



Abbott government drops proposed controversial changes to race-hate law



On 6 August the Abbott government announced that it has dropped its plan to introduce the highly controversial changes to race hate law, conceding they had become a “complication” that was hurting it and risked undermining national unity. This decision follows a co-ordinated and sustained campaign against the free speech amendments to the Racial Discrimination Act had left the Coalition government battered in ethnically diverse communities, particularly in western Sydney.

The backlash from ethnic, indigenous, Jewish and other religious groups

intensified when Attorney-General George Brandis said in March that people had a “right to be bigots”, and the senator had also faced internal opposition from Liberal moderates.

On 29 March the Maltese Community Council of Victoria joined other Australian ethnic communities

and in its submission to Senator Brandis it strongly denounced the proposed changes. The MCCV firmly opposed the repeal of Section 18C of the Act as it would have sent out the message that it would be no longer offensive to use racially hateful speech.

Federal Opposition Leader Bill Shorten claimed that Senator Brandis had been humiliated and rolled by his colleagues, the Institute of Public Affairs accused the government of breaking an election promise and turning its back on a fundamental freedom.

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President Coleiro Preca plans to visit Australia next year

On 6 August the President of Malta, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, greeted a group of Maltese migrants from Australia during a visit to the President’s Palace in San Anton organised by the Emigrant’s Commission.

President Coleiro Preca said she wanted to give the Maltese-Australian emigrants the chance to enjoy their heritage. It was important, she said, to maintain contact between the Maltese in Malta and the Maltese in Australia because of the great distance between the two countries.

During the meeting President Coleiro Preca announced that she is planning to lead a Presidential delegation from Malta to visit Australia next year.



Following the visit by the Maltese-Australian group, the President tweeted “Met a group of Maltese nationals residing in #Australia. Proud of this nation! #malta”.

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The President's Column

Call for more participation on MCCV Executive Committee

Once again we have come to the time when an Annual General Meeting is in the offing and, as happens every two years, elections for the Executive Committee will be held in the first week of November (Wednesday, 5th November, instead of the usual monthly Council Meeting).

Annual General Meetings are a crucial part of management in any organisation, and ours is no exception. It is a time to reflect on the work of the past year, as well as to plan a program for the next. In particular, in an election year, as is the case this year, we give an opportunity for any member from associations affiliated with the MCCV to take part in the governance of the organisation by putting their name forward for election to a position on the Executive Committee.

This is the well-established democratic process of which we are proud. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that affiliated organisations take this process seriously and contribute in the best way they can. They should support the MCCV not only through their presence at the meeting, but also by ensuring that they encourage persons, who they believe might have something to contribute, to put their name down to be considered.

In an ageing population of the local Maltese community, finding new blood may not be the easiest thing on earth. The first generation is fast ageing, but their needs are, if anything, increasing all the time. When we first came to this country, our needs were many and quite different to what they are now. We needed to build a community centre where we could congregate. We wanted to find friends with whom to socialise, which required the setting up of several organisations which have served this need over the years.

While the need to socialise with other Maltese is still very much evident, the needs of the community today have changed to some degree. With the increased ageing of the population, welfare needs have increased.

The MCCV has been working hard to ensure that these needs are not forgotten.

We have issues which have been highlighted over the last few years, not least among these is the threat to SBS radio time allotted to the Maltese community. This threat was overcome, at least temporarily, but has not gone away, and we need to be ever vigilant to ensure that radio time remains untouched.

We have Maltese language teaching issues which have to be tackled. Our approach has been to tackle it on several levels, by providing services at the Maltese Centre (and elsewhere), and equally importantly, by continuing our efforts in convincing the Malta Government that support is needed to ensure the maintenance of our language among the younger generations of Maltese descendants in Australia.

We are conscious of the need to maintain our culture and particularly to pass it on to the next generation. Some of our associations are actively involved in this process. We have now also an active youth group, Generation AusMalts, which is doing all it can to ensure that this happens.

These are some of the issues that spring to mind. It is through cooperation with all its affiliated organisations that the MCCV can do its work. We all have to help with the 'heavy lifting'.

I encourage all those who would like to have a go and become involved to do so. Do not wait for a personal invitation: just take the first step and the rest will follow. If you believe that the MCCV is a worth-while organisation, then it becomes an obligation of affiliated organisations to ensure its continuance through their support. At election times, this involves encouraging members to participate.

Anyone wishing to discuss this issue with me personally can phone me on 8300 0216.

Prof. Maurice Cauchi
MCCV President



From the MCCV Council

Refurbishment of the Maltese Centre in Parkville.

The MCCV has submitted applications for capital works grants made available to community organisations to help with refurbishment of community facilities. The Maltese Community Centre refurbishment initiatives include work to the roof which has leaked at times, changing the ceiling panels which have been patched up over the years, and double-glazing the glass windows in the main hall. All these initiatives will ensure better soundproofing to enable the MCCV to comply with the regulations of the Melbourne City Council. Other refurbishments planned consist of: upgrading the toilet block and fixing the bricked pavement outside the building's entrance, where the brick paving has sunk in some areas and become uneven.

Negotiations with suitable organisation re transfer of HACC Program. As mentioned in a previous edition of this newsletter, the MCCV is entering into negotiations with a suitable community services organisation to transfer its Home and Community Care (HACC) Packages. The MCCV employs staff to administer these HACC Packages and provide assistance to home-bound elderly persons. In view of the increasingly stringent government requirements, it has become difficult for the MCCV Executive to continue to manage and oversee its HACC 'packages'.

2015 Convention of Maltese Living Abroad. The Convention of Maltese Living Abroad will be held from 20 to 23 April 2015. The participation registration form may be downloaded from [http://mfa.gov.mt/library/2015Convention%20-%201stNotice+Form%20\(FINAL%20-%204July2014\)%20\(3\).pdf](http://mfa.gov.mt/library/2015Convention%20-%201stNotice+Form%20(FINAL%20-%204July2014)%20(3).pdf). Completed registration forms including, if applicable, the provision of an abstract of a paper intended to be delivered at the Convention, should be emailed without any further delay to convention2015.mfa@gov.mt or posted sent to: The Director, Directorate for Maltese Living Abroad, Directorate-General for Political, European Affairs and Maltese Abroad, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Palazzo Parisio, Merchant's Street Valletta – VLT 1171, Malta.

Successful test of sound levels control equipment. A social function, organised on the initiative of the MCCV Social Secretary, Mr Joe Stafrace, held at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville on 28th June was very well attended. The primary purpose of this

event was to test out the new equipment recently installed in the hall to ensure that sound levels do not exceed the levels permitted by regulations. The participation of the Newport Maltese Association and St Helena Maltese-Australian Social Club ensured the success of the event. Mario Sammut, DJ, was kind enough to volunteer his services. The sound levels were maintained at sufficiently high level without exceeding the allowed levels.

Defibrillator at Maltese Centre. It was suggested by Newport Maltese Association representatives that a defibrillator should be installed in some readily accessible place at the Centre in case of emergency. The matter is now receiving attention. This equipment is essential whenever someone suffers sudden attacks of unconsciousness possibly from a heart attack. This would require some sessions of training in the use of the equipment.

Celebrating 50th Anniversary of Malta's Independence. A cocktail party to celebrate 50 years of Malta's Independence will be held at Parkville Centre in September. ●

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

Largest ethnic community station in Australia

Radio 3ZZZ celebrates 25 years

Radio 3ZZZ, the largest ethnic community station in Australia Radio broadcasting from Melbourne, celebrated its 25th anniversary with a multicultural concert and book launch on Sunday 6 July 2014 held in the hall of Alphington Grammar in Alphington.

Among the distinguished guests present were: the Hon. Inga Peulich MLC, Cabinet Secretary representing the Premier of Victoria; the Hon Jenny Mikakos MLC, Shadow Minister for Community Services representing the Leader of the Opposition; Councillor Trent McCarthy, representing the Leader of the Victorian Greens; Mr Peter Bachelor, President of the Community Broadcasting Foundation; Ms Marion Lau, Member of the Victorian Multicultural Commission; and Mr Eddie Micallef, Chairperson of the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV).

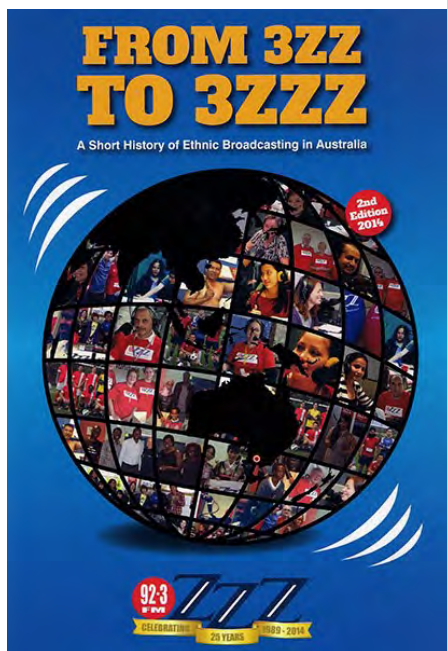
The second revised edition of the book titled *From 3ZZ to 3ZZZ – A Short History of Ethnic Broadcasting in Australia* was launched by MCCV Vice President and former ECCV Chairperson Mr Victor Borg, who was one of the pioneers and trailblazers in community radio as a foundation member of the original Radio 3ZZ in 1975 and in the establishment of Radio 3ZZZ in 1989.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to Radio 3ZZZ program coordinators and broadcasters. Mr Lewis Stafrace, one of the Maltese language broadcasters, received the certificates as the coordinator Mr Emmanuel Brincat was overseas. Also present were the other Maltese language broadcasters, Mr Mario Sammut, Honorary Vice Consul of Malta for the La Trobe Valley, and Mr Paul Vella, as well as Mr Gejtu Deguara, member of the 3ZZZ Maltese language committee and MCCV Vice President.

Radio 3ZZZ President Mr George Salloum gave a warm welcome to the large audience present consisting of language program co-ordinators and broadcasters from a broad cross-section of ethnic groups as well as staff and friends of 3ZZZ.

Mr Salloum said that, continuing with the philosophy of giving non-English speaking communities broadcasting access, Radio 3ZZZ is one of the greatest achievements of Melbourne's ethnic communities resulting from the hard work and commitment of thousands of volunteers from all ethnic groups. "The majority of these volunteers are leaders in their own communities who know and feel the pulse and needs of our diverse nation," he said.

Radio 3ZZZ broadcasters provide important the local community and overseas



Maltese language group at 3zzz: from left: Mari Stafrace, Lewis Stafrace (broadcaster), Salvina Vella, Paul Vella (broadcaster), Gejtu Deguara (committee member), Mary Deguara, and Mario Sammut (broadcaster)

listeners with wide-ranging information about settlement, government services, health services, employment, education and, more importantly, provides encouragement to become involved in Australian affairs.

Mr Salloum said that over the last 25 years the station has accumulated a wealth of broadcasting experience and other human and material resources. Radio 3ZZZ will soon be moving to its own new studios with state-of-the-art broadcasting facilities in the multicultural suburb of Brunswick.

Mr Salloum said that the station pledges to make full use these new facilities to better serve the communities in the years to come. He paid a special tribute to the many special people of made Radio 3ZZZ happen, including members, broadcasters, staff, countless community and socio-political leaders and other partners, who provided a wider support base for 3ZZZ ongoing success and growth.

Mr Salloum acknowledged with appreciation the support that has been provided by the federal and state governments as well as many municipalities.

ECCV Chairperson Mr Eddie Micallef congratulated Radio 3ZZZ on its 25 years of service to the ethnic communities. One of the reasons why Victoria has been so successful in multiculturalism is the bi-partisan support for it.

Mr Micallef said that the ECCV is the organisation that develops the stories that is news for 3ZZZ to impart to their listeners. This partnership will continue and later this year, on 18 August, the ECCV will celebrate its 40th anniversary and he invited those present to join in those celebrations.

Book Launch

Launching the revised edition of the history of Radio 3ZZZ, Mr Victor Borg recalled that "back in the 1970s, there was a huge thrust by people born overseas to try to get access to the radio waves. It is true that there were newspapers that were being published in ethnic languages, but they were not sufficient to really get the message to the people that we represent, people who broke their back working in factories, often in the lowest jobs possible, often moved from one bench to another so that they don't stand alongside someone from the same country of origin."

Mr Borg said that in 1975 the station 3ZZ came together with the help of a number of ABC staff Richard Zoeller, Joan Dugdale, Alex Butler, Richard Brown and others. It was a great experience for the ethnic communities. They grasped at it and felt as if they were wanted and at long last as if they had become members of the true Australian community. He said that, if it was not for ethnic broadcasting, many of us would not be able to get the message across to our people, be it matters of work, social security, government regulations or otherwise.

Mr Borg urged those present to continue to support the station. "No doubt the station will have other challenges in the future and, when you are aware of these challenges, stand up with a backbone like many do and come and help the organisation," he said.

Mr Borg thanked Mr George Zangalis, Mr George Salloum and others, who work tirelessly in managing Radio 3ZZZ. He also thanked the people on the board who meet monthly, all the committees and everyone else who in some way or other has helped 3ZZZ. ●

Abbott government drops proposed controversial changes to race-hate law

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Mr Abbott dumped the changes to 18C as he unveiled new counter-terrorism measures, stressing the government was determined to engage in closer consultation with communities, particularly with the Muslim community.

"When it comes to counter-terrorism, everyone needs to be part of Team Australia," Mr Abbott said. "And I have to say that the government's proposals to change 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act have become a complication in that respect."

"I don't want to do anything that puts our national unity at risk at this time and so those proposals are now off the table."

Mr Abbott said it was a "leadership call" he had made after discussions with

cabinet. It is understood he had been considering shelving the changes for some time.

"In the end, leadership is about preserving national unity on the essentials and that is why I have taken this decision," he said.

Senator Brandis released the draft changes in March to scrap the 18C provision to make it unlawful to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate other people or groups of people because of their race, colour or national or ethnic origin.

The government proposed replacing section 18C with provisions making it unlawful to vilify or intimidate others on similar grounds, but there were broad - exemptions.

The government had pledged at the election to repeal section 18C "in its current form" after it was used against News Corp Australia columnist Andrew Bolt in 2011.

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) senior deputy chairwoman Eugenia Grammatikakis also welcomed the government's decision to drop the changes. "It is important to acknowledge that the government did engage in a consultation process and it did listen and consider those views," she said. ●

Volunteers needed to visit socially isolated Maltese elderly

The Australian Multicultural Community Services Inc. (AMC Services) is seeking volunteers to visit Maltese elderly who may be socially isolated. AMC Services is a community based organisation addressing the diverse and changing needs of multicultural communities in Victoria, and specialises in providing cultural specific aged care services.

Ms Michelle Lawrence is the Coordinator of Volunteer Programs at AMC Services. She coordinates a friendly visiting program for socially isolated elderly from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. AMC Services have a base of multicultural volunteers who are able to provide a free fortnightly home visit for the purpose of companionship and friendship.

AMC Services currently have a number of clients of Maltese background living in Melbourne's North and West who are keen to have a volunteer visit them, but they do not have any Maltese volunteers. They are keen to recruit volunteers aged 18 years and over who have a genuine empathy and understanding of older people.

Anyone who is interested to become a volunteer with AMC Services should contact **Ms Michelle Lawrence on (03) 9689 9170** or by email: michelle.lawrence@amcservices.org.au.

AMC Services provide their volunteers with ongoing training and support as well as travel reimbursement.

For more information about AMC Services, visit their website at www.amcservices.org.au.



Australian Multicultural
Community Services

Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.



Notice of Annual General Meeting 2014

Venue: Maltese Community Centre
477 Royal Parade, Parkville

Date: Wednesday 5th November 2014

Time: 7.00 pm

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc will be held at the Maltese Community Centre on Wednesday 5th November 2014 commencing at 7.00pm.

An election for the positions on the MCCV Executive Committee will be held during the AGM. Nomination Forms to nominate for the forthcoming election is available for download at mccv.org.au or from the Maltese Centre in Parkville. The form may be photocopied if any association wishes to nominate persons for more than one position on the Executive.

Nominations must be received by the Secretary no later than two (2) weeks prior to the AGM, that is, nominations close on Wednesday 22nd October 2014.

Maurice Cauchi
President - MCCV

Federal government tightens funding conditions to silence community critics

The Abbott government is using tightened conditions in community funding agreements to silence its critics. In the revised service agreements, under which the federal government provides funding to about 140 community legal centres around Australia, the new conditions specifically state that organisations cannot use Commonwealth money for any activity directed towards law reform or advocacy. These agreements came into effect on 1 July 2014.

In an article published on 26 July in *The Saturday Paper*, Mike Secombe writes that “the Abbott government is following the course set by the Howard government, which was dogged in its efforts to ensure the non-profit sector was prevented from voicing unwelcome opinions. Contracts with community sector organisations routinely included gag clauses and reserved the right to censor public statements before they were released.”

The previous agreements introduced under the Labor government intended to reverse a trend started under the Howard government, included a clause that stated: The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that its agreements do not contain provisions that could be used to stifle legitimate debate or prevent organisations engaging in advocacy activities.”

It went on to state that “no right or obligation arising under this Agreement will be read or understood by the Commonwealth as limiting the Organisation’s right to enter into public debate or criticism of the Commonwealth, its agencies, employees, servants or agents.” It also stipulated that there was no obligation to obtain any advance approval from the government before going public with any criticism.

But when the Abbott government’s latest revised agreements were



forwarded to the organisations in mid-June, all of that was gone. Under the new agreements, organisations are specifically precluded from using Commonwealth funds for any activity directed towards law reform or advocacy.

The Productivity Commission, in its recent interim Access to Justice report, found advocacy was actually an efficient use of resources because it addressed systemic issues rather than just individual cases. Thus “by clarifying the law it can also benefit the community more broadly”.

Shadow Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus, QC, agrees. “CLCs and legal aid commissions are best placed, from their work, to observe when reform might aid not just their immediate clients, but thousands of others in the community.”

Over the years so many worthwhile reforms, from tenancy laws to domestic violence laws, have been driven by community legal organisations.

A government agenda to control and silence civil society

“What we are seeing,” says David Ritter, the chief executive of Greenpeace Australia, “is a government pursuing everything it can think of in an agenda to control and silence civil society. And that should be of concern to all Australians.”

He refers to the Competition Policy Review, now being headed by former businessman Maurice Newman, not a noted friend of the environment.

A number of members want to change the secondary boycott provisions of the competition and consumer act, which currently exempt actions by consumer and environment groups.

If that were to happen, organisations would be breaking the law if they advocated that consumers avoid using certain products. They could not advocate boycotts, for example, of unsustainable fisheries, palm oil products from plantations where rainforest had been knocked down, or paper products produced from old-growth forests.

The review is due to be complete before the end of the year.

Would the government go so far as to actually criminalise advocacy? A broad coalition of environment, welfare and other groups is taking the threat very seriously and is now lobbying furiously.

Yet not only are these organisations – community legal centres, environmental defenders and other non-profits – often the most publicly trusted critics of government policy, they are frequently sought out by government for their expertise.

“I can’t tell you how often governments have come to us over the years seeking our involvement in policy work, or advice on improving their practices,” says Michael Smith. “Now, we’re not supposed to be having those conversations.”

Not under this government. No criticism allowed.

See Mike Secombe’s full article: [Brandis ties NGO funding to non-advocacy](#) (*The Saturday Paper*, 26 July 2014) ●

Malta's Golden Anniversary of Independence

The development of a National Identity

By Dr Clemente Zammit

On 21 September 2014 Malta will be celebrating 50 years of Independence. It is as good an opportunity as any to reflect on the importance that this event in Maltese history had on the development of a national identity, shaped as it has been out of relationships with various different cultures over thousands of years.

Long before the Knights of St John surrendered the islands to Napoleon, Malta had to struggle for liberty. Until then, the main threat had come from the Ottoman Empire. With enormous might behind him, Suleyman the Magnificent could not subdue the resistance of the Maltese who in 1565 rallied with the knights to survive one of the fiercest sieges in history. Nor could the might of Hitler and Mussolini sink "the tiny rock of history and romance" in World War II. If anything, these tests of survival down through the centuries had injected in the Maltese a stronger resolve of unsinkability.

The events which culminated in the attainment of nationhood on September 21, 1964, crowned an achievement meticulously put together over many years. The emancipation to a role in the brotherhood of the self-ruled was however fundamental. It was not just that now the British were gone as were, before them, the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Knights of St John and the French. Gone too was Malta's traditional role as the island fortress and its economic reliance on servicing the forces of other nations. A new politico-economic era was ushered in.

The soul-searching that went hand in hand with Independence led to a cultural revolution based on the rediscovery of a truly national identity, a resurgence of interest in Maltese history, language, literature and artistic endeavours, and also to a surge of economic activity. Still building on its strategic position, which dominates the east-west passage of the Mediterranean, Malta's new ambition was to promote its potential as an international service centre, offshore to Europe and North Africa.

This new orientation gave rise to a tourist industry, which has become of crucial importance to Malta's economy, and to growth in the manufacturing industry. The development of a financial services centre, the creation of a freeport, the establishment of a Stock Exchange, and a



Clockwise above: Malta's Prime Minister Dr George Borg Olivier holds aloft the constitutional instrument after it was handed to him by HRH Prince Philip on Independence Day 21 September 1964. *Right:* the Independence monument in Floriana at the entrance to The Mall.



shift to a high technology industrial base all form part of a restructuring aimed at establishing a leading role for private enterprise.

Independence also meant that Malta was now to play an active role on the international scene. Within the ambit of organizations such as the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Nations, the Council of Europe, and since 2004 of the European Union, Malta has been promoting dialogue as the only valid means of achieving understanding between nations and strengthening peace.

Malta also renounces violence and war as instruments of policy, and has taken international initiatives that commanded widespread support. These include the more effective implementation of the concept of the common heritage of mankind with regard to the resources of the sea outside national jurisdiction and the protection of the earth against the threat of adverse climate changes.

It is fascinating to reflect on the eager desire to open up such wide horizons given the characteristic penchant of the Maltese for the simple things in life. Until not very long ago, the *Festa*, primarily a religious festival, provided the main relaxation for a hardworking and frugal people. The simple pleasures indulged in on such occasions, such as the special meal, a little wine, processions and fireworks, still give full rein to the most lovable, childlike side of the national character.

In contrast, however, a sense of nobility still permeates the islands. It is as if the Knights of St John still walk the streets of

Valletta, the capital city they built and graced with structures of great beauty; as if the Normans still haunt the old city of Mdina, and the Grand Masters still man the ramparts and towers meant to keep the enemy at bay.

In its struggle for survival along the road to nationhood, Malta had to overcome other obstacles as daunting as the siege by the Turks and the combined airborne attacks of Italy and Germany in World War II. One of these was the orderly disposal of a population, which had outgrown its resources. For well over a century, Australia was in the forefront in providing such support. This is reflected in the many thousands of Maltese who contributed to making Australia what it is today - a nation of immigrants.

Underpinning the success story of Malta, whose origins are rooted in an age that is almost as old as civilization itself, is a strong belief of the Maltese in the Almighty. Where everything else fails, faith steps in to bind the people together and to imbue them with the necessary strength to rally with true grit. The bells will ring from hundreds of church belfries dotted around the islands on September 21. Highlighting an expression of joy born in a new found freedom fifty years ago, their ringing will also be a symbol of hope that with the help of God, Malta will live forever. ●

MHA Event — June 2014

Pietro de Caxaro's *Cantilena*

The presentation on 17 June at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville was well attended, despite the cold night. Joseph Borg spoke about the *Cantilena*, the oldest known literature in Maltese.

Mr Borg introduced the topic with a brief background of the Maltese language. The earliest Maltese writers in the 12th century wrote in Arabic. Later, Italian and Latin became the languages of the literati and official documents. The various dialects of Maltese (Arabic with increasing influences of Sicilian Italian, Latin and other European languages) were considered the *Lingua tal Cuccina*. Writings in Maltese, such as Bonamico's sonnet from the latter part of the 17th century, were unusual.

However, in 1966, two researchers were surprised to find, in a book by Brandano de Caxario, a handwritten poem, which he attributed it to his ancestor, Petrus de Caxario who lived in the 1400s, two centuries earlier! After carefully checking it for authenticity, they set about deciphering and understanding the poem.

The *Cantilena* is a song about a wall that collapsed, despite good workmanship, as it had been built on unstable foundations. The poet explains he must try again elsewhere to succeed. Much has been written about the poem and its author and there are several possible interpretations.

Pietro de Caxaro was born to a noble family in Mdina around 1400. Well educated and prosperous, he was a highly regarded judge, as well as secretary of the Town Council of Mdina. He became good friends with the Dominicans, who arrived in Malta around 1450 and included several erudite friars.

Around 1463, Caxaro aspired to marry a widow, Franca de Biglera. However, her brother objected on the grounds of 'spiritual affinity'. Caxaro obtained the approval of the Ecclesiastical Court but no records exist of their marriage or whether he left a widow or offspring when he died in 1485. In his will he left everything to the Dominicans. Is this a lament of lost love, with Pietro concluding that he needs to look elsewhere?

The poem may have been a reference to the actual collapse of a tower in Mdina. Peter Caxaro, acting as secretary at a Town Council meeting on 11th January 1454, spoke in favour of an urgent *collecta* or tax to restore the walls. His brother was appointed to supervise the project but was

later murdered by someone from Siggiewi. Is Caxaro mourning his murdered brother, who left behind a distraught wife and children? Is it a coincidence that the wife's name was *Vintura* and the word *Vintura* appears in the poem as one of only two words not of Arabic origin?

Prior to the arrival of the knights in 1530, there was no standard Maltese

language; only a number of dialects. Caxaro's dialect, spoken in the west of the island, was defined by Vassalli as '*fir-rhajjel ta' fuq*'.

It is fascinating that when one reads the poem out aloud, several times, it becomes possible to understand much of the old dialect, even with a rudimentary knowledge of Maltese! ●

***Cantilena* by Pietro de Caxaro**

(English translation below each line)

Xideu il cada ye gireni tale nichadithicum
Witness my predicament, my friends (neighbours), as I shall relate it to you:
 Mensab fil gueri uele nisab fo homorcom
never has there been, neither in the past, nor in your lifetime,
 Calb mehandihe chakim soltan ui le mule
A [similar] heart, ungoverned, without lord or king,
 Bir imgamic rimitne betiragin mucsule
That threw me down a well, with broken stairs
 Fen hayran al garca nenzel fi tirag minzeli
Where, yearning to drown, I descend the steps of my downfall,
 Nitla vu nargia ninzil deyem fil bachar il hali.
Climb back up, only to go down again in this sea of woe.
 Huakit hi mirammiti lili zimen nibni
It [she] fell, my edifice, [that] which I had been building for so long,
 Mectatilix mihallimin me chitali tafal morchi
It was not the builders' fault, but [of] the soft clay [that lay beneath];
 fen timayt insib il gebel sib tafal morchi
Where I had hoped to find rock, I found loose clay ...
 vackit hi mirammiti.
It [she] fell, my building!
 Huakit by mirammiti Nizlit hi li sisen
It [she] fell, my building, its foundations collapsed;
 Mectatilix li mihallimin ma kitatili li gebel
It was not the builders' fault, but the rock gave way,
 fen tumayt insib il gebel sib tafal morchi
Where I had hoped to find rock, I found loose clay
 Huakit thi mirammiti lili zimen nibni
It [she] fell, my edifice, [that] which I had been building for so long,
 Huec uakit hi mirammiti vargia ibnie
And so, my edifice subsided, and I shall have to build it up again,
 biddilihe inte il miken illi yeutihe
change the site that caused its downfall;
 Min ibidill il miken ibidil i vintura
Who changes his place, changes his fate!
 haliex liradi 'al col xebir sura
for each [piece of land] has its own shape (features);
 hemme ard bayda v hemme ard seude et hamyra
there is white land and there is black land, and red
 Hactar min hedaun heme tred minne tamarra.
But above all, you must stay clear of it.

MHA Event — August 2014***Il-Bizzilla: From Craft, to Industry, to Art****By Agnes Cauchi*

The special guest speaker for the August event was Dr Consiglia Azzopardi (pictured right) who has been instrumental in reviving the art of lace-making, or *Bizzilla* as it is known in Maltese. She learned the craft as a girl in Gozo and started collecting material and information at a time when the lace industry was declining rapidly. She went on to study the history of lace in the Maltese islands, earning a PhD for her research from the University of Malta, Gozo campus. The author of three books, Dr Azzopardi has taught lace-making at various levels and instigated courses at the University.

At her presentation on 5 August at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville, Dr Azzopardi spoke about the history of Maltese lace-making. She discussed the tools of the trade and the various patterns used, mainly concentrating on 19th Century lace-making styles. These include a number of motifs: '*Festuni*', 'star', 'flower', 'sun', 'palm', '*moski*', and the 'Maltese Cross'. The motifs would then be joined to form all sorts of shawls, stoles, tops, bedcovers, etc.

Dr Azzopardi gave a demonstration of some techniques and displayed some works on the evening.

Lace-making craft

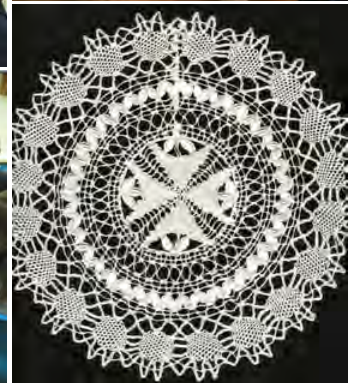
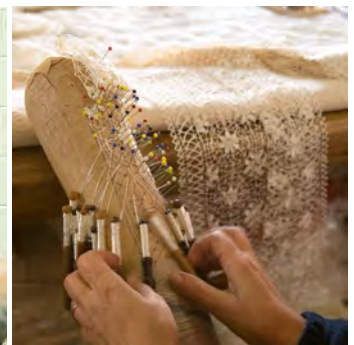
Since the 16th century, lace or '*bizzilla*' featured as a craft, then as an industry, and finally an art. Back in 1619, Gozitan women were altering cloths bordered with lace. They were also trying to retrieve old pieces from abroad!

How did these arrive in Malta? There was a trade going on between Malta and Spain, Flanders, France, the Netherlands and Italy. Malta was also exporting lace to these countries.

What distinguishes Maltese lace from lace made in Belgium, Spain, and other countries is the technique used to make it which is different to other 'laces'. The pillow used to make the Maltese lace is different. The Maltese pillow is cigar shaped or *trajbu*, whereas in the other countries, the pillow was round, called *tombolo*. The bobbin method was developed in Gozo and designs were drawn by Gozitan artists.

Becoming an industry

In the 19th century, lace became an



industry. In 1888, Dun Giuseppe Diacono who was the parish priest of Xaghra Gozo opened the first school of lace-making. It was called *Casa Industriale – Xaghra*. It eventually moved to Racecourse Street Vitoria where it remained till 1960.

In 1861, the Maltese exhibited a piece of Maltese lace at the London Lace Exhibition and it won first prize. After that success, the export of Maltese lace to England started. However, it had to compete with other lace from other countries, and foreigners started copying the design and work done by machines. So the Maltese Cross was introduced in every piece of lace to show that it is genuinely Maltese.

Maltese Lace became so sought after, that when Princess Elizabeth became queen, the English ladies living in Malta gave the new queen a lace present – a 22 foot runner and 60 matching place mats. The people of Gozo also donated a table cloth to the queen.

Lace-making now an art

Now at the University of Malta Gozo Campus lace-making has become an art. Apart from lace-making classes, the student lace workers are restoring old lace pieces, and study styles of old shawls. They also design new ones.

Thanks to this initiative lace-making in Gozo is flourishing. ●



On behalf of the MHA Mrs Agnes Cauchi (right) makes a presentation to Dr Consiglia Azzopardi after the presentation.

Maltese-Australian Youth Committee launched in NSW



A fundraising function held on July 6 at the La Valette Social Centre in Blacktown, NSW, marked the launch of the Maltese-Australians' Youth Committee (MAYC), which was formed in late March by a group of nine enthused Maltese-Australian youths, who share the same pride of Maltese background with a love to share, not only the Maltese culture and heritage, but to see to it that it lives on for future generations.

MAYC seek to share their strong sense of pride in their heritage and culture with the Maltese diaspora community, ensuring that its richness and vitality lives on for future generations. With the ageing Maltese community – not only in Australia, but around the world – the longevity of Maltese diaspora culture appears to be facing a very real crisis:

there are no young people to step up into leadership roles of existing Maltese communities.

One of the ways in which MAYC is seeking to combat these issues and ensure the vitality of Maltese diaspora culture is by sending MAYC delegates to the upcoming *Convention of Maltese Living Abroad*, being held in Valetta, Malta, in April 2015. This convention was last held five years ago in 2010 and before then in 2000 and 1969. The Convention is organised by Malta's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This convention invites members of the Maltese diaspora from all over the world to gather in Malta and discuss issues that affect the Maltese national and international identity, and strategies that seek to promote the survival of our culture in diaspora contexts.

La Valette Social Centre has chosen youth delegates from MAYC to represent Maltese diaspora interests of the younger generation of Maltese-Australians at this international convention, marking a great opportunity to promote and address our concerns and passion for our heritage and identity. MAYC sees this as a rare and valuable opportunity to showcase and promote Maltese-Australian youth to other Maltese youth from all over the world. Further, it allows Maltese-Australian youth to connect with the existing international Maltese community, and ensure its continuity in future generations. This is in keeping with MAYC's vision to keep everything about Malta alive forever.

To achieve this goal, MAYC is appealing to the wider Maltese community of Australia and beyond to assist them in their cause. All funds raised at the MAYC's fundraising events will go towards the cost of sending their youth delegates to Malta in 2015. MAYC welcomes anyone who is interested in supporting them in any way possible.

For more information, visit and like MAYC's Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/maycnswe> or contact them by email on maycnswe@outlook.com. ●

University of Malta *Diploma in Gozo Studies* online course



The Islands and Small States Institute is offering a diploma course entitled "Diploma in Gozo Studies". At a recent meeting of the Board of Studies, members agreed that it can be offered online to

students of Gozitan heritage living in Australia, Canada, USA and other host countries.

The [Islands & Small States Institute](http://www.islandsandstates.edu.mt) promotes research and training on economic, social, cultural, ecological and geographical aspects of islands and small states. It also offers postgraduate courses on islands and small states studies.

Based at the University of Malta, the institute evolved from the Islands and Small States Programme which had been set up in

1989 at the Foundation for International Studies, Valletta. In 1993, the Programme was restructured as an Institute with the principal aim of enabling the organisation to offer academic courses.

The course consists of three modules, namely:

- (i) Economics and Environmental Studies
- (ii) History and
- (ii) Culture.

Each module will consist of 5 study units.

On completion of this diploma course, students would acquire:

- A sound knowledge of past and present realities in Gozo relating to the economy, the culture and the physical environment of the island;
- An understanding of policy implications relating to economic, social and environmental concerns;

- An understanding of the history of Gozo;
- An appreciation of the culture of Gozo from various angles, including the way of life, the arts, music and crafts;
- An understanding of the special constraints and opportunities faced by small islands;
- An introduction to theoretical analysis associated with the various disciplines involved in the course, including economics, management, sociology, anthropology, history, and environmental science; and
- An opportunity to meet leading academics in the various disciplines associated with the course programme.

Further details on this diploma course unit and a course application link is available at: <http://www.um.edu.mt/islands/overview/UDGZSPTE-2014-5-O> ●



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

Well-organised GAM ‘Ravjul’ Masterclass – a great success!

By Rita Catania

A lot of kneading, rolling and cutting took place at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville on Sunday 20 July, as students young and older, took part in our Ravjul Masterclass and Ravjulata event. We thought the first Masterclass was fun and crazy, well this one was no different and equally as wonderful.

Lots of concentration, smiles and teaching was happening as our experienced teachers taught their eager students how to make this delicious and favourite Maltese dish. GAM organisers enjoyed watching everybody take part and interact with one another and their mentors, to make over 130 dozen of ravjul! That's right ... over 130 dozen! We've never seen so many ravioli – EVER!!!

Once the students were done, our grandiose pots were boiling away as our students sat down with a drink, waiting with great excitement to taste their handy work. The aromas of the freshly cooked ravjul and tomato sauce filled the hall and smelled amazing.

We had some other fun along the way with our ‘Bingo Raffle’, door prize giveaways & a visit from Mr Victor Grech, the Maltese Consul General for Victoria. GAM would like to extend a BIG thanks to ALL who took part in the class, as well as to our mentors and GAM crew who helped to put the event together and make it a great success on the day.

We were ecstatic to see the return of some of the students from our first Masterclass where we made Figolli, take part once again. Not only do we love seeing our AusMalts take part, but GAM was absolutely blown away to find out (and watch), a lovely gentleman in Group 3 take part who was blind. How wonderful is that? Plus, we had people from other cultures participate also from backgrounds such as Polish and Brazilian to name a couple. We just loved that! Everybody's enthusiasm was so infectious and encouraging.

Thanks everyone and can't wait to see you at the next GAM event. You are all helping to keep the Maltese culture alive and that rocks! ●



Il-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria jaghti merħba lil Adrian Grima

Minn Paul Vella

Il-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria, organizza programm letterarju biex jaghti merħba lill-awtur u poeta Malti, Dr Adrian Grima, li kien jinsab fuq btala f'Melbourne minn Malta, flimkien mas-sinjura tiegħu, Natalie u wliedhom Samuel u Raphael. Dan inżamm fis-Sala taċ-Ċentru Malti ta' Parkville, nhar il-Ħadd, 13 ta' Lulju.

Paul Vella, bħala PRO tal-Grupp kien ilu f'kuntatt miegħu biex giet organizzata ġurnata fejn kien jista' jattendi.

Dr Adrian Grima huwa lecturer tal-Letteratura Maltija fid-Dipartiment tal-Malti fl-Universita' ta' Malta. Huwa kittieb ta' ħafna stejjer qosra u poeżiji, kif ukoll kotba, kemm ta' poeżiji u stejjer, u żewġ kotba għall-adoloxxenti fl-2012, *Din Mhix Logħba* (stejjer qosra) u *Vleġġa kkgata* (poeżiji). Huwa wkoll ħa sehem u qara xogħol tiegħu f'ħafna pajjiżi, fosthom f'Bali u Nicaragua.

Paul Vella fetax il-programm billi ta merħba lil madwar 30 ruh li attendew għal dan il-programm u stieden lill-President tal-Grupp biex jindirizza lil daww prezenti. Dr Sammut tkellem fuq il-Grupp li x-xogħol tiegħu hu li jkabbra l-użu tal-Ilsien Malti u l-kultura Maltija. Huwa qal li l-Grupp jiltaqa' kull l-aħħar Ġimgħa tax-xahar fejn il-membri jaqraw xogħol tagħhom jew ta' awturi oħra. L-ikbar avveniment tas-sena tal-Grupp, kompila Dr Sammut, huwa l-Programm Mużiko-Letterarju li jinżamm għal Settembru. Imbagħad huwa stieden lil Adrian Grima biex jaqra' xi xogħol minn tiegħu.

Adrian beda biex qal kemm iħossu kuntent li qiegħed jieh u sehem f'dan il-programm għaliex dejjem kienet il-holma tiegħu li jaqra' bil-Malti għall-Maltin fl-Awstralja fejn l-udjenza tifhem x'qiegħed jaqra minhabba li ġie li qara xogħol tiegħu fejn l-udjenza ma tifhimx bil-Malti, għalkemm li l-poeżija b'lingwa oħra tkun għaddeja fuq screen fuq wara.

L-ewwel żewġ poeżiji li qara Adrian kienu *Kieku kelli lanċa zghira* u *Fl-ghelieqi midruba*. Wara, Adrian qara *Venja* novella fuq storja vera ta' żmien it-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija, minn riċerka u ħafna qari li għamel u minn rapporti tal-ARP, fuq attack mill-ajru li ġara bejn il-ġnien tal-Gżira u Ta' Xbiex, fis-26 ta' Gunju 1942, fejn żewġ tfajliet, ħut in-nanna tiegħu, u oħrajn tilfu ħajjithom. B'kollox 12 mietu u 12 sfaw midruba.

Wara intervent mużikali, wasal il-hin biex membri tal-Grupp jaqraw xi xogħol



Dr Victor Sammut (lemin) u Dr Adrian Grima waqt il-prezentazzjoni ta' kotba lil xulxin.

tagħhom jew ta' awturi oħra u l-ewwel kien imiss lil Dr Victor Sammut. Beda bil-poeżija tal-mibki u qatt minsi membru tagħna, Laurie Armato, *Is-Sena għall-paċi 1986*. Poeżija oħra li kiteb hi stess kienet *Talba għall-paċi* u spiċċa b'poeżija ta' Trevor Zahra, *Il-Malti*.

Maria Catania qrat poeżija ta' Laurie Armato, *L-Ilsien li bih twelidt* u oħra tagħha, *Lill-Mons. Joseph Grech, Isqof ta' Sandhurst*. Wara kien imiss lill-Viċi President tal-Grupp, Marie Louise Anastasi li qrat poeżija ta' Paul Saliba *Int ridtu għalik* u oħra li kitbet hi stess fl-okkażjoni tal-mewt t'ommha, *Ma, illum m'għadex magħna*.

Frank Bonett qara' żewġ kitbiet minn tiegħu, *Fil-bitha* u *Memorji*.

Manwel Cassar, li ilu membru tal-Grupp kważi mill-bidu nett, qara ftit ħajki u żewġ poeżiji oħra, *Amnesija* u *Sodisfazzjon*. Paul Vella kien l-aħħar qarrej bil-poeżija tal-poeta Malti Awstraljan, Frank Zammit, *Lil Rużar Briffa*. Fl-aħħar Paul reġa' stieden lil Adrian Grima fejn dan qara' tliet poeżiji tiegħu: *Mostar*, *Rajtni kif kont għaddej?* u *Hallejt ġenbejk fuq ruhi*.

Il-programm spiċċa b'intervent ieħor mużikali, imma qabel, il-President Dr Victor Sammut, f'isem il-Grupp ippreżenta xi kotba bil-Malti li juru x-xogħol tal-

Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria u Adrian ippreżenta xi kotba minn tiegħu għal-librerija taċ-Ċentru Malti.

Paul ħa l-okkażjoni biex jieh u li Adrian Grima fil-librerija taċ-Ċentru Malti li hi meqjusa l-ikbar librerija ta' kotba bil-Malti barra minn Malta.

Il-programm spiċċa b'xi rifreskanti fejn daww li attendew ħadu kakra te jew kafe' u xi ħaġa tal-ikel bħal

pastizzi, pies u sausage rolls u kejkijiet.

Waqt iż-żjara tiegħu, Adrian, flimkien mall-familja tiegħu, żar ħafna postijiet fl-Awstralja, kif ukoll ħa sehem f'ħafna avvenimenti letterarji.

Fil-11 t'Awwissu Adrian Grima għamel taħdita fuq *Chaos and Light. The Mediterranean Imaginary in Maltese Literature, and Beyond* f'La Trobe University, Bundoora Campus.

Imbagħad, nhar is-Sibt 16 t'Awwissu, il-poeta Adrian Grima kien il-mistieden ewlieni waqt sessjoni oħra ta' *Poetry@fedsquare* fl-istabbiliment Beer DeLuxe (fis-sular ta' fuq) f'Federation Square, Melbourne, hdejn il-bini tal-SBS. Bħal f'kull attività oħra ta' *poetry@fedsquare* li ssir fit-tielet ġimgħa tax-xahar, kulhadd kien mistieden biex jattendi u d-dhul kien b'xejn. Din l-inizjattiva ilha għaddeja mill-2006 u llum titmexxa mill-poeta Grieg Dimitris Troaditis.

Fil-qari tiegħu ta' madwar nofs siegħa, Adrian Grima qara x-xogħlijiet tiegħu bil-Malti u traduzzjonijiet għall-Ingliż, fosthom mill-aħħar ktieb tiegħu li ħareġ, f'Derry l-Irlanda ta' Fuq, fl-2013, bl-isem ta' *Xufftejk Spjegati / Deciphered Lips*. Fil-qari tiegħu f'Federation Square, Adrian kien akkumpanjat minn Nick Tsiavos fuq il-kuntribuzzjoni. ●

Obituary

Anthony ('Tony') Sammut (1920-2014)

A family man of great honour and love

On Wednesday 13 August 2014 the funeral of Anthony Sammut, aged 93, known as Tony, who passed away on 6 August, was held at St Oliver Plunkett Catholic Church in Pascoe Vale. Tony was the father-in-law of a prominent Maltese community member, Alfred Asciak, who is married to Lillian. The MCCV President and Executive Committee members extend their sincere condolences and deepest sympathies to Alfred and the Sammut family.

One of 12 children, Anthony Sammut was born on 25 September 1920 in Sliema, Malta. His father Spiro was a cook in the Navy, and his mother Giuseppina spent her day looking after their large family and providing a home. They struggled to survive, like most families in the midst of the great depression. With his father and uncle both being in the Navy, Anthony's love for the military forces began.

From a very young age Anthony's work ethic shone through, and he held jobs wherever they were available. At the tender age of 14 his first job was at a roller skating rink called "Rockyvale" in St Julians. His job was to hand out roller skates to skaters and collect their shoes, placing them in lockers. It was here that he met the absolute love of his life, Doris. He then had a job assisting with printing at Mabel Strickland's Times of Malta.

At the young age of 19, his love and passion to serve for the Queen in the military forces led him to sign up as a soldier in the Royal British Military Force. His duties initially were as a gunner. A year later, on the 9 June 1940, he married his sweetheart Doris Zahra, and their life together began.

Four years later, he applied for a transfer to the Royal British Navy. It was whilst in the Navy that his love for cooking and food developed and flourished. He cooked meals for dozens, even hundreds of people, and this was a skill that was to come in handy later on in life when cooking for his large family.

He continued to cook for the Navy for 17 years, before they asked him to go out to sea. After a couple of years, sea sickness took its toll on him and he had no choice but to ask for an 'Honourable Discharge'. It was at this point that he thought the time had come to migrate to Australia to secure a better life for his growing family.

Years later in Australia the commemoration of ANZAC Day would become a very special day for him, as his pride as a soldier and a navy officer remained close to his heart throughout his life. Marching in many ANZAC day parades, he felt humbled and honoured when he was allocated a Jeep to sit in when the walk became too much for him. He was a man of great honour and integrity



and his service to the country and the Queen was something he was so very proud of.

By this stage, Anthony and Doris' family had grown to six children: Joe, Lillian, Doreen, Anthony, Patrick and Yvonne. In 1954 he travelled to Australia with their eldest son Joe on the ship called the 'Fairway'. With the assistance and support of family members, Joseph and Pauline Zammit, he managed to save enough money to buy their first house in Australia in Fraser St, Brunswick. Later on the family home moved to Heather Ave, Pascoe Vale, which is still the family home today.

With the help of many family and friends, he and Joe were able to fix up the house in order for his wife and the other children to join them in Australia. Almost a year later, in Sept 1955, his wife arrived in Australia with the children and life in Australia began. A few years after migrating to Australia the last of their seven children, Annette, was born.

For most of his working life in Australia he worked as a cook – a very hard-working, diligent, loyal and excellent cook. Working for organisations, such as, Kodak, Melbourne University, Pascoe Vale Hotel and Renault, he was able to continue to work doing what he loved: cooking for people ... often with some of his children working with him.

Anthony was known by everyone for his famous jam and apple pies, baking trays a meter long, and his famous and family favourite trifle that everyone longed for and raved about! His food was always prepared and made with much love, and that was evident in the end result.

As the years went on he continued to help his family by cooking for all the family weddings, engagements, baptisms, communions, confirmations, as well as family gatherings like Easter, Mothers' and Fathers' days, and Christmas. He enjoyed nothing more than cooking for his loved ones. His cooking brought the family together and was

something he was both known and loved for.

Anthony and Doris were married for more than 70 years, which is more than most people live. During all that time, he always held his wife on a pedestal, doing everything he could to help her. From cooking to working in the garden, and doing household chores and weekly shopping there was nothing he would not do to help around the house. He would often come home from shopping with flowers for her, having bought her favourite treats, Twisties and chocolate, which he would surprise her with later on in the night when you were watching TV together. He always had respect for her and showed his children what it meant to be a loving father and husband, but it did not end there.

When his grandchildren arrived, Anthony was the happiest man on earth. Overjoyed by the fact that he was now a "nannu", and this name seemed to suit him most of all – someone who makes one feel safe, warm, happy and loved and that is exactly how he made all of his grandchildren feel, even those who entered his family, were treated like his own and with the same love that was unconditional and genuine.

He was a very generous *nannu*, always spending time with his grandchildren. When they were growing up, he spent many hours making paper hats and just simply playing with them. He loved to see them laugh and would often to do summersaults for them. Some even recall how he rolled down the huge hill in Geelong, just to make everyone laugh.

Even his great grandchildren had a very special bond with him, he always remembered all of their names and were so very proud of them all. The age gap seemed to have been no barrier to understanding what a wonderful person and a man of great honour and love, nannu Tony truly was.

He loved nothing more than seeing all of his family together and enjoyed many family trips to the beach, family picnics and Christmas get-togethers. He would be so happy to see everybody and took much pride in the fact that all your family were with him and nanna.

Anthony leaves to mourn his loss his wife Doris, his seven children, his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

May he rest in Eternal Peace.

Adapted from the eulogy delivered at the funeral by Michelle, wife of Gary, one of Tony's grandsons.

Il-Karkarizi f'Melbourne jiċcelebraw il-Festa ta' Santa Liena

Minn Paul Vella

Is-St. Helena Maltese Australian Social Club Inc. ta' Melbourne iċcelebraw il-festa ta' Santa Liena nhar il-Gimgha, is-Sibt u l-Hadd, 22, 23 u 24 t'Awwissu. Il-funzjonijiet reliġjużi inżammu fil-Croatian Catholic Church, Fitzgerald Road, Ardeer.

Il-Gimgha giet iċcelebrata Quddiesa minn Fr Edwin Agius, Rettur f'Parkville, tas-Socjeta' Missjunarja ta' San Pawl, bis-sehem tal-Wyndham Maltese Choir taht id-direzzjoni ta' Kathleen Borg. Il-kantant minn Sydney, Joe Galea, kanta l-Ave Maria u dawk prezenti tawh standing ovation. Quddiem l-istatwa kien hemm żewġ bukketti tal-fjuri maghmula bl-idejn u moghtija b'donazzjoni minn Nick Vella minn Sydney li kien prezenti flimkien ma' martu u t-tifla tagħhom.

Wara l-Quddiesa kulhadd ġie mistieden biex imur fis-sala tal-knisja għal kuncert varjat fejn kien hemm ikel u xorb, u marċi brijjużi mill-Maltese United Brass Band.

Is-Sibt l-Ghaqda organizzat il-Ballu kbir tal-Festa fis-sala tal-Melrose Reception and Convention Centre, Tullamarine, fejn għalih attendew madwar 700 membri u hbieb. Wara l-kant tal-Innu Malti u l-Innu Awstraljan, inżammet minuta silenzu b'rispett għal Charlie Zammit "Iż-Żiffa" li halliena ftit ilu u li kien se jkun l-MC tal-lejla.

Fost dawk prezenti kien hemm il-Konslu Generali ta' Malta fil-Victoria, is-Sur Victor Grech u s-Sinjura tiegħu, Patricia Grech; Victor Borg, Viċi-President Kunsill Malti tal-Victoria; l-Onor. Andrew Elsbury, MLC; u Michael Farrugia, minn Noone Imagewear.

Il-mużika giet provduta mill-Banda Vibe. Matul il-lejla kien hemm floor show mill-kantant Malti minn Sydney, Joe Galea. Imma qabel kien hemm show min Michael Rossi, ta' 15-il sena, li ta wirja ta' Hip Hop Solo Dance. Michael rebaħ hafna trophies, kemm waħdu kif ukoll ma' grupp.

Naturalment ma naqas il-brijju kbir b'marċi għall-okkażjoni mill-Maltese United Brass Band. Dan wiehded mill-ikbar u l-aktar ballijiet popolari f'Melbourne fost il-Komunita' Maltija.

Imma l-qofol ta' dawn iċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet bla dubju hu jum il-festa il-Hadd. Fl-istess Knisja li semmejna qabel giet ikkonċebrata Quddiesa fit-3 pm. Prim Ċelebrant kien Fr Edwin Agius, mssp. Jikkonċelebraw miegħu kien hemm Fr Denis Carabott, mssp u Fr Dominic Degiorgio. Ċeremonjier kien is-Sur Emmanuel Farrugia. Waqt il-Quddiesa ha sehem il-Wyndham Maltese Choir. Joe Galea kanta l-Ave Maria.



Għal xi l-4.30 pm ħarġet il-Purċissjoni bl-istatwa sabiha ta' Santa Liena madwar il-Knisja u kienet akkumpanjata miż-żewġ baned Maltin, il-Melita Band Inc. u l-Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society Inc. L-għaqdiet Maltin ma naqsux li jattendu u jimxu wara l-istatwa ta' Santa Liena bl-Istandardi tagħhom. Hafna nies ukoll imxew wara l-purċissjoni.

Wara l-funzjonijiet reliġjużi, kulhadd ġie mistieden biex imur fis-sala tal-istess Knisja għall-programm varjat li ġie mhejji mill-Ghaqda. Il-programm beda b'marċi brijjużi miż-żewġ baned Maltin li akkumpanjaw il-vara artisitika ta' Santa Liena li giet imdawra madwar is-sala. Wara li l-baned spicċaw il-programm muzikali tagħhom, beda daqq varjat mid-DJ Dominic u għal darb'ohra, Joe Galea reġa' kanta hafna kanzunetti sbieħ. Joe kanta għal siegħa u nofs bla waqfien u dawk prezenti rieduh ikanta aktar.

Prosit lill-President tas-St Helena Maltese Australian Social Club Inc. u l-kumitat hābrieki tiegħu għall-organizzazzjoni ta' din il-festa. Hādna gost naraw prezenti lill-Fundatur u l-President Onorarju, is-Sur Reno Grima, li qatt ma jonqos li joffri l-għajjnuna tiegħu fejn tkun mehtiega.

Din is-sena għall-festa kien hemm coach minn Sydney organizzata minn Theresa Ebejer, ohra minn Adelaide organizzata minn Frank Grima u ohra minn Moe li giet organizzata minn Doris Vella.

Ringrazzjament lill-kumitat u lil dawk il-voluntieri kollha li għenu biex din il-festa tkun is-suċċess li kienet. ●
(Ritratti ta' Anthony Borg).

Reskeon Seniors enjoy a Father's Day Luncheon

By Paul Vella

The Reskeon Seniors Group celebrated Father's Day with a Luncheon at Firenze Receptions, Fawkner, on Thursday 14th August. Around 140 members attended. This number would have been larger if it wasn't for the many members holidaying in Malta and others who were suffering with the flu.

Secretary Paul Vella greeted all those present and the distinguished guests: Fr Edwin Agius, mssp; Fr Dr Victor Shields, mssp; Honorary Life Members of Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group, Dr Clemente Zammit and Mrs Mary Zammit; the Vice-President of the Maltese Community Council, Mr Guy Deguara and Mrs Mary Deguara; MCCV Treasurer, Mr Paul Borg and Mrs Pauline Borg and ex-President and Co-Ordinator of Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group, Mr Caesar Vella and Mrs Phyllis Vella.

Apologies were received from the Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Victor Grech and Mrs Patricia Grech and Life Member of Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group, Mrs Anne Gauci.

After the singing of the Maltese and Australian National Anthems, the champagne bottles on the tables were opened and a toast offered to all fathers present. Then a three course meal was served. Members were soon on the dance floor dancing to the music and enjoying the entertainment provided by DJ Tony.

President, Salvina Vella, delivered a short message for Father's Day and wished them a good day and asked to pray for the fathers who are no longer with us.

This was followed by the presentation of trophies for the Men's Bocce Competition. Winner was Philip Debono; Frans Bonavia, first runner-up and Charles Psaila, second runner-up. The trophies were presented by the bocce organiser, Mr Angelo Farrugia (see picture).

The function finished with the Reskeon Theme Song, music by the late Laurie Armato, lyrics by Dr Clemente Zammit. A good day was had by all those attending this function.

Thanks to the President, Salvina Vella, who worked so hard to make this luncheon a very successful one. We would also like to thank the management of Firenze Receptions and their waiting staff for the way they looked after us. Thanks to all those present and especially to those who helped set up flags, etc. before the luncheon. ●



Jade Colver-Vella wins Gold at Karate National Championships in Perth

Congratulations to Jade Colver-Vella on winning gold in her division of Kumite 12-13yo (50kg) at the Karate National Championships that took place over the first weekend of August. This win now makes her National Champion for the third time in a row. She also competed in the teams Kumite 12/13yo event and won gold for Victoria taking home two gold medals.

Jade has recently been selected to represent Australia in the upcoming Oceania Karate Championships in Fiji in September this year. She will be heading over with the Australian team proudly wearing the green and gold Australian tracksuit.

Jade is the granddaughter of Caesar and Phyllis Vella, ex-President and Secretary of Reskeon Maltese Association respectively.



Community Events Calendar

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

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| SEP 3 Wed | MCCV Council Meeting @ Maltese Community Centre Sep 3 @ 7:00 pm |
| SEP 8 Mon | Marija Bambina Mass 2014 @ St Paul's Chapel Sep 8 @ 7:00 pm |
| SEP 14 Sun | Annual General Meeting, Executive Committee elections, luncheon and bingo – St Gaetan's Society @ St Martin de Porres Church Sep 14 @ 12:00 pm Celebrating the Feast of Marija Bambina 2014 @ St Mary Star of the Sea Church Sep 14 @ 2:30 pm |
| SEP 24 Wed | MCCV Executive Committee Meeting @ Maltese Community Centre Sep 24 @ 6:30 pm |
| OCT 1 Wed | MCCV Council Meeting @ Maltese Community Centre Oct 1 @ 7:00 pm |
| OCT 4 Sat | Bus trip across the NSW border – St Gaetan's Society Oct 4 |
| OCT 18 Sat | Family Get Together BYO – St Helena Maltese-Australian S.C. Inc. @ Errington Community Centre Oct 18 @ 6:00 pm – 11:30 pm |
| OCT 26 Sun | Free Members' Barbecue – St Gaetan's Society @ St Martin de Porres Church Oct 26 @ 12:00 pm |
| OCT 29 Wed | MCCV Executive Committee Meeting @ Maltese Community Centre Oct 29 @ 6:30 pm |
| NOV 5 Wed | MCCV Annual General Meeting 2014 @ Maltese Community Centre Nov 5 @ 7:00 pm |
| NOV 7 Fri | All Souls' Mass – St Gaetan's Society @ Maltese Community Centre Nov 7 @ 6:45 pm |
| NOV 15 Sat | Family Get Together BYO – St Helena Maltese-Australian S.C. Inc. @ Errington Community Centre Nov 15 @ 6:00 pm – 11:30 pm |
| NOV 16 Sun | Bus trip across the NSW border – St Gaetan's Society Nov 16 |
| NOV 26 Wed | MCCV Executive Committee Meeting @ Maltese Community Centre Nov 26 @ 6:30 pm |

LEARN MALTESE

FOR PLEASURE, WORK OR TRAVEL

BEGINNER ADULT CLASSES STARTING SOON

• WHEN & WHERE

- **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/>





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