sections of the Racial Discrimination Act. According to a report in *The Age* published in late May, Mr Brandis has reacted to outrage about his proposal by moving to wind back the proposed changes.

The changes would have scrapped section 18C, which pertains to the definition of racist insults and hate speech.

Specifically, Mr Brandis will reportedly water down a section in the draft legislation related to "hate speech" which exempts "words, sounds, images or writing spoken, broadcast, published or otherwise communicated in ... the public discussion of any political, social, cultural, religious, artistic, academic or scientific matter" from prosecution.

Community groups and Coalition MPs in marginal electorates, some representing large ethnic communities, have fiercely protested the changes.

Liberal MPs who supported the initial plan have also agreed that the government needs to rethink the changes, admitting that the laws have fallen to the wayside during the post-budget storm.



"There hasn't been a word whispered about it," one MP shared.

The change in approach comes after Aboriginal reconciliation leader Patrick Dodson last night called for politicians to be "brave, bold and courageous" during his Lowitja O'Donoghue Oration in Adelaide.

Mr Dodson reiterated the powerful impact of racism, saying "it drives us out of places and spaces where we have every right to live and learn...It's not a triviality."

Senator Brandis said he was working through the 5300 submissions and the government "didn't have a consultation period with the intention of not listening to what people have to say".

"There is a large variety of views from all points of the opinion spectrum and we

will take into consideration all of those views and we will arrive at a final proposal," he said.

NSW Liberal MP Alex Hawke, who has been a supporter of scrapping section 18C, admitted on Tuesday that changes needed to be made to the draft laws. "We need to start again. I don't want to see journalists prosecuted for offending but ethnic communities' leaders are making a compelling case that any reforms have to be very carefully handled," he said.

Fellow NSW MP Craig Kelly, who has also previously supported repeal of 18C, said he still supported doing something but "the detail of the legislation, there are perhaps one or two words that could be moved around. I don't think the first draft that George has done is locked in concrete and I think everyone is flexible about changes to the proposed wording".

A third MP, who also initially supported the changes, said he had been swamped by ethnic community leaders lobbying against the changes.

However, Liberal senator Cory Bernardi said he still supported the proposals.

"Some principles are worth fighting for. I happen to believe freedom of speech is one of those principles." ●

[Sources: www.theage.com.au and thenewdaily.com.au]

Raising Maltese community awareness of palliative care services in Victoria

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Present for the launch in Parkville were ECCV Chair Mr Eddie Micallef; MCCV President Professor Maurice Cauchi; PCV Chair Mr Michael Bramwell; PCV CEO Ms Odette Waanders; Health Promotion Manager of the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health Dr Joyce Jiang; and members of the MCCV Executive committee. Also present was MCCV Community and Education Coordinator, Paul Lia, who is leading this project for the Maltese community.

In his address Minister Davis said that this initiative is very strongly supported by the Victorian government. He said that "palliative care is a difficult topic for some people of all communities. Some communities have different views and a whole range of very legitimate ideas and concepts that are best discussed amongst the community." For this reason, it is so important that organisations work in partnerships. Mr Davis recognised this initiative as "one of those examples where a partnership is going to deliver a much better outcome than otherwise would have occurred."

Minister Davis said that "the Maltese community is a significant community in Melbourne. Boasting more than 20,000 people in Victoria, Maltese Australians arrived in Australia particularly from the 1950's onwards."

"Palliative care is important to all communities and around half the people who die each year in Victoria would benefit from palliative care. Yet just 7 per cent of palliative care services in Victoria are provided to people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background and that is very divergent when you think of the very significant percentage of our population that is from a culturally and linguistically diverse background. The government has recognised that need and the need to expand palliative care services for Victorians," he said.

Minister Davis said that the Victorian government "recognises the need to expand palliative to those from a culturally and linguistically diverse background. There is a recognition that low intake is a direct reflection of a series of barriers to services in people's language, a lack of understanding a healthy availability of services. Those services are largely free, and people don't always know that."



Hon. David Davis, Minister for Health

"Equally people have religious or other views that make them think this could be a bad thing or this might be something that we don't need to avail ourselves of. But when this is talked about and the community understands that there are options available to them, which they can exercise choices that they can make as a family at points in their life when they may be making difficult decisions," said the Health Minister.

Identifying some of the barriers, Mr Davis referred to the following factors:

- Different family structures and living arrangements, with families traditionally ensuring a loved one can comfortably die at home; and sometimes there is
- Stigma with discussions about death and dying; and
- Language difficulties are sometimes also a barrier.

Minister Davis said that "the research uncovered a range of direct feedback from CALD community members as to what was required to improve their utilisation of palliative care skills in our cultural and linguistically diverse communities. And that is often around information and that's why the brochures and pamphlets are quite important providing factual, grounded, straightforward information that people can access in their own languages."

The Maltese Culturally Responsive Palliative Care Community Education

Initiative is designed to help Victorians from a Maltese background to learn more about palliative care and other support services for people who are seriously ill, and learn it in a manner that can inform and allay any cultural concerns or a reluctance to consider palliative care.

The education kit was tailored to address those concerns, and focus on issues such as family, religion, and attitudes to counselling, death and dying.

Mr Davis said that "consistent feedback from CALD communities that more information should be provided orally and in person, has been taken on board and is designed to help bilingual health educators share information with the Maltese community about the benefits of palliative care."

The Minister said that "this complements funding from the Coalition Government to develop and provide 200 hours of education for palliative care workers, so that they can offer to people from CALD communities appropriate support. The kit encourages carers to work with palliative care professionals to learn more about managing the physical, social, medical and spiritual needs."

Minister Davis said that "this is about increasing the health literacy of key CALD communities. It's ultimately about the choices that people want to make, and people can make those choices if they have the information to enable them and their family to discuss these issues."

He said that "while dying is a part of life, at the same time dying peacefully with family around without pain and with control over that process is important to people and it is important also that we make that available to people of all backgrounds. And that those barriers that are there be removed."

Minister Davis wished the program well and thanked the Maltese Community Council for its support. He said that he looked forward to seeing the program implemented and that set of choices is being strengthened for people and their families at times that are very important to them.

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MCCV Treasurer Paul Borg awarded OAM for services to Maltese community

Maltese Community Council of Victoria's honorary treasurer and retired bank manager, Paul Rosario Borg, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his volunteer work with the Maltese community. The award was announced in the Queen's Birthday honours list published on 9 June.

Mr Borg is treasurer of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria for 44 years, an honorary auditor to 18 Maltese community and sports groups, and voluntary financial controller at two Dominican Sisters of Malta nursing homes, one in Keilor Downs, Victoria and the other in Blacktown, NSW.

Paul has richly deserved this honour. He has been MCCV Treasurer for over four decades, dealing with all issues relating to finances, employment of staff and, particularly in the early days, for fund-raising for building the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville. He would be seen on every Friday evening at the Centre organising the bingo sessions for the Maltese community. There is no doubt whatsoever that the Centre and the Council would not have been able to carry on its work without his continuous and valued involvement.

Paul has also been very involved as a Controller for the Rosary Home in Melbourne freely giving untold hours of voluntary work. He flies to Sydney for three or four days each month to voluntarily perform the financial controller duties at St Dominic's Hostel in New South Wales and also travels to



Paul Borg OAM

Keilor several times per week to assist the Dominican Sisters of Malta at Rosary Home.

Interviewed by the Leader Community Newspapers for an article about the award published today, Mr Borg said, "I'm a bit shy about getting this honour. If you're a bank manager you are expected to assist with finances. Don't ask me to hold a hammer, but I can hold a pen!"

Despite Mr Borg's efforts to play down his achievement, the 78-year-old's volunteer work speaks for itself.

Mr Borg migrated to Australia from Malta in 1954 and started work as a cost clerk with the Gas and Fuel Corporation.

He said he started volunteering soon after to help other newly arrived migrants.

"I know that when a person migrates from one place to another they need a lot of assistance," he said.

Mr Borg made connections in his new country through sport, becoming president of the Coburg Soccer Club from 1955 to 1962 and then secretary, treasurer and president of the George Cross Soccer Club from 1963 to 1980.

He is married to Pauline. He has four children — Darryn, Simon, Tracey and Joanne — and 10 grandchildren.

The President and members of the MCCV Executive Committee congratulate Paul on his well-deserved recognition for his sterling voluntary services to the MCCV and to the Maltese community over more than half a century. ●

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ECCV Chairperson and Maltese community leader, Mr Eddie Micallef explained the benefits of the project for the community: "This project raises awareness that palliative care is available to Maltese people; that most options are free of charge and that services can be accessed to support families taking care of loved ones".

"We want the Maltese community to know that palliative care is not just for the very end of life and people can choose to continue other treatment at the same time. We also want to assure people that their cultural and spiritual needs will be

respected," said Mr Michael Bramwell, Chairman of Palliative Care Victoria.

"You and your families have choice and we encourage you to tell us what your wishes are so we can best meet your needs," said Mr Bramwell.

Multicultural Centre for Women's Health has trained bilingual health workers delivering community education sessions in Maltese. People and community groups who are interested can register for a session by contacting Susan Timmins, ECCV Project Officer on 9349 4122 or stimmins@eccv.org.au.

Concurrent with community education, Palliative Care Victoria is implementing a project to build the capacity of palliative care service providers to provide more inclusive and culturally responsive services.

The Culturally Responsive Palliative Care Project has been made possible by funding from the Victorian Government (Department of Health), the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, the Trust Company and Palliative Care Victoria. ●

Obituary

Frank Consiglio (1922-2014)

A staunch supporter of Maltese migrants

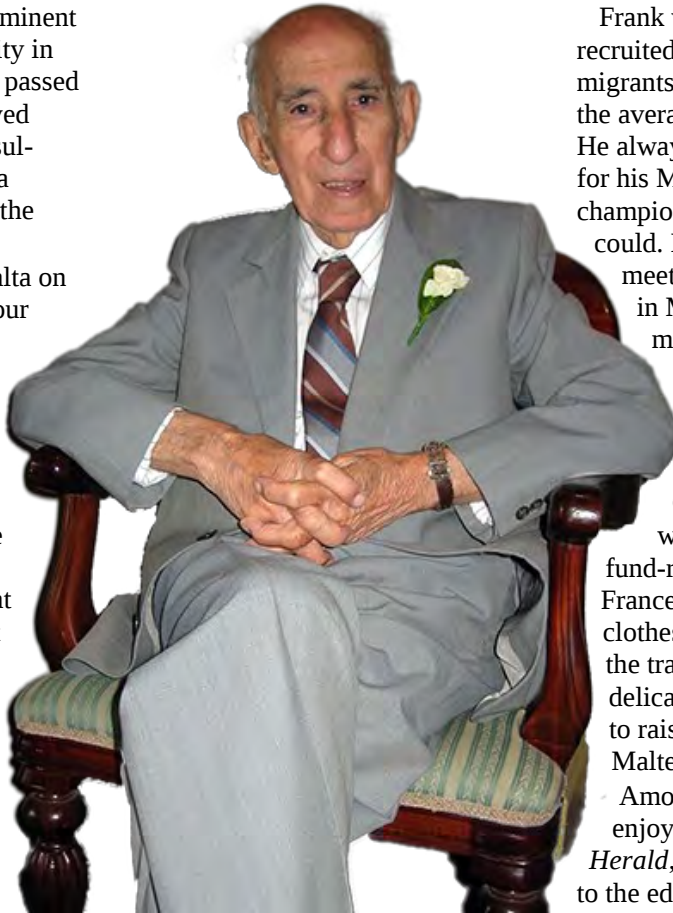
On Sunday 16 June 2014 a prominent member of the Maltese community in Melbourne, Mr Frank Consiglio, passed away aged 92. Mr Consiglio served initially as Consul and then Consul-General of Malta in Victoria for a continuous period of 17 years in the 1970s and 80s.

Frank was born in Senglea, Malta on 11 April 1922, the youngest of four children. He completed a shipwright apprenticeship at the Malta Dockyard. Even in these early days he showed a keen interest in the welfare of fellow workers and was active in many organisations. He co-founded the *Admiralty Apprentices and Ex-Apprentices Association*. It was at this time that his lifelong interest and membership of the Malta Labour Party started, culminating later on in the award of life membership of the party.

Frank married his wife Frances in August 1947 and soon after they left Malta and arrived in Australia in November 1949, after a month long voyage on the *Surriento*. Within a year, they bought a block of land in Glenroy, a suburb of Melbourne, where they built the house that was to serve as their residence for the rest of his life.

On arrival in Australia, Frank worked as boilermaker with Marco Engineering in West Melbourne, and then on the wharves, when he joined the Shipwrights Union. This was followed by various jobs, including selling advertising space. Frank and Frances even started a biscuit and cake-making business, working very hard. In 1968, they opened a Milk Bar business in Glenroy for about three years, and then took over an established Glenroy baby carriage and baby goods business called *The Play Spot*.

Frank was involved with Maltese associations, co-founding The Austral-Malta Association, which later became



part of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria that was established in 1958. With the assistance of his very good friend, the late Alfred Dougall, he founded what was called The Friends of the Malta Labour Party.

In 1971, Frank was appointed Consul for the Republic of Malta to represent all Maltese interests in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. In time, the post was raised to that of Consul-General. He served under two different Maltese Administrations. This career lasted 17 years until 1989 – the longest career of any representative of the Maltese Government in Australia.

During his tenure as Consul and Consul-General, he had the occasion of welcoming to Australia both Prime Minister Dominic Mintoff and President Agatha Barbara. In 1989 Frank retired from his consular role.

Frank was a humble person. He was recruited from the ranks of the migrants themselves and understood the average Maltese migrant's needs. He always tried to do what he could for his Maltese compatriots, always championing their cause as far as he could. In fact, he made it a point to meet with every boat that arrived in Melbourne bringing Maltese migrants to Australia and helped them to settle and start a family.

He was particularly helpful to the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, and would be seen at the annual fund-raising fete, with his wife, Frances, at their stalls, selling baby clothes, or at the bigilla stall selling the traditional broad beans based delicacy over those busy week-ends to raise funds for the building of the Maltese Centre in Parkville.

Among his other interests, Frank enjoyed writing to the *Maltese Herald*, items which included letters to the editor, poetry and especially his own creation of a humorous column *English at its Best*, where he provided literal translation of Maltese into English – which one might imagine wasn't very far from the sort of 'Manglish' spoken by some Maltese migrants at the time.

The Maltese community will remember Frank Consiglio as a staunch supporter of Maltese migrants, a person who dedicated a considerable portion of his life to serve the community.

Frank is survived by his wife, Frances, his two sons, Colin and his wife Anne and Charlie and his wife Diane, his grandchildren and his great-grandchildren.

O Lord, grant him eternal rest. ●

L-aħħar tislima lil Charlie Zammit “Iż-Żiffa” — kantant, attur u xandar

Minn Paul Vella

Nhar l-Erbgħa, 21 ta' Mejju, 2014, il-komunità Maltija ta' Melbourne tat l-aħħar tislima lil Charlie Zammit “Iż-Żiffa”, fil-Knisja ta' St Leo, North Altona, fi knisja ppakkjata sal-foyer u madwar 200 ruh barra.

Kien hemm madwar 12-il għaqda Maltija li kien preżenti bl-istandardi tagħhom.

Fid-9.30 am beda r-Rużarju u wara kien hemm il-Quddiesa Funebri li kienet iċċelebrata minn Fr Edwin Agius, tas-Socjetà Missjunarja ta' San Pawl.

L-Eloġju sar mis-Sur Rod Boyd, General Manager tar-Radju Komunitarju Stereo 974 FM, minn fejn Charlie xandar programmi Maltin għal hafna snin.

Wara sar il-funeral..

Hadna l-aħbar tal-mewt ta' Charlie Zammit “Iż-Żiffa” nhar il-Ġimgħa, 16 ta' Mejju, li hakmet lil hafna bħal sajetta fil-bnazzi, minhabba li l-ġimgħa ta' qabel kien ippreżenta l-programm Malti flimkien ma' Raymond u Marie Louise Anastasi u oħrajn, fosthom martu, Carmen.

Charlie tweled l-Imsida fl-4 ta' Novembru, 1940 u ta' 18 emigra lejn l-Awstralja fuq *Strathnaver*. Fl-1956 huwa zzewweg il Carmen, nee` Borg, mill-Marsa.

Charlie kien jahdem bħalal agent tal-ivjaġġar. Imma l-aktar li kien magħruf hu fix-xogħol tiegħu fost il-Komunità Maltija. Huwa kien xandar ta' programmi Maltin fuq Stereo 974 FM, fejn qabel l-istazzjon kien 3WRB. Minn fuq dan l-istazzjon hu kienu jiehu sehem fiż-żewġ programmi, l-Erbgħa u l-Ħamis, “Maltese Magazine” u “Merħba”, rispettivament. Huwa għamel żmien ukoll fuq ir-Radju Komunitarju 3ZZZ.

Barra r-radju, Charlie kien magħruf hafna bħala kantant u attur tal-palk, fejn għamel żmien mithla tal-Maltese Performing Arts fejn ha sehem f'ħafna produzzjonijiet, forsi wahda mill-iktar li niftakru kienet “Il-Ħanut ta' Dwinu” flimkien mall-mibki u qatt minsi, Edwin Baldacchino, li kien halliena eżatt sena ilu. Din il-produzzjoni kienet xogħol ta' Manuel Casha. Charlie hadem f'ħafna produzzjonijiet oħra ma' din il-kumpanija teatriali.



Charlie kien kantant ta' kanzunetti Maltin u forsi l-aktar popolari kienu “Id-Destin” (mill-“Il-Ħanut ta' Dwinu”), “Il-Ladru” u “Unforgettable”, dwett mall-kantanta żagħżugħa Maltija minn Melbourne, Irene Attard.

Charlie hadem ma' hafna għaqdiet Maltin fosthom l-Għaqda ta' Hal Tarxien li ftit ilu ċċelebraw il-festa ta' Marija Annunzjata f'Melbourne. Huwa kien ukoll il-President tal-Janannie Recreation Club għal persuni b'diżabilità b'assoċjazzjoni mall-Migrant Resource Centre ta' North Altona.

Huwa għamel hafna xogħol komunitarju meta kien jiġi mistoqsi minnu.

Charlie, li kellu 73 sena, halla jibku t-telfa tiegħu lil martu, Carmen, lill-ibnu, Michael, martu, Monica, u t-tfal tagħom, Corey, Kyle, Shilo u Ava, lill-omm Carmen, Nena Borg fost hafna qraba u hbieb.

Noffru l-kondoljanzi tagħna lil mart Charlie, Carmen, ibnu Michael u lill-familja kollha.

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

Tislma lil Noè Bonnici — ‘kien qisu enciklopedija’

Minn Paul Vella

Nhar it-Tlieta, 10 ta' Ġunju, thabbret il-mewt ta' Noè Bonnici, minn Altona, fl-età ta' 82 sena. Noè twieled Marsaxlokk.

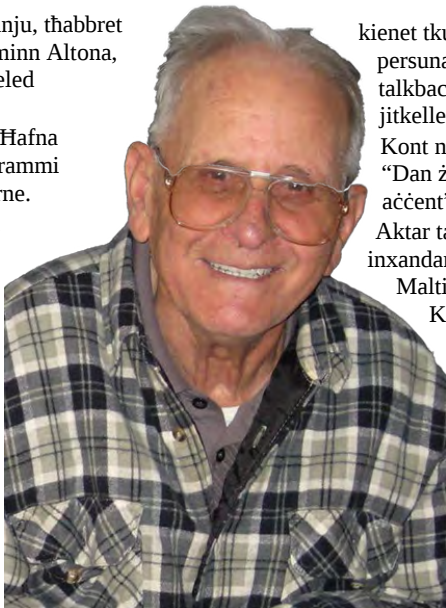
Min kien Noè Bonnici? Hafna kienu jafuh minn fuq programmi tar-radju Maltin f'Melbourne.

Ohrain jafuh ukoll minn programmi tar-radju 3AW speċjalment fis-sieghat bikrin ta' filghodu, għal madwar l-4 jew il-5 ta' filghodu.

Snin ilu, Noè kienet tagħtu puplesija li fost l-affarijiet li baqa' jsofri bihom kaġun ta' hekk, kien li kważ tilef id-dawl t'għajnejh għal kollox.

Imma kif dejjem ngħidu: “Alla jieħodlok haġa u jagħtik ohra”.... Għax il-memorja tiegħu kienet xi haġa fenominali.

L-ewwel darba li smajt b'Noè kien xi 25 sena ilu. Meta kont għadni naħdem bħala typesetter mal-*Leader Newspapers* go Blackburn, is-Sibt konna naħdmu l-overtime u konna nibdew fis-6 ta' filghodu u malli kont inqum kont nisma' r-radju (3AW) u dejjem



kienet tkun hemm din il-persuna fil-programm talkback u hafna drabi kien jitkellem fuq il-vapuri.

Kont ngħid bejni u bejn ruħi: “Dan żgur Malti minhabba l-aċċent”. U hekk kien.

Aktar tard, meta bdejt inxandar fuq programmi Maltin fuq ir-Radju

Komunitarju 3ZZZ, sirt naf lil Noè aktar mill-qrib u anki kien jiktbli xi nformazzjoni interessanti u anki ġie li rrekordjajt miegħu, speċjalment fuq vapuri li kienu jgħibu l-emigranti Maltin fl-Awstralja.

Barra minn hekk, meta kont nispiċċa l-programm ta' nhar ta' Ġimgħa fuq 3ZZZ, dejjem kien iċempel u jgħidli kemm kien ha gost b'xi haġa jew ohra. Ġie li kien jikkoreġini għal xi haġa li kont qrajt fil-programm u jien dejjem kont ngħidli li napprezza dan għax kont naf li din dejjem kienet kiritika kostruttiva. Kont ngħidli li jekk ma jgħidlix x'kien hemm hażin, kont ċert li l-

ġimgħa ta' wara kont nagħmel l-istess żball u li jien dejjem kont nieħu gost u lest li nisma' mingħandu jew mingħand haddiehor dwar affarijiet li jistgħu jirrangaw.

Dejjem kien jgħidli fuq l-ammont ta' kotba li kellu speċjalment meta jiġi għal vapuri jew il-muzika klassika li tant kien iħobb. U xi ngħidu għal hafna ismijiet ta' toroq Maltin u għal min ġew imsemmija, jew statwi tal-knejjes u barra u pitturi fil-knejjes Maltin!

Huwa dejjem kellu rakkonti sbieħ u nteressanti ta' meta kien sajjied Marsaxlokk.

Kif għidt qabel, għalkemm f'dawn l-aħħar snin ma tantx kien jara, allura ma setgħax jaqra'. Imma dak li kien qara' qabel baqa' mwahħal f'moħħu u meta kien jitkellem fuq xi haġa dejjem kien ikun eżatt. Meta kien jitkellem fuq it-3AW kien qisu enciklopedija meta jiġi għal tagħrif fuq kull bastiment li qatt baħħar l-ibhra tad-dinja. Is-semmiegħa kien drawh sewwa fuq dan l-istazzjon u meta ma kien ikun hemm minhabba li forsi kien ikun ma jiflahx, dejjem kienu jistaqsu għalih.

Jiena żgur se nħoss it-telfa tiegħu.

Minn hawn nagħti l-kondolanzi lil martu, Katarin, li tant dahret bih f'dawn l-aħħar snin, lil uliedu, Mary-Rose u r-raġel Terry, u Samuel u l-mara tiegħu Megan u l-familji tagħhom kollha.

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

EU Commissioner again calls on Malta to let all its citizens vote

In mid-June EU Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding (pictured right) called once again on Malta to end the practice of stripping Maltese who live abroad of their right to vote in Maltese elections. She cited the issue as an integral part of the reform of the EU's justice policy.

Speaking at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels, Ms Reding stressed that Maltese citizens living abroad should be able to apply to remain on the electoral register and that they should be informed about how to retain the right to vote in national elections.

“There are many EU citizens who are disenfranchised simply because they used their right to move to another EU member state. And they turned to the European Commission asking for help,” Commissioner Reding said.

“We listened – and acted. We asked the five countries that take away voting rights after a certain period of time spent abroad to show greater flexibility.

“We invited them to enable their nationals who make use of their free movement rights to retain their right to vote in national elections – if they demonstrate a continuing interest in the political life of their country.

“These citizens should have the option of applying to remain on the electoral roll and should be informed about the conditions for retaining their right to vote in national elections.

“This is about empowering EU citizens who feel strongly about their country and making sure they are not automatically denied the fundamental democratic right of voting. And it is about making



sure citizens do not lose one right because they exercise another.”

In January, the European Commission called on Malta and the four other countries to stop disenfranchising citizens by not allowing them to vote unless they reside in their home countries.

In Malta, the issue becomes a bone of contention each time a general election rolls around, with political parties lodging court cases to have certain people struck from the electoral register under the voter registration rules in place.

In Malta, citizens are disenfranchised unless they have resided in Malta for at least six months within the last 18 preceding their registration to vote. Other EU member states with similar rules amounting to voter disenfranchisement are: Denmark, Ireland, Cyprus, and the United Kingdom.

The EC issued “guidance” to EU member states with “rules in place leading to a loss of voting rights

for citizens in national elections, simply because they have exercised their right to free movement in the EU”.

At the time, Ms Reding noted: “While under the existing EU Treaties member states are competent to determine who can benefit from the right to vote in national elections, disenfranchisement practices can negatively affect EU free movement rights. Disenfranchisement practices are also at odds with the founding premise of EU citizenship which is meant to give citizens additional rights, rather than depriving them of rights.”

The main justification for disenfranchisement rules – that citizens living abroad no longer have sufficient links with their home country – seems outdated in today's interconnected world, the Commissioner said.

She added, “The right to vote is one of the fundamental political rights of citizenship. It is part of the very fabric of democracy. Depriving citizens of their right to vote once they move to another EU country is effectively tantamount to punishing citizens for having exercised their right to free movement. Such practices risk making them second-class citizens.

“We are calling on member states to show greater flexibility and are issuing proportionate guidance to the five countries concerned so that citizens can get back on the electoral roll of their home country. I hope member states will be ready to address these very concrete concerns, because disenfranchisement is a big deal for the individuals concerned.” ●

[Source: www.independent.com.mt]

Convention for Maltese Living Abroad 2015

Maltese Diaspora Monument Competition



The Ministry for Foreign Affairs is planning to organise the 4th Convention for the Maltese Living Abroad in Malta during early April 2015. It is the intention of the Organising Committee of this Convention to involve to the fullest not only the Council for the Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) who represents all Maltese abroad, but the thousands of Maltese living around the world themselves.

With this purpose in mind, the Organising Committee within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is launching an international Maltese Diaspora Monument Competition open for all Maltese nationals living abroad. Free-standing monument design(s) should be original work(s), artists may apply individually or as a group, each applicant

or group may submit up to three maquettes and the monument should epitomise the spirit of Malta's Diaspora and the Greater Malta concept. The maximum dimensions of the proposed monument would be 50cm long, 30cm inward and 70cm high. Artists, who might have submitted logo and memento pieces to the previous competition, may also participate in this competition and submission(s) if appropriate can be the same for both competitions.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs will consider works using only the following materials: limestone, sandstone, granite, marble, ceramic, glass, wood, copper, brass and papier mache. The final decision of selecting the maquette and the location where the monument will be placed is exclusively that of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The maquettes will become the property of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, without any prejudice if

this work will be commissioned or not. The name of the artist(s) will be indicated on or next to the monument once installed and all participants will receive a certificate of participation.

All participating maquettes are to be forwarded to the nearest Malta High Commission, Malta Embassy, Malta Permanent Representation or Consulate. The final work will be chosen by an independent judge in Malta.

Works must be submitted at the nearest Malta High Commission, Malta Embassy or Malta Permanent Representation by Monday, 30 June 2014 at noon. Maquettes received after this date and time would not be considered.

Ambassador Fiona Formosa
Permanent Secretary and Chairperson
of Organising Committee
4th Convention for the Maltese Living
Abroad 2015 ●

Newly elected MEPs pledge collaboration in Malta's interest

Following the election for the European Parliament, all six newly elected MEPs attended a meeting with Prime Minister Dr Joseph Muscat on May 30 at Castille.

Dr Muscat expressed his pleasure at meeting all six MEPs and expressed his hope that common ground will be found when it comes to Europe. He called on the newly-elected MEPs to work together in the best interest of the country while they are in Brussels. He urged them all to keep their political differences aside and work together for the good of the country.

Dr Muscat welcomed the fact that four out of the six elected MEPs were women saying this was a sign that things were changing. Speaking from experience as a former MEP, he urged them to find ways of working together because the Maltese public appreciated this.

MEP Alfred Sant, who is leading the Labour group that includes Marlene Mizzi and Miriam Dalli, said he will work with the government and the Labour MEPs were ready to collaborate.

On his part, MEP David Casa, speaking on behalf of the Nationalist MEPs, who include Roberta Metsola and Therese Comodini Cachia, also pledged collaboration. He said that the group would work for the good of the country and of the



From left: Roberta Metsola, Therese Comodini Cachia, David Casa, PM Joseph Muscat, Alfred Sant, Marlene Mizzi and Miriam Dalli

EU and would remain loyal to the country and to the Prime Minister, although this would not mean that the PN's MEPs will always agree with the government. They would also be ready to stand up for Malta if it felt the need to.

The new MEPs later met Opposition leader Dr Simon Busuttil, who also started his political career as an MEP. Dr Busuttil told the MEPs they were in for "an unforgettable life experience". They would notice how different politics were done in

the EU, where there was less confrontation and he hoped they would bring this style of politics to Malta.

In the European Parliament they would not be Nationalists versus Labourites but they would be working together especially now with the possibility of a grand coalition between the EPP and Socialists because of the increase in far right representatives, he said. ●

[Sources: www.independent.com.mt and www.timesofmalta.com]

MHA Event — April 2014

Maltese surnames and their significance

Professor Maurice Cauchi gave an interesting talk to the MHA on Tuesday 15th April, highlighting a number of interesting aspects relating to Maltese surnames. His interest in surnames started some 20 odd years ago when he began investigating surnames as bearers of genetic traits – surnames are also inherited from the father!

It is striking that in Malta and Gozo a few surnames are shared by a large number of the population. For instance, in some villages in Gozo, five surnames account for half of the total population.

This indicates a high degree of homogeneity ('sameness') resulting from inbreeding, although a recent census in Malta (2011) shows some reduction of this degree of homogeneity. Certain surnames are associated with certain villages as there was not a lot of travel between villages in the past and people tended to marry within their own villages.

This census also shows that over the whole of Malta, the top 10 surnames cover three-quarters of the population. The most common surnames in Malta are: Borg, Camilleri, Vella, Farrugia, Zammit, Galea, Micallef, Grech, Attard, and Spiteri. In Gozo, there are some slight differences: the most common surname is Vella, followed by Attard, Camilleri, Grech, Portelli, Buttigieg, Sultana, Azzopardi, Spiteri, and Zammit.

Moreover, there are certain surnames, which, while not common, occur characteristically in certain localities but not in others. These include surnames like Rapa, Mintoff, Sultana, and Buttigieg.

One explanation for these variations is that the older the surname in the Maltese population, the more likely it is to be found in large numbers. For example, all of the top 10 surnames have existed in Malta since 1400 AD. This means that these families have had a large number of generations over which to multiply and reach their current prevalence.

Arabic (semitic) surnames are the relic of Arabic (and more likely Siculo/Arabic) influence. Following these, there was an influx of Europeans starting with Frederick II in 1220, and the various European rulers that controlled Malta.



Many more modern surnames have arrived in Malta as a result of influx at various times. These included Greek names from Rhodes coming in with the Knights, following their expulsion from Rhodes; workers from Sicily for the extensive building initiated by the Knights; the Italian Risorgimento in 1830 -70; and the latest being the building of the breakwater (1903-1906), with several workers coming from Italy and Spain.

Professor Cauchi pointed out that while the Maltese take pride in their coats of arms, many were simply made up.

The talk was followed by an animated discussion on the meanings of surnames. Some of these started as nicknames or related to someone's occupation or physical characteristics, such as Gambin, Testaferrata and Buttigieg.

Several prizes of Professor Cauchi's book, *Health Issues Today* were awarded to people who correctly described the origins of their surnames and many of us continued the discussion over tea and coffee afterwards. It was a most enjoyable evening.

Copies of the talk may be obtained from Prof Cauchi's website: mauricecauchi.wordpress.com ●



Prof. Maurice Cauchi



MHA Event — May 2014***Bushfire Summer & Malta in the past***

This month's presentation consisted of two parts. Firstly there was a book launch by Lou Drofenik, and after that Mr Joe Flores had a photo show entitled: "Malta in the Past".

Lou Drofenik's new book is entitled *Bushfire Summer* and refers to the Black Saturday bushfires of 2009. She wrote the book from her experience because her home was involved in those bushfires.

She explored the relationships between people in a small rural community such as hers following their ordeal. The protagonist of the novel is a man of Maltese origin. Lou told us how she decided on this character.

When on a visit to Malta she met a person whose brother was sent to Australia under the Child Migrant Scheme. Unfortunately he did not receive the promised education, whereas the brother in Malta did; in fact he is now an academic.

As to the front cover of the book, it is the picture of the Bush Fire Memorial Tree made out of stainless steel. The leaves of the tree were donated by volunteer blacksmiths in Whittlesea and from around the world. It was in honour of the people impacted by the bushfire. The tree is ten metres tall and is now in Stethewan.

The second part of the May event, **Malta and the Past**, was presented by Joe Flores, who showed us a number of photos of Malta dating from the late 1800s. It was interesting to see the different ships and sailing boats (dghajjes tal-Latini) of the era. The Grand Harbour was always very busy.

There were photos of King Edward's visit to Malta in 1903. It was nostalgic to see photos of the shops and entrance to Valletta. There was even a photo of the first water supply in Mellieha!

The audience participated by endeavouring to recognise the various buildings and streets which are now so different from what they were then. ●



Lou Drofenik



Above: Laying of Foundation Stone for the Grand Harbour Breakwater by King Edward VII 1903. Below: The Band and Drums of the 1st Battalion lining the route for King Edward VII's visit to Malta, April 1903



Reskeon Seniors celebrate Mother's Day in Melbourne

By Paul Vella

Reskeon Seniors Group organised their Mother's Day Luncheon on Thursday, 1st May, for their members, at the Firenze Receptions, McBryde Street, Fawkner. Around 142 members and friends attended.

Distinguished guests present were the Life Member of Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group, Mrs Anne Gauci; Honorary Life Members, Dr Clemente Zammit and Mrs Mary Zammit; Vice-President of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Mr Gejtu Deguara and Mrs Mary Deguara; Honorary Treasurer of the MCCV, Mr Paul Borg and Mrs Pauline Borg.

Apologies for not being able to attend because of previous engagements were received from the Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Victor Grech and Mrs Patricia Grech, and from Fr Edwin Agius, mssp, Rector at Parkville.

Also with us, visiting Melbourne from overseas, were Mary Vella, on a visit from Malta, and Lillian Grech, on a visit from New York, USA.

When members arrived at around 11 am they entered the hall where they were served with pre-lunch drinks and hors d'oeuvres.

Secretary Paul Vella, MC for the day, welcomed guests and members and invited them to stand for the Maltese and Australian National Anthems.

After Champagne was poured into the glasses, all male members were asked to be upstanding to offer a toast for all the Mothers on the occasion of Mother's Day.

The entrée of baked fish and rice and vegetables was served followed by a serve of lasagna. Main Course was chicken involtini and beef with vegetables on each plate. Dessert was Cassata ice-cream. This was followed by a platter of fresh fruit. Tea and coffee was served along with Continental cakes.

The music on the day was in the hands of DJ Domenic who kept all those present dancing on the floor most of the day.

Co-Ordinator Salvina Vella gave her message for the occasion of Mother's Day, wishing a good day to all Mums with their families and asked to remember and pray for all those mothers who were no longer with us. She wished all members to enjoy the day with their Mum



Bocce trophy presentation, from left: Carmen Grech, winner; Salvina Vella, President; Carmen Topolcsanyi, Runner-up; Cathy Gatt, Organiser

if she was still with us and to, as Mums, enjoy the day with their families. She also read out a short message for Mother's Day from the Consul-General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Victor Grech, who was unable to attend.

Then there was the presentation of trophies for the winner and runner-up of the Ladies' Bocce Competition which finished two weeks before this event. Co-Ordinator Salvina Vella invited Cathy Gatt, the organiser of the ladies' bocce competition, to present the trophies. This year's winner was Carmen Grech and runner-up was Carmen Topolcsanyi. All participants in the competition were asked to join them for a group photo. Salvina Vella thanked Cathy Gatt for her

role in organising this competition.

We thank Co-Ordinator, Salvina Vella, who responsible for the success of this function. We thank all members for being present and enjoying the day together as one big family.

Thanks to all those members who found the time to approach members of the committee to pay their compliments for this well-organised function which, as always, was heavily subsidised by Reskeon Seniors Group.

Thanks also to the management and waiting staff of Firenze Receptions for the way they looked after us like they do in all our functions. . ●



GAM is a group of Aussies of Maltese background. 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).

Generation AusMalts (GAM)
invites you to come along and take part in its next **cooking Masterclass**, where you can **learn** to make one of Malta's **favourite** dishes... **Ravjul (Ravioli)**. Our **passionate mentors** are ready to **teach** you how to **make** your very **own batch!** Once everybody has made their ravjul, we'll cook it up and **come together** for a traditional Maltese '**ravjulata**', and eat as **one, big, happy & LOUD** Maltese family!



GAM's RAVJUL MASTERCLASS (& Ravjulata)

COOK ~ LEARN ~ EAT ~ ENJOY



Sunday, 20 July 2014

10.30am – 2.30pm

Maltese Community Centre

(477 Royal Parade, Parkville. Parking available around centre.)

\$20: Adult GAM-MERS

\$15: Junior GAM-MERS (12 years & under)
 (Event suitable for ages 5 years and above.)

Ticket price includes:

Recipe Card - Ravioli Shape Cutter - Cooking Class - Ingredients... which you will eat!
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Door Prizes - Entertainment - Bingo Raffle!

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**Reskeon Maltese
Association &
Reskeon Seniors Group**

VITTORIA DINNER DANCE

at FIRENZE RECEPTIONS

134 McBryde Street, Fawkner

Saturday, 6 September 2014
from 6.30 pm to 12.30 am

Musical Entertainment by DJ Domenic

BOOK EARLY — Organise a Table

Five course meal and supper,
wine, beer and soft drinks

Marches by Brass Band

Dress: Tie and Jacket

Members \$48 — Non-Members \$50

For tickets and more information please phone

Salvina Vella 9460-4404 Mob: 0409 961 928

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- **THURSDAY 17 JULY AT 6.00 PM**
- **MALTESE COMMUNITY CENTRE,
477 ROYAL PARADE - PARKVILLE**

TERM 1: THURSDAYS 17th July – 18th September
TERM 2: THURSDAYS 9th October – 20th November

Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc.

Tel: 9387 8922

0412 115 919 after hours

<http://www.mccv.org.au/language-classes/>



Community Events Calendar

For up-to-date and more detailed information,
visit our website at www.mccv.org.au

Date	Event
Wed 2 July at 7.00 PM	MCCV Council Meeting - Maltese Community Centre
Sat 19 July at 7.30 PM	Anniversary celebration: Maltese dinner dance – St Gaetan's Society
Sun 20 July at 10.30 am	GAM's 'Ravjul' Masterclass (Ravjulata) - see full details on page 15
Wed 30 July at 6.30 PM	MCCV Executive Committee Meeting - Maltese Community Centre
Wed 6 August at 7.00 PM	MCCV Council Meeting - Maltese Community Centre
Fri 8 August at 6.45 PM	Pre-feast Mass and celebration – St Gaetan's Society
Sat 9 August at 6.00 PM	St Gaetan Feast Ball – St Gaetan's Society
Sun 10 August at 2.00 PM	Feast and celebration – St Gaetan's Society
Sun 17 August at 2.00 PM	Annual General Meeting – Moreland Maltese Elderly Citizens Assn
Fri 22 August at 7.30 PM	Feast of St Helena 2014 – St Helena Maltese-Australian Social Club
Sat 23 August at 6.00 PM	Feast of St Helena 2014 Gala Dinner Dance – St Helena Maltese-Australian Social Club
Sun 24 August at 2.00 PM	Feast of St Helena 2014 – St Helena Maltese-Australian Social Club
Wed 27 August at 6.30 PM	MCCV Executive Committee Meeting - Maltese Community Centre
Wed 31 August at 5.00 PM	Father's Day Dance – Moreland Maltese Elderly Citizens Assn