



## Maltese community celebrates 50th Anniversary of Malta's Independence



On Sunday 21 September the Maltese community in Melbourne celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Malta's Independence at a reception held at the Maltese Centre in Parkville. Special guests at the reception included the Consul General for Malta in Victoria, Mr Victor Grech; representing the Premier of Victoria and Co-Chair of the Victorian parliamentary 'Friends of Malta' group, the Hon Andrew Elsbury; representing the Leader of the Opposition the Hon Colin Brooks; MCCV Vice President Mr Victor Borg; Hon Consul for Malta in Victoria and MCCV PRO Dr Edwin Borg-Manché; MSSP Provincial Fr Ivano Burdian mssp, Fr Edwin Agius mssp and Sr Doris Falzon OP.

In the absence of MCCV President Professor Maurice Cauchi, who was in Malta to attend the meeting of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad, Vice President Victor Borg welcomed the distinguished guests and spoke on the importance and meaning of the Independence celebrations to the islands of Malta and Gozo. He gave some background on the history of Malta putting into perspective the importance of Malta's achievement of independence 50 years ago.

In his address, Consul General of Malta in Victoria Mr Victor Grech said that, while the Maltese bravery during World War II was acknowledged through the award of the George Cross, the Maltese wanted a secure future either within or without the British Empire. The calls for

independence became stronger. Following the closure of the Suez canal in 1957, the British government announced that it would downsize their military presence around the globe, including Malta.

Mr Grech said that the granting of independence to Malta on 21 September 1964 marked the ending of thousands of years of foreign rule. "Therefore today it's the 50th anniversary of this magnificent event and I would like to express my feelings of respect and gratitude to the politicians and previous Maltese governments who over the years devoted their energy to make Malta an independent nation." Though a small island nation, Malta has contributed beyond limits of imagination to peace and prosperity not only within its borders but beyond to other countries of the world, he said.

Representing the State Premier of Victoria as well as the Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, the Hon Andrew Elsbury said that celebrating the 50th anniversary of Malta's independence is a joyous occasion for all Maltese around the world.

Mr Elsbury said that it is an opportunity to reflect on Malta's proud history and the relationship between our two great nations. He pointed out that they are two great nations of islands, "ours is a little bit bigger but in any case still an island".

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## The President's Column

# Reflections by a departing President

**A**fter several years at the helm, it is time to relinquish one's position and allow others to take over, bring new ideas and encourage other views. One is allowed to look back over the years, take stock and consider how things have changed over the past decade or two.

Perhaps one of the most fundamental changes affecting our community in Australia is the fact that the first generation, those of us born overseas, is diminishing at a great rate. The proportion of persons reaching the ripe age of 70 and even 80 is getting proportionately larger and larger. The last census shows an annual loss of one per cent, and this is bound to increase as we get older.

Relating also to this is the need to foster an interest in our Maltese heritage among the second generation. The recent survey carried out by the MCCV shows that, indeed, many of these still have a lasting interest in Maltese culture, although the language is fast disappearing. This is something to build on. Unfortunately, these persons hardly have any contact with institutions, including Maltese associations, which in the past have been the bulwark which maintained Maltese culture alive.

One result of this is the fact that the MCCV is finding it difficult to maintain the services that we have been used to. An example of this is the move to divest ourselves of the responsibility of providing home services to older people. Currently, the MCCV is negotiating terms with a well-respected organisation to pass on to them this burden, so we can concentrate on other work of more immediate relevance.

There is no denying that when the population is getting older, it becomes more difficult to continue with activities which one took for granted as a young person. It has become difficult to find volunteers to do even relatively simple jobs. Even activities like Bingo sessions have become a costly exercise, because of the fact that the usual clients have become too old to drive a car, or because there are other venues which can afford better prospects.

Our future depends on our youth. We are happy to say that in the last few years we have succeeded in resuscitating the youth committee with the help of Rita Catania, who has been indefatigable in organising events to attract young persons to the Maltese Centre.

Moreover, through the setting up of the Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Fund and Scholarship, we hope to attract young people to maintain an interest in Maltese culture. We hope that those who succeed to get these scholarships, offered every year, will one day become the leaders of the Maltese community in years to come.

So we can conclude by saying that, while we cannot stop the ravages of time, and while we are convinced that sunset issues loom closer and closer, yet there is still a lot of work to be done. Since its very inception in 1958, the Maltese Community Council of Victoria has always been at the forefront in providing a whole variety of services to the community, and has always shouldered the task of representing and voicing the needs of the community, to ensure that we do not lack essential services. This I am sure will continue for as long as there are Maltese within the community.

One has to emphasize that the needs of the community do not disappear just because the community is ageing. In fact, the opposite is the truth, and certainly, services for older persons become more and more acute as a result. I feel confident that the MCCV will be around for several more decades, to assist, advise, support and represent the Maltese community in Victoria to the best of its ability.

For more details relating to the work of the MCCV, you may wish to consult a copy of the Annual Report, available from the Maltese Centre.

*Prof. Maurice Cauchi*  
**MCCV President**



## From the MCCV Council

**MCCV Community Awards 2014.** On 21st September 2014, the MCCV presented the MCCV Community Awards to the following recipients;

- **Scholarship and Education:** Prof Joseph A Camilleri
- **Education:** Ms Edwidge Borg
- **Culture:** Mr Joseph Borg (in absentia) and Mr Albert W Agius
- **Welfare Services:** Mr Jimmy Dingli, Mr Romeo Cini, Mr Nicholas Chircop and Mr Lewis Stafrace
- **General Services:** Sr Doris Falzon OP, Dr Clemente Zammit (in absentia), Mrs Carmen Testa and Mr John Pace .

**Survey of Maltese Elderly in Victoria.** Council is currently conducting a survey of the needs of Maltese Elderly. Professor Maurice Cauchi has designed the survey with relevant questions to be included in the survey form and will analyse responses and compile a report on the survey results.

**50th Anniversary of Malta's Independence.** The MCCV held a reception celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Malta's Independence Day at the Maltese Community Centre on the 21st September 2014.

**Grant from Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund.** The MCCV has been advised that its application for a building maintenance grant from Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund has been successful. Works relating to roof repairs, replacement of interior ceiling tiles and double-glazing of hall windows will commence shortly.

**IT equipment upgrade.** The MCCV will be upgrading its IT equipment and software to support the services that the Council provides. Appropriate equipment will also be implemented for offsite backup. ●

## MCCV Annual General Meeting 2014



**MCCV Executive Committee 2014-16:** from left, Mrs Rosemary Attard (Welfare Director), Mr Paul Borg (Treasurer), Dr Edwin Borg-Manché (Vice President & PRO), Mr Victor Borg (President), Mr Joseph Stafrace (Vice President), Mrs Edwina Mallia (Secretary), Mrs Rita Pulicino (Assistant Treasurer), Mrs Marilyn Pace (Social Secretary). *Not in photo:* Mrs Antonia Camilleri (Assistant Secretary) and Fr Edwin Agius mssp (Chaplain)

At the Annual General Meeting of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc held on Wednesday 5th November 2014 the following office bearers were elected to the Executive Committee:

President:	Mr Victor Borg
Vice President:	Dr Edwin Borg-Manché
Vice President:	Mr Joseph Stafrace
Treasurer:	Mr Paul Borg
Secretary:	Mrs Edwina Mallia
Welfare Director:	Mrs Rosemary Attard
Public Relations:	Dr Edwin Borg-Manché
Social Secretary:	Mrs Marilyn Pace
Assistant Treasurer:	Mrs Rita Pulicino
Assistant Secretary:	Mrs Antonia Camilleri
Chaplain:	Fr. Edwin Agius

Professor Maurice Cauchi, who had just completed 4 years as President, having over the years previously served another 12 years in that position, and Mr Gejtu Deguara, a Vice President of Council for many years, decided not to nominate for the Executive Committee elections.

The newly elected President, Mr Victor Borg, who since his retirement in 2013 has been a full time volunteer at the MCCV, moved a vote of thanks to Professor Maurice Cauchi and Guy Deguara for their work and contribution to the council and the community generally. He said that he was certain that they would continue to be supportive of the council and contribute to the best of their ability. As the Immediate Past President Professor Cauchi is still an Executive Member of council.

Mr Borg urged the associations and the volunteers to provide their assistance in continuing to serve the ageing Maltese community in Victoria. He said that there are many community members who need assistance. Unfortunately distances in Australia are much longer than in Malta and family members do not live next door. Very often there are long distances separating children from their parents and

the community volunteers play an important role in assisting the ageing members of our community. He hoped that in the next couple of years the Home Visitation Scheme is given a new life to better serve those community members who may feel isolated and on their own. ●

## 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.

Contributions should be forwarded to the Editor either by email at [pro@mccv.org.au](mailto:pro@mccv.org.au) or alternatively by post to:

**The Editor—MCCV News**  
**Maltese Community Council of Victoria**  
 477 Royal Parade  
 PARKVILLE VIC 3052



## Council for Maltese Living Abroad meets in Malta

By Edwin Borg-Manché

On 2-3 October 2014 the Council for Maltese Living Abroad held its third annual meeting in Malta at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Palazzo Parisio in Valletta. The meeting was chaired by the Hon Dr George W Vella, Minister for Foreign Affairs (first from right in photo). Council members from Victoria, Prof. Maurice Cauchi (second from left) and Dr Edwin Borg-Manché (first from left) attended the two-day meeting.

In this meeting the Council discussed a variety of issues on its agenda, including the creation of a roadmap for the further development of the Maltese Government-Diaspora relations, biometric passport services, the establishment of the Maltese Cultural Institute, Maltese language teaching overseas, the teaching of the history of the Diaspora in Maltese schools, the Council's website, and other matters that impact directly or indirectly Maltese communities overseas.

At the start of the meeting the members of the Council expressed their serious concerns at the lack of progress being made on several longstanding issues. Most of these issues have now been on the Council's agenda since its inaugural meeting in September 2012. One important



Photo - DOI - Clodagh Farrugia O'Neill

issue relates to applications for passports made by Maltese citizens living overseas in locations where there is no equipment required to gather the biometric data (e.g. Perth, Brisbane, Adelaide and Hobart in Australia, in New Zealand), necessitating great expense for them to travel to the nearest location (e.g. Melbourne, Sydney

or Canberra) to apply for a Maltese passport. It has been over two years since a proposal to deploy portable equipment was mooted by the government as a possible solution to this problem. The proposal is still on the government's drawing board with no deployment date in sight. ●



**MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA.** From left: Dr Raymond Xerri (Director MLA), Rosalie Rivett, Carmen Galea, Franklin Mamo, Gaetano Pace, Joe Sherri, Louis Vella, President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, Prof Maurice Cauchi, Fr Alfred Vella, Bernard Scerri, Larry Zahra, Lawrence Dimech and Frank Scicluna. (Not in photo: Prof Stephen Gatt).

# Roadmap for Maltese Diaspora-Government cooperation

By Maurice Cauchi & Edwin Borg-Manché

In an effort to strengthen the close link between the Maltese living abroad and their cousins in Malta, the Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) was established by an Act of the Maltese parliament passed by unanimous vote in late 2011. The CMLA meets annually in Malta under the chairmanship of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Dr George Vella. Its latest meeting was held in early October with members from Australia, Europe, Canada and the USA attending.

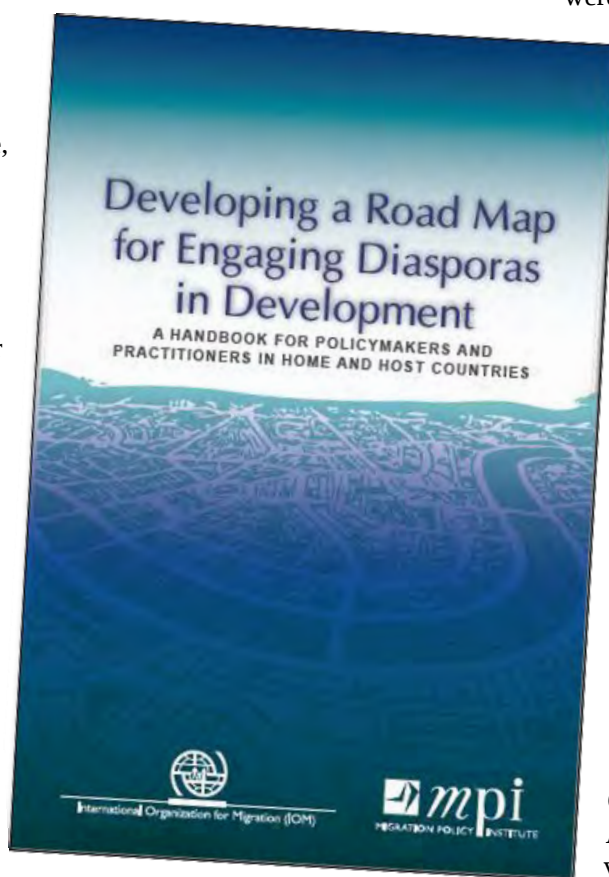
As might be expected, the meeting had a full agenda consisting of a whole range of issues. One important issue for discussion related to the need for the development of a 'roadmap' for fostering relations between the Diaspora and the Government of Malta.

In 2012 the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) published a [handbook](#) called *Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development* with the support of the governments of the Netherlands and Switzerland. The material for the handbook was facilitated by the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Platform for Partnerships.

The GFMD has been meeting since 2007 to focus on ways that communities of emigrants and their descendants contribute to development in their countries of origin. Malta was one of the 62 national governments that participated in a survey which have studied these issues and made suitable recommendations.

The handbook contains some valuable advice and recommendations for 'Developing a Road Map for Effective and Sustainable Engagement'. The major aims of such a road map would be to identify the goals for Diaspora

engagement, to map the location and characteristics of the Diaspora, to build trust between diasporas and government institutions, and to mobilize the Diaspora to act as partners in the development of the country of origin.



The handbook also provides recommendations on 'Building Institutions and Reducing Barriers', with the aim of facilitating engagement with the Diaspora and on 'Creating Bridges', which deals specifically with the role that Diasporas have played in the development of the country of origin, including in particular remittances sent to the home country, direct investment, human capital transfer, capital market investment and tourism. One important recommendation is that it should be the aim of this process to ensure that the Diaspora should be established as 'a true partner in the development of

its country of origin'. The point is also made that Diaspora engagement is a process that requires sustained attention across a broad front and also requires a strategy.

Based on the above considerations, the recommendations of the CMLA were to encourage the government to jointly develop a similar 'road map' to identify goals, map Maltese Diaspora geography and skills, create a relationship of trust between Maltese Diaspora and the government of Malta, as well as to mobilise the Maltese Diaspora to contribute to sustainable development.

Following some discussion it was agreed that, as a first step, a joint study be carried out by academics, who have expertise in this subject matter, from Malta and overseas, to report and make recommendations to the Government on possible approaches to developing such a road map.

## Convention of Maltese Living Abroad 2015

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs is in the process of organising a Convention of Maltese Living Abroad to be held in April next year, where these and related issues will be further discussed.

Attendance at the Convention is open to everyone but registration with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is required. The registration form may be downloaded from the MCCV website (<http://www.mccv.org.au/convention-of-maltese-living-abroad-2015-expressions-of-participation-intention-invited/>). ●



# Presentation of MCCV Community Awards 2014

The second part of proceedings at the reception held on 21 September at the Maltese Centre in Parkville to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Malta's Independence consisted of the presentation of the MCCV Community Awards 2014.

In 2012 the MCCV established its Annual Community Awards to publicly recognise, and show its appreciation for, the valuable contribution of Maltese people to the enrichment of the Maltese community in Victoria, whether by their contribution to scholarship, education, welfare services, arts and generally to the well being of our Maltese community.

This year the MCCV honoured twelve members of our community who have made a significant contribution to various aspects of our community life. The Awards were presented to the successful nominees, namely:

- **Scholarship and Education: Prof Joseph A Camilleri**
- **Education: Ms Edwidge Borg**
- **Culture: Mr Joseph Borg** (in absentia) and **Mr Albert W Agius**
- **Welfare Services: Mr Jimmy Dingli, Mr Romeo Cini, Mr Nicholas Chircop and Mr Lewis Stafrace**
- **General services: Sr Doris Falzon OP, Dr Clemente Zammit** (in absentia), **Mrs Carmen Testa** and **Mr John Pace**



**PROF JOSEPH CAMILLERI MA, PhD** was born in Alexandria, Egypt. His father was from Hamrun, Malta and his mother from Izmir, Turkey. His family came to Australia when he was very young. He studied at Melbourne University and obtained his PhD from London University. He has been a visiting Fellow to many international institutions including London School of Economics, Princeton University and Cornell University. Until recently he was Professor of International Relations at La Trobe University and Director of the Centre for Dialogue which has done a great deal to bring together individuals and communities of widely varying views working for global peace. He has published extensively with more than 15 books to his name, on topics varying from

International Relations to Globalization to Politics in the Pacific region.



**MS EDWIDGE BORG B.Bus (Admin)** holds a degree of Bachelor of Business Administration specialising in Accounting and Business Management from RMIT University. She is an experienced administrator and has worked in various senior management positions at Media Entertainment & Arts Alliance, SBS and currently at Austin Health. She has been involved with the Maltese community for several years. For many years she has been particularly active in organising Maltese languages course at the Maltese Community Centre, and has been involved with activities, including particularly functions to engage children. She has served on the MCCV Executive Committee for several years, first as Vice President, and then for a term as President between 2002 and 2004.



**MR ALBERT AGIUS** Born in Birzebbugia, Albert migrated to Australia in 1978. He studied journalism at the University of Malta before coming to Australia. Albert has had a long career which started as a journalist contributing articles to Maltese papers, with his popular Australian Newsletter, and later with SBS radio, highlighting various facets of Maltese life in Australia. Albert has published several books, including *Maltese Settlement in Australia*, *Qwiel u Idjomi Maltin*, and *It-Tezawru*. He has also given several talks to the Maltese Historical Association on topics of Maltese history. Albert is also a member of the Order of St John of Jerusalem.



**SR DORIS FALZON OP.** Born in Birkirkara, Malta Sister Doris Falzon has been in Melbourne since 1983, serving the Maltese community as a member of the Dominican Sisters of Malta. Sr Doris is a fully qualified nurse. She was involved in establishing Rosary Home, then a 36-bed aged care home in Keilor Downs. From 1994 she was very much involved in planning and supervising the new extension to Rosary Home, which now accommodates 50 residents. As Administrator of Rosary Home she has the responsibility of ensuring the success of this facility, which, by all accounts, is considered as one of the best aged care homes in Melbourne.



**MR ROMEO CINI** was born in Tripoli (Libya) and since his arrival in Australia in 1961 he has been very much involved with Maltese from Tripoli. Romeo was the founder President of the Tripoli Social Club. He started the monthly Newsletter *Il Corriere Tripolino di Melbourne* which was circulated to Tripolitani around the world. Romeo has become well-known recently for his publication *La Nostra Storia* (translated by Dr George Boffa as 'Our Story'), a unique document detailing the experiences of Maltese from Tripoli who were evacuated to Italy during the Second World War.

**MR LEWIS STAFRACE** was one of the earliest migrants from Malta, arriving in Australia 1949. Since that time he has been

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## Presentation of MCCV Community Awards 2014

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MCCV Vice President Mr Victor Borg (left) presenting the award to Mr Lewis Stafrace



MCCV Social Secretary Mr Joseph Stafrace (left) presenting the award to Mr Nicholas Chircop



MCCV Vice President Mr Gejtu Deguara (left) presenting the award to Mr John Pace

heavily involved with the Maltese community, firstly in helping the newly-arrived Maltese, and then with Maltese settled particularly in the Sunshine and Keilor areas. Lewis has been involved as President and community leader of various associations. He was the former President of the Green Gully Soccer Club, Founder and President of the Green Gully Senior Citizens Social Club, member of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, and President of the St Albans Good Friday Association. Lewis is also a musician and was the founder and President of the St Albans Melita Band. He is also Justice of the Peace, and has received several awards, including Victoria's Award for Excellence in Multicultural Affairs, and The Manoel de Vilhena Award.



MCCV Asst Secretary Mrs Marilyn Pace presenting the award to Mr Jimmy Dingli

**MR JIMMY DINGLI** has been working within the Maltese Community in the South-Eastern Suburbs since 1967, helping with the settlement process of newly-arrived Maltese. Jimmy was instrumental in setting up the St Paul's South-Eastern Suburbs Association, of which he is currently its President. He is also very active in church functions in the region, being Councillor in the Parish Council. As Eucharistic Minister in the Church, he regularly visits older people in their homes, to administer communion and give other support.

**MR NICHOLAS CHIRCOP** OAM Born in Alexandria, Egypt where he was already quite active within the Maltese community there, Nicholas Chircop arrived in Australia in 1955, and was soon appointed as Commissioner for taking affidavits. Nick held the post of

President of the Melita Social Club, Secretary of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, and President of the Maltese Ex-Services Association of Victoria. Nick has received several awards, including the Manoel de Vilhena Award, a Certificate from the Premier of Victoria in connection with the Premier's Senior Citizens of the Year Award, and the Order of Australia Medal for services to the community.



MCCV Welfare Director Mrs Rosemary Attard (left) presenting the award to Mrs Testa

**MRS CARMEN TESTA** OAM, MQR, Dip Ed. Born in Birkirkara, Malta Carmen Testa arrived in Australia when she was 17 years of age with her mother and six brothers. Carmen has worked as NAATI qualified Maltese interpreter and translator, and later as teacher at St Paul's Primary School. She has been very involved with the Maltese community, setting up the 'The Western Region Maltese Women's Group' in 1985, and has been involved in several other associations. She has also been involved in organising a visitation program for home-bound or sick people at home or in nursing homes. She has received several awards for her work, including the Medal of the Order of Australia, the 'Medalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika' and the Premier's Special Commendation Award.

**MR JOHN PACE** has been involved with the Maltese community for several years. He has been responsible for organising the Men's Group which aims to offer friendship and social contact for men who have found themselves isolated at home and from their community. The group meets at the Maltese Centre every

week, enabling its members to make new friends and support each other. John volunteers a lot of his time working at the Centre looking after the canteen, and doing jobs about the building and garden.

### *In Absentia*

**DR CLEMENTE ZAMMIT** MQR Born in Birkirkara, Malta Dr Clemente Zammit studied at the Usher Institute of the University of Leeds and at the University of Edinburgh. He held many positions in the Malta Civil Service, before serving as Consul General of Malta for Victoria for 17 years from March 1989 to January 2006. During this time he worked hard to represent the Maltese in Victoria on various bodies and in particular with Victoria University. Clemente's involvement with Maltese associations was appreciated and he was made honorary member of several Maltese associations in Victoria. Clemente was a regular contributor to Maltese radio programs. He is also a writer and a poet, and more recently has published novels as e-books, a first for a Maltese in Australia. His work has been recognised with the award of the 'Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika', and the award of Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*) from Victoria University.

**MR JOSEPH BORG** BE (Mechanical) Born in Rabat, Malta, Joe came to Australia with his family in 1954. He is a Chartered Professional Engineer and holds a degree of Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical) from the University of Melbourne. Joe has had a long-standing interest in Maltese culture and history. He was the moving force behind the setting up of the Maltese Historical Association, of which he was the first Secretary, and subsequently (and currently) President of this Association. Joe has also been involved with the Maltese Community Council of Victoria since 1990, including his term as President between 1992 and 1994). His contribution to the general culture can be attested to by his engineering works for monuments which dot various prominent places in Melbourne. He is also a member of the Order of St John of Jerusalem. ●



## Maltese community celebrates 50th Anniversary of Malta's Independence

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Having been to Malta last year as part of a Victorian parliamentary delegation, Mr Elsbury said that he spoke with government officials about the challenges they are facing and these are not dissimilar from those being faced by government in Australia like health care and transport.

Malta has come a long way since achieving its independence 50 years ago. In their struggle to independence the Maltese people paved the way to a democratic republic and peaceful nation that Malta is today, he said.

Renowned around the world for its breathtaking coastline and its iconic architecture, Malta has much to teach us in the value of preserving its history and traditions, said Mr Elsbury.

He said that the Maltese are one of the longer lasting communities in Victoria because they paved the way for the many multicultural communities that followed them. The Maltese community in Victoria is one of the largest in the country. We are also grateful to the older generation for sharing their stories, customs and wisdom with us, to be able to continue their culture and give identity to future generations of Maltese who call Victoria their home.

Representing the State Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Colin Brooks said that the Maltese have made a significant contribution to Australia and to Victoria. The Maltese were ground-breakers in developing the multicultural spirit in Victoria, where every second person was either born overseas or has a parent who was born overseas. He commended the Maltese community for the way in which it has helped to not just provide the rich tapestry of diversity and cultural difference but also to bring that together as one strong society.

Mr Brooks said that he also wanted to acknowledge the contribution in its efforts during the Second World War. It would be remiss not to mention the suffering of the Maltese people and their courage. They played no small part in ensuring victory in that conflict and securing the freedom that we all enjoy today. He wished everyone a Happy Independence Day and congratulated the MCCV and all the community organisations for providing such an importance service to



The speakers at the reception: from left, MCCV Vice President Mr Victor Borg, Consul General of Malta in Victoria Mr Victor Grech, Hon. Andrew Elsbury, Hon. Colin Brooks and Fr Edwin Agius mssp.

the fantastic Maltese community.

Addressing the gathering, Fr Edwin Agius said that Maltese history is connected with religion. Malta celebrates three national days connected with faith: 10 February St Paul's Shipwreck in Malta, 15 August Feast of the Assumption (associated with the Convoy of Santa Maria) and 8 September the Feast of Maria Bambina (associated with the victory in the Great Siege of 1565).

Fr Agius referred to the three aeroplanes during the war that were named Faith, Hope and Charity.

From a religious point of view independence comes from a Jewish concept in the Old Testament. The Jews say that Judaism is not a religion but a nation. To be a nation means to have God who rules over it. During the past 50 years since independence, Malta has grown as a nation because God provides. ●

## Victorian Government makes infrastructure grant to MCCV for Maltese Centre maintenance works



At the reception held on 21 September 2014 at the Maltese Centre in Parkville to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Malta's Independence, the Hon Andrew Elsbury announced a Victorian government grant of \$32,000 to the MCCV through the Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund for maintenance works to be undertaken at the Centre. Pictured above, Mr Elsbury (right) presents the grant to MCCV President Professor Maurice Cauchi at the Maltese Centre in October.



## ANZAC DAY 2015 in Malta

## Malta's Gallipoli Connection

The Australian High Commission in Malta has been working for some time on special commemorative events for the centenary of the Gallipoli Campaign in World War I. A webpage has been established at [www.malta.embassy.gov.au/malta/ANZAC.html](http://www.malta.embassy.gov.au/malta/ANZAC.html). The information below is taken from this information source.

A Commemorative Service which will mark the 100th Anniversary of the start of the Gallipoli Campaign will be held at the [Pieta Military Cemetery](#) in Malta on **Saturday 25 April 2015 at 10.00 am**. The Service is open to the public.

ANZAC Day has been commemorated in Malta since 1916. Since 1979 the service has been held at the Pieta Military Cemetery as it contains the highest number of ANZAC war graves in Malta.

The Cemetery is located in Triq Id-Duluri (entrance at the junction of Triq Id-Duluri and Triq Santa Monika) Pieta.

Malta played a significant role in and during the Gallipoli Campaign with many Australians and New Zealand casualties being evacuated to Malta for medical treatment. From the spring of 1915, hospitals and convalescent camps were established on the islands of Malta and Gozo, to deal with the many thousands of sick and wounded from the Gallipoli and Salonika campaigns. Despite the courageous efforts of the doctors and medical staff, some of the casualties could not be saved and they were buried on Malta. Of those buried on Malta there were 202 Australian and 72 New Zealanders.

The Commonwealth war burials in Malta are unlike those found anywhere else. Many joint and collective burials were made as graves had to be cut into the rock underlying the island's shallow earth crust. These graves are usually marked by flat tablets that could take several inscriptions and, for the sake of uniformity; the same type of marker was used for single graves.

To mark the 100th Anniversary of ANZAC a number of organisations and associations will be setting up displays or conducting events leading up to and around 25 April.

### Concert 25 April 2015 - The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra

The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Brian Schembri is scheduled to perform on the evening of 25 April and will include in the program Peter Sculthorpe's



Pieta' Military Cemetery, Malta

piece "Small Town" which is a homage to the effect of war on the Australian communities.

### Concert 28 and 30 March 2015 - The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra

The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Christopher will also include in its program for 28 and 30 March the "Elegy In Memorium to Rupert Brooke" written by the Australian composer Frederick Septimus Kelly for his friend who died in the early part of WW1, Kelly served at Gallipoli, came to Malta in May 1915 before going to the battle in France where he too died.

For more information about the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra and ticketing for the Concerts go to their web page at [www.maltaorchestra.com](http://www.maltaorchestra.com)

### Cemeteries in Malta

All of the Cemeteries listed below contain graves from both world wars:

[The Malta \(Capuccini\) Naval Cemetery](#)

[Imtarfa Military Cemetery](#)

[Pembroke Military Cemetery](#)

[Pieta Military Cemetery](#)

[Addolorata Cemetery](#)

[Marsa Turkish Cemetery](#)

Clicking on the name of the cemetery will link you to the Commonwealth War Graves web page that will provide you with more information about the cemetery and location.

### Hospitals and Convalescent Camps

To cater for the over 135,000 sick and wounded from the Gallipoli and Salonika campaigns there were numerous hospitals and convalescent Camps throughout Malta and Gozo. The Australian and New Zealanders soldiers were treated in various hospitals and Convalescent Camps. Listed below are but a few of the many Hospitals and Convalescent Camp that were on Malta to treat the sick and wounded.

[Station Hospital](#) is now known as the [Mediterranean Conference Centre](#) located at Mediterranean St, Il-Belt Valletta. Tours are conducted through this Centre by the Malta Experience.

[Lazzaretto Hospital](#) on Manoel Island can still be viewed from any of the tour boats conducting the harbour cruises from Sliema.

[Bavière Hospital](#) was situated in the Auberge de Bavière. The Auberge de Bavière has an ancient and honourable history, having been the headquarters of the Anglo-Bavarian Knights of St. John located at San Bastjan, Valletta. It now houses the main offices of the GPD, including the Director General's Office, the Finance & Administration Directorate, The Estate Management Directorate, the Land Directorate and the Joint Office Directorate.

[St Elmo Hospital](#) was previously a government school that was converted into a hospital. St. Elmo specialised as a surgical hospital. The hospital was located at Fort St Elmo at the north end of the Grand Harbour. It was well ventilated and overlooked the breakwater.

[Fort Chambray Hospital Gozo](#) served as an excellent Convalescent Depot (camp) during the First World War, relieving the crowded camps on Malta.

[Mtarfa Hospital](#) was commissioned in 1912. It was used during World War I to hold many of injured Australian and New Zealand troops from the Gallipoli landings. It was expanded enormously during the Second World War. In the 1950s it was renamed the David Bruce Royal Naval Hospital, after the doctor who discovered the root cause of Malta fever or Brucellosis. It has since been converted to a state secondary school, named after Sir Temi Zammit, part of St Nicholas College.

[Cottonera Hospital](#) is now [St Edward's College](#) providing an excellent all round education, including an IB 6th Form, to its students and also very proud of its heritage as the Cottonera Hospital. Visit the beautiful grounds of St Edward's College and get a feel of what it may have been like as an Australian or New Zealand soldier to have been a patient at the World War I, Cottonera Hospital. St Edward's College have also set up a permanent display of the history of the College when it was known as the Cottonera Hospital.

[Għajn Tuffieħa Camp Hospital](#) Għajn Tuffieħa, situated 10 miles directly west of Valletta in a charming valley near the sea, with hills on either side. Għajn Tuffieħa had already been used as a camp in peace time, partly by the army and partly by the navy, being in great request as a summer holiday resort both by officers and men. [Australia Hall](#) The area around Pembroke had a number of convalescent camps such as All Saints, St Pauls, and Spinola Camp. Australia Hall was built after the sum of £2,000 (pounds) was raised through donations by the Australian Branch of the Red Cross, at the time, to provide a place of amusement and social activities. Australia Hall was used for shows for the Forces between the wars and also during the Second World War. ●

## High Commission establishes Australian Plant Collection at Argotti to mark 50th Anniversary of Malta-Australia relations

By Edwin Borg-Manché

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Malta and Australia on 21 September 2014, the Australian High Commission in Malta held an event to mark the opening of the Australian Plant Collection at the Argotti Botanic Gardens in Floriana, being established not far from the ANZAC monument.

Among the distinguished guests attending the ceremony hosted by the Australian High Commissioner, Her Excellency Ms Jane Lambert, were the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr George Vella, the Minister for Sustainable Development, Mr Leo Brincat, the Mayor of Floriana, Mr Nigel Holland, the Mayor of Mdina, Mr Peter Dei Conti Sant Manduca and members the Diplomatic and Consular corps.

Ms Lambert warmly welcomed those present and said that one should feel privileged to have such a place of beauty and space for contemplation at the beautiful and historic Argotti Botanic Gardens, and which reflects Malta's fascinating history and ties with many countries.

Ms Lambert said that they had been discussing at the High Commission the need to mark this occasion in some way that would be meaningful to the Australian and Maltese communities, and to do so in a way that reinforced the experience of life in Australia for members of the Maltese community, and to give a touch of their Australian life for those that are now living again here in Malta.

The idea for the creation of an Australian Plant Collection came about from discussions she had with the Director of the Argotti Botanic Gardens, Dr Joseph Buhagiar, when she first arrived in Malta. She admitted that she has a great personal interest in gardens inherited from her mother, grandfather and great aunt, and in the tradition of botanical gardens and botanical painting. Dr Buhagiar's suggestion laid the seed for an idea.

Ms Lambert paid a special tribute to Mr Guido Lanfranco, an eminent botanist and Malta's foremost botanical artist. His collection of botanical paintings is now held in the Library of the University of Malta as a gift to the nation. She hoped that the collection of Australian plants will provide those who have not yet visited Australia with a hint of the unique and diverse plants in that country. She also hoped that for those who have been in Australia it will provide an opportunity to meet up with some familiar friends.

Ms Lambert said that it also seemed very fitting that the home for the Australian Plant Collection is near to the ANZAC Memorial that was established through the hard work and dedication of the Australian-Maltese communities, led in particular by Mr Nick



Bonello. The selection of the plants, and their travel to Malta in March and April this year, was the work of Dr Buhagiar and his colleagues, in collaboration with the staff of the Australian National Botanic Garden in Canberra, in particular Mr Paul Carmen.

Ms Lambert acknowledged the assistance of the Maltese Government's quarantine and plant inspection service in assisting with the arrangements for the plants arrival in Malta.

Ms Lambert concluded her address by inviting those present to consider becoming part of the project to establish the "Friends of the Argotti Botanic Gardens". She said that the idea is to establish a group of interested members of the community to support the garden, in a myriad of ways, for example, by running tours and education sessions for schools, learning to create herbarium specimens for use by the Botany researchers at the University of Malta, through to a webpage that promotes the gardens and the things that are happening here.

In his reply address, the Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr George Vella spoke briefly about the history of the diplomatic relations between Malta and Australia established immediately after Malta's independence in 1964. In the beginning they were mostly centred around the question of migration and the many Maltese who had already settled in Australia. He also spoke about the history of migration of Maltese to Australia which started way back in 1810 in the sugarcane plantations of Mackay in Queensland, with great waves happening in the 1920s and 1950s mainly to the States of New South Wales and Victoria.



At the political level it is very telling that practically all Maltese presidents and prime ministers have visited Australia due to an obligation to go there to visit the Maltese, "whom we consider and even more so since last year when we were speaking of the Maltese diaspora as being considered part of the Maltese population," said Dr Vella.

Dr Vella visited Australia twice, once as a Foreign Minister in 1997 and some years ago with Prime Minister Dr Joseph Muscat, when he was still Leader of the Opposition.

Dr Vella said that over the years Malta and Australia developed ever closer relations not only because of the Maltese community but also because Malta's foreign policy, even with Malta moving towards EU membership, and within the family of the Commonwealth. Before going to New York the previous week, Dr Vella received a phone call from his Australian counterpart, the Hon Julie Bishop, to discuss and agree on reforms that are being proposed for the next CHOGM meeting to be held in Malta next year.

Dr Vella said that another event that binds Malta and Australia is ANZAC and the contribution of Malta to the ANZAC soldiers. Next year there are plans to commemorate the centenary of ANZAC with due pomp.

Ms Lambert and Dr Vella then unveiled the plaque for the occasion (pictured above). ●



## News from Malta

### Tonio Borg rules out Parliament, but not politics



Outgoing EU Health Commissioner Dr Tonio Borg ruled out a return to Parliament, but he is ready to contribute to the Nationalist Party in other ways. The 57-year-old's term as Commissioner ended when the new Juncker Commission formally took office on 1 November.

It is not unusual for commissioners to participate in national politics after their term is over. Former commissioners who returned to active national politics include Lithuania's current president Dalia Grybauskaitė, former Commission President and Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, and fellow Italian Franco Frattini, who left the Commission to become Foreign Minister in 2008.

In an article published on [The Malta Independent](http://TheMaltaIndependent.com) website, Dr Borg insisted that he would not be emulating their example. After over 30 years' experience - he started contesting general elections in 1981, and made it to Parliament 11 years later - Dr Borg says that his active political participation was a "closed chapter".

Dr Borg does have other plans in mind in the near future. He plans to return to lecturing public law at the University of Malta in November, stating that he missed doing so. While Maltese ministers are allowed to lecture at university, European Commissioners cannot take on any other work, and Dr Borg went on unpaid leave for the duration of his term in office.

In November Dr Borg will also be publishing his first book, *Nidhqu bina Nfusna*, in which he recounts various humorous anecdotes about local MPs - past and present. However, he emphasises; "I do not see myself returning to Parliament at this stage; I think that there are enough competent persons there."

This, he makes clear, does not mean that he has distanced himself from the PN, although obviously, he has not been actively involved in it during his term in Brussels.

"I have not changed my principles simply because I moved here," he states, pointing out that according to the party's statute, he is a member of its general council for life, and does not intend to renounce this privilege. And if the party seeks my assistance, I will be happy to provide it."

Dr Borg said that the ongoing reforms taking place at the PN was a process that needed to take place, although he adds that it is too early to gauge their effect.

But he dismisses any suggestions of a party in deep crisis, stating that it was only a matter of time before the PN returned to the Opposition benches, and that this was not the end of the world in itself, particularly after the party spent "25 years minus 22 months" in government. "Time in Opposition is an excellent time for a party to reform itself," he points out.

On 16 October Dr Borg was honoured by the World Health Organisation a few weeks before he finished his job as EU Commissioner for health. Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, Director of the WHO Regional Office for Europe presented a certificate of appreciation to Dr Borg (see photo above) in recognition of the EU Commission's outstanding contribution to tobacco control. ●

### Karmenu Vella resigns from parliament to become EU Commissioner



On 27 October 2014 Mr Karmenu Vella closed a parliamentary career lasting nearly four decades this evening, resigning his seat in order to become a European Commissioner. Mr Vella handed in his resignation at the end of the sitting after delivering his farewell speech during the adjournment.

Mr Vella, who hails from Żurriq, was first elected to parliament at the age of 26 in 1976 - he was then the youngest MP - and he has been re-elected ever since. He served as a minister under four different Labour Prime Ministers - Dom Mintoff, Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici, Alfred Sant and Joseph Muscat. He resigned from cabinet last March after being nominated to become the next Maltese member of the European Commission, and will be formally appointed as Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Commissioner on Saturday.

The Commissioner-designate's final address was preceded by a brief tribute by the only MP to have served since 1976 - fellow Labour MP Joe Debono Grech, who said that he was somewhat sad to see Mr Vella leave for Brussels after all the experiences that they shared, while wishing him all success for the future.

In his address, Mr Vella, 64, said that one never knew what the future held, and thus refused to state that his parliamentary career is over. Instead, he simply said that this would be the speech marking his resignation during this legislature.

He noted that in his career, he occupied a wide variety of roles, including that of a backbencher, of a cabinet minister occupying different portfolios, and as opposition spokesman for issues including tourism and finance.

Mr Vella said that his long parliamentary career taught him the importance of respecting different opinions, and said that he was proud to have never had any personal dispute with any MP. He said that he always strived to serve without denigrating anyone in government and in opposition, stating that if anything, he was even more careful when he served as a minister.

Mr Vella said he also learned that there were few occasions in which one was entirely right or entirely wrong, stating that tolerating and understanding others' views was not a show of weakness but of maturity.

In concluding his speech, he thanked his constituents for their continued trust in him and his family for their support, before paying tribute to his late parents. "There are no words to describe what they have done for me... I will not even try to say them."

Mr Vella started in his new role as EU Commissioner for the Environmental Sustainability on 1 November as part of the newly elected EU Commission led by former Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker and approved by the European Parliament on 22 October with 423 votes in favour, 209 against and 67 abstentions.

Tributes by Deputy Prime Minister Louis Grech and opposition whip David Agius followed, with the latter stating that while Mr Vella had a difficult role ahead, he had no doubt that he would be able to face it.

Mr Vella's final speech was filmed following a request by government deputy whip Deborah Schembri, a request which was backed on the opposition's behalf by its deputy leader Mario de Marco, as MP's final speeches - including that of outgoing Commissioner Tonio Borg in 2012 - were typically filmed. ●

## News from Malta

# Malta's Archbishop Paul Cremona resigns "for the good of the Church"

At a press conference held at the Curia in Floriana on 18 October the Apostolic Nuncio in Malta, Mgr Aldo Cavalli, confirmed that Pope Francis accepted the resignation of Archbishop Paul Cremona.

In the meantime Auxiliary Bishop Mgr Charles Scicluna has taken over the temporary leadership of the Church until a substitute is named.

Mgr Cavalli said the Archbishop had resigned for health reasons. He has acquired the title of Archbishop Emeritus of Malta.

The Nuncio said the Pope had thanked the Archbishop and praised him for his human warmth and spiritual closeness to the people.

Mgr Cremona said he wrote to the Pope some weeks ago because his health had deteriorated. He urged the faithful to pray for him and to the Church and said it was an honour for him to have led the Church in Malta for almost eight years.

He said that two years ago he had succumbed to exhaustion. He went to Gozo to rest and the first inkling of what he should do came at that time.

"I did my best to fulfil all obligations but it was with an effort.

"The time is now ripe for somebody else to take over the leadership of the church.

I am at peace with the Lord and with my conscience." Mgr Cremona said.

The Archbishop said he felt no rancour over the controversy raised in the media in August when questions over his leadership were raised.

He said he had met those who made the comments and had a frank discussion.

Maybe they hastened the process, he said, but the comments were not the main reason for his resignation.

Mgr Cremona said the saddest period of his episcopate was the introduction of divorce, which Malta now had to live with.

Auxiliary Bishop Charles Scicluna thanked the Archbishop for being a shining example to the people, a shepherd who was close to the people of God. He thanked him for his courage and for the joy he brought to many people and said he looked forward to the Church continuing to benefit from his wisdom.

He said the new Archbishop had to be a man of dialogue and a man of God, but very close to people. He needed to be, as



At the press conference ... from left, Archbishop Mgr Paul Cremona, Apostolic Nuncio Mgr Aldo Cavalli and Auxiliary Bishop Mgr Charles Scicluna

the Archbishop said at the beginning of his ministry, a builder of bridges between people and between people and the Lord.

Mgr Cremona said he looked forward to returning to his convent but would always be ready to help his successor.

The Apostolic Nuncio said the resignation comes into force at Noon today and the process for his succession could take some five months. Archbishop Cremona over the coming days and weeks will still preside over some confirmations and other ceremonies.

### PM's Statement

Prime Minister Dr Joseph Muscat said in a statement that he had learnt of Mgr Cremona's resignation with regret.

He said Mgr Cremona's leadership had a positive impact on the Church. His humility and the simple way how he explained things drew many people behind him. His contributions were backed by high intellectual value which made people reflect.

Mgr Cremona had seen the Church intervene in important public debates while staying away from partisan politics. He augured that his successor would follow his footsteps in order to promote national unity.

### Opposition Leader's reaction

Opposition leader Dr Simon Busuttil and the PN also thanked the Archbishop.

Dr Busuttil praised Mgr Cremona for his honesty and integrity. He said he had taken a courageous decision and it was admirable how he had chosen to step down once he decided he could not fully carry out his duties.

It is the first time that a bishop in Malta requests to step down before the formal age of retirement at 75 years. Mgr Cremona is 68 years old and became archbishop seven years ago.

### Archbishop's letter

In a personal letter sent to members of the clergy on 20 October, Archbishop Emeritus Paul Cremona said that he took the decision to step down out of the love he has for the church.

"I have done so consciously for the good of the Church I hold dear to my heart and which I gave my all to," he said

He also took the opportunity to beg forgiveness to those he may have hurt along the years while serving as Archbishop, but pointed out that his intentions were always good.

He also vowed to follow his successor's wishes, and that he will continue to serve each one, thanking all the clergy for their support.

Archbishop Emeritus Cremona had asked the Vatican to accept his resignation from the post of head of the Maltese church last week. After a short period of silence, The Vatican accepted the resignation.

Mgr Cremona is understood to have struggled with his health over the past five years and this was the main reason why he had requested to step down.

He was appointed archbishop in 2007, burdened by expectations of a renewal for the Maltese church following Mgr Joseph Mercieca's tenure. ●



## MHA Events — September &amp; October 2014

## Malta between the 15th and 18th centuries

*An overview from a historical and social perspective*

In his engaging, interactive style, guest speaker George Portelli introduced the topic by highlighting particular historical milestones prior to 1436, such as the sacking of the Maltese Islands by the Arabs in A.D. 870, followed by a period of total depopulation; the liberation of Malta by Count Roger in 1091, and again by his son Roger II in 1127. Roger II established a Latin Christian administration, as well as the role of Malta as a penal colony for European undesirables, such as in 1224 when the entire population of the City of Celano in the Abruzzi was banished to the Maltese Islands.

This was followed by an outline of progressive and at times regressive conurbation of the Maltese Islands, from a simple ecclesiastical organization dividing Malta into two parishes, Mdina and Birgu, in 1436, to 38 separate hamlets and villages by 1798. Due to unsettled times, during the 14th and 15th centuries a number of villages and hamlets were abandoned, whilst others such as Qormi, Birkirkara, Zebbug and Zejtun flourished. Gozo had scattered settlements and population but after the Turkish raid of 1551 they were abandoned and settlement did not resume till much later in the 18th, 19th and 20th Centuries. During the Middle Ages, the fear of Corsair attacks was a major factor apart from socio-economic reasons.

George recounted observations of how contemporary historians and foreign visitors perceived Maltese men and women of the period in terms of their physiognomy, dress, manners, virtues and vices including a staple diet of “a clove of garlic or onion, anchovies dipped in oil and saltfish, aside from vegetables, bread, milk and water”. Observers also commented on customs and rituals surrounding births, deaths and marriages.

In the second part of his presentation delivered on 21 October, 2014, he covered Maltese Language/Dialect, the proliferation of prostitution – which nearly claimed the downfall of Grand Master La Cassière; the high incidence of illegitimacy; the Nobility and Organized Religion.

George explained how the names of some early villages started with *Hal*, as in *Hal-Qormi* or *Hal-Zebbug*. *Hal* is short for *Rahal*, which comes from the Arabic *Rhal*, meaning a stopping place after a journey. They were used by farmers walking their *merħla* (flock of sheep). Eventually these resting places developed into *razzetti* (farmhouses), then hamlets, villages and



Guest Speaker George Portelli

towns. In Gozo, this did not apply, because of the many invasions by the Barbary Corsairs, especially when they were based in Comino. The inhabitants of Gozo tended to cluster around the main citadel of Rabat. No towns in Gozo begin with *Hal*.

George then explored how words have changed over time. For example, *Quċċija* originally referred to the gifts left in a will by a benefactor, whereas now it refers to the custom in which babies are placed a circle with various objects. The one he or she chooses is believed to indicate their future career or mode of life. *Buonavoglia* now means someone who is mischievous or cheeky but originally it meant a volunteer. In the times of the knights, some men volunteered as oarsmen, accompanying the slaves and prisoners, on the galleys. Many ended up being held indefinitely and had to complain to the pope for their release, hence the modern meaning.

Regarding social classes in Malta, the upper class were the *Gentil Homini* and *Homini Facultusi*, which included the nobility and feudal landlords. The second strata were the artisans and craftsmen, the *ministrali* (or *burgesi*), then came the farmers (*bedouini* or *bidwi*), who were usually Muslim converts to Christianity. The last category was the slaves. The nobility and hierarchy of the church resided in Mdina, where the Carmelites established the only convent in Mdina, whereas the *burgesi* and others lived outside the city.

Many religious orders came to Malta in the 1400s. The Franciscans established the Santo Spirito hospital, which attracted many poor people and prostitutes. The hospital included a revolving window, where foundlings and unwanted babies could be deposited anonymously.

Various dialects were spoken around Malta and Gozo. According to the English scholar, George Percy Badger, who was well versed in Arabic, some Gozitans around Għarb spoke Brejku, an unusual means of communication.

There was a high incidence of prostitution in Valletta. Grandmaster La Cassière tried to stop it but was deposed by rebellious knights for his trouble. He was eventually reinstated by the pope. In 1596, Inquisitor Innocenzo Del Bufalo wrote that there was a great number of prostitutes “on this island of Malta and especially in Valletta”. The treasurer of the order, Bosredon Ransijat wrote that, “the Maltese shut their eyes to the seductions of their wives and daughters but this applied only to the citizens not to the country people.”

Attempts to eliminate prostitution by confession and communion, prayer and fasting failed. Eventually a monastery was built for them, with the expectation that they would support it by leaving money in their wills. None of these initiatives were successful.

Perhaps the most outstanding prostitute of all was Antonia Creni. Who was she? Grandmaster de Rohan employed as his personal physician a Dr Fortunato Antonio Creni. It seems that Creni’s wife became de Rohan’s mistress. “The painful passions of the spirit” found tangible outlets, when Signora Creni gave birth to Antonia, reputed to be de Rohan’s daughter. Dr Creni adopted his “wife’s princely indiscretion”, raising her as his own. Antonia later joined the French rebels against her father’s Order and is referred to in a contemporary document as none other than “Napoleon’s prostitute in Malta”. A long petition, addressed by a tempestuous priest to the King of the two Sicilies, recounts in great detail Napoleon’s arrival in Malta. According to Commendatore Fra Michelangelo Attard, the first person Bonaparte visited on landing in Malta was “that vile prostitute Antonia Creni”. ●

# Maria Bambina Feast celebrated in Melbourne

By Paul Vella

The feast of Maria Bambina in Melbourne was once again organised by Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group Inc. on behalf of the Missionary Society of St. Paul.

On Saturday, 6 September, the Vittoria Dinner Dance at Firenze Receptions, Fawkner, was well attended by more than 150 members and friends.

Distinguished guests were Fr Edwin Agius, mssp; Fr Dr Victor Shields, mssp; Honorary Life Members Dr Clemente Zammit and Mrs Mary Zammit, Mr Laurie Bartolo and Mrs Theresa Bartolo; Mr Caesar Vella and Mrs Phyllis Vella, MCCV Vice-President, Mr Victor Borg and Mrs Terry Borg. Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Victor Grech and Mrs Patricia Grech, sent their apologies.

Later in the night the Malta Gozo Concert Band played marches for the occasion which created the merriment for the night, similar to that of the Maltese Festas.

On Monday, 8 September, a Mass was celebrated by Fr Dr Victor Shields, mssp, in the St. Paul's Chapel, next to the Maltese Centre, Parkville, attended by around 100 members of the Maltese Community. After Mass, refreshments were served in the foyer of the Maltese Centre.

On Sunday, 14 September Reskeon organised the Feast of Maria Bambina on behalf of the Missionary Society of St Paul, at St Mary Star of the Sea Church, West Melbourne. Despite an unexpected time change, the Maltese community attended in great numbers.

Present for mass were the Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Victor Grech and Mrs Patricia Grech; the President of MCCV, Prof. Maurice Cauchi and Mrs Agnes Cauchi; members of the MCCV Executive; members of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, Rhodes and Malta; members from religious Orders and the Society of Christian Doctrine.

A large number of Maltese Associations attended as well along with their banners, as well as the banners from the four villages and towns where the Bambina is celebrated in Malta and Gozo: Senglea, Mellieha, Naxxar and Xaghra, Gozo.



Top: Concelebrants at the Mass on Sunday. Above: Maltese-Gozo Concert Band at the Reception. Left: Procession in the Church on Sunday. [Photos: Paul Vella]

Rosary was recited at 4.45 pm by Mr Emmanuel Farrugia, which was followed by a Concelebrated Mass. Prime Celebrant was Mons. Benedict Camilleri, Rector of Ta' Pinu Sanctuary, Bacchus Marsh, who gave the homily in English. Concelebrants were Fr Edwin Agius, mssp; Fr Dr Victor Shields, mssp; Fr Denis Carabott, mssp; Fr Karm Borg and Fr Dom Degiorgio.

Master of ceremonies was Emmanuel Farrugia assisted by Frank Siriani. The music and singing was provided by the Maltese Choir of Victoria under the direction of Mr Charles Schembri and Ms Lydia Gusman.

First Reader was Mr Victor Grech while Dr Edwin Borg-Manché did the

second reading. Prayers of the Faithful were read by Ms Anoinette Bajada and Mrs Phyllis Vella.

After Mass, Fr Edwin thanked all those present and the Reskeon Maltese Association for organising the Feast on their behalf. Thanks went to Fr Anthony Bernal, Parish Priest of St. Mary Star of the Sea. A special thanks also went to George Topolcsanyi for his work in changing the lights of the halo behind the statue to LEDs – a great improvement.

This was followed by a procession with the beautiful statue of Maria Bambina inside the church. The Procession was followed by the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. ●





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).

## Team GAM puts in good show at Nisġa's Maltese Cook-off

Team GAM had a good crack today and placed 5th out of the 9 teams competing, with 76 points in total for our two dishes. Congrats to the team 'Il-Borma Tan-Nanna' who took out first place.

Thanks heaps to all of you for your great support and well wishes throughout the day - means a lot. We got lots of really nice comments about our food from those who were at the event... seems our corned beef pie in particular was a real hit! Thanks to the team at Nisġa for putting on a great day.

Stuffed eggplants (*brunġiel mimli*) and the most scrumptious Kinnie Cake was the winning combination at the 2014 Maltese Cook Off held in Melbourne on October 26. The winning team, *Il-borma tan-Nanna* (Nanna's Cook Pot), consisted of father and daughter Emmanuel and Tanya Cilia and niece Nadia Sammut.

And yet for another year, the Maltese Cook Off, organized by community group Nisġa has been a massive success with the most incredible feedback from everyone!

A panel of 3 judges, made up of Victor Grech, Consul General for Malta in Victoria, former MasterChef Australia contestant, chef Tregan Spiteri and Doris Delia, mother of renowned chef Shane Delia, had the most difficult task of choosing the top 3 winners! Only a few points separated everyone and this shows the high standard of cooking by the teams!

Runners up in this year's cooking competition were *Family from Senglea*, who cooked stuffed artichokes with broad bean paste for entrée and rabbit stew with spaghetti for main and The Maltesers, with their baked rice for main and *prinjolata* for dessert!

The afternoon was a mixture of food and music... the 250 guests were entertained by musicians Nicky Bomba and members of Bustamento as well as former The Voice Australia contestant, Kiyomi Vella. An impromptu drumming session on pots & pans by Nicky Bomba had the crowd in awe of this talented musician!

This was the 4th edition of the Maltese Cook Off held by community group Nisġa. The event brings together 10 teams made up of 3 people, in some cases 3 generations from one family, cooking Maltese traditional food. ●



Team GAM led by Rita Catania and guided by her mother placed a respectable fifth.



Consul General Mr Victor Grech (fourth from right) presents the Nisġa Cook-Off Winners Shield to the winning team *Il-borma tan-Nanna* (Nanna's Cook Pot), consisting of father and daughter Emmanuel and Tanya Cilia and niece Nadia Sammut. Also in the picture are: Sandra Mooney (first from left) Nisġa President, former MasterChef Australia contestant chef Tregan Spiteri (fifth from left), Doris Delia (fourth from left), mother of renowned Maltese chef and TV personality Shane Delia (third from right), and Marlene Scicluna (first from right) Nisġa Vice President.



## Celebration of *Stella Maris* Feast in Melbourne

By Emmanuel Brincat

The Stella Maris Maltese Association in Melbourne organised events over the weekend between Friday 17 and Sunday 19 October for the Maltese community to celebrate the feast of Stella Maris.

On Friday evening Rev Fr Dominic DeGeorgeio at St Joseph the Worker North Reservoir celebrated mass, which was very well attended by the Association committee and members and other members of the Melbourne Maltese community.

On Saturday the annual festa Dinner dance was held at Emerald Receptions in Thomastown, also very well attended. MC for the evening was Emmanuel Brincat from Radio 3ZZZ & 98.9NWFM and entertainment was provided by DJ Dominic.

The President of the Association Mr Charles Xerri welcomed special guests, the Consul General for the Republic of Malta Mr. Victor Grech and his wife Mrs. Patricia Grech, all members of his association, also all those present. In his speech he thanked his hard working committee for all that they done during the last 12 months.

On Sunday Holy Mass was celebrated at St Joseph the Worker, with the main celebrant being Parish Priest Canon Rev. Fr Emmanuel Bonello, who was assisted by Rev Fr Denis Carabott MSSP, and Rev Fr Dominic DeGeorgeio.

For the first time at a Maltese *Festa* Holy Mass celebration, the Brass Band accompanied the choir the Maltese Choir of Victoria under Mro Charles Schembri and leader Mrs Lydia Guzman, during the singing of the Stella Maris Hymn.

Once again the President Mr Charles Xerri thanked all who helped organise the celebrations.

The Procession took place, in bright sunshine, with a rather chilly wind blowing. Various associations took part with their standards, while the Maltese Own Band and the Malta Gozo Concert Band accompanied the statue along the procession.

Following the procession, the Maltese Own Band under the baton of the assistant music director Mro. Lawrence Azzopardi, and the Malta Gozo Concert Band under the baton of their music director Ms Tania Schembri gave a concert in the Parish hall. DJ Dominic provided more entertainment after the bands completed their segment of the concert. ●



Top: The Stella Maris statue fully decorated and displayed for the Sunday celebratory mass.

Above: The brass bands and the Maltese choir.

Left: Association President Mr Charles at the church thanking the attendees and the helpers.

[Photos: Emmanuel Brincat]



# Il-GLM jorganizza programm mużiko-letterarju

**Minn Paul Vella**

Nhar il-Ħadd, 28 ta' Settembru, il-Grupp Letteratura Maltja tal-Victoria organizza Programm Mużiko-Letterarju fiċ-Ċentru Malti ta' Parkville, fis-2 pm. Madwar 50 mill-komunità Maltja attendew.

Fost dawk prezenti kien hemm il-Konslu Ġenerali ta' Malta fil-Victoria, is-Sur Victor Grech; Dr Clemente Zammit u s-Sinjura Mary Zammit; il-Viċi-President tal-MCCV, is-Sur Gejtu Deguara u s-Sinjura Mary Deguara; u r-rappreżentant tal-Bank of Valletta fl-Awstralja, is-Sur George Portelli.

Wara d-daqq tal-Innu Malti u dak Awstraljan, il-Viċi-President tal-GLM, Marie Louise Anastasi tat merħba lil dawk prezenti u ntroduċiet lill-President tal-Grupp, Dr Victor Sammut, li ta l-messaġġ ta' merħba. Huwa qal lil dawk prezenti fuq ix-xogħol tal-Grupp u heġġiġhom biex jissiehu mall-GLM. Spiċċa biex irringrazzja lill-kumitat u oħrajn, fosthom lil Rose Lofaro li tgħin hafna fil-qari tal-provi kemm fil-folju ta' kull xahar u ukoll fil-ktejjeb tal-Programm Mużuko-Letterarju.

Manwel Cassar kien l-ewwel li qara x-xogħol tiegħu, "Ċirku" u "Wiċċ Kristu". Wara smajna lil Josephine Cassar li qrat il-poeżija tagħha, "Iż-Żghożija". Dr Victor Sammut qralna żewġ poeżiji tiegħu, "Id-Dnub ma Jorqodx" u "Terrorizmu".

U hawn kellna l-ewwel intervent mużikali minn Alfred Xuereb fuq is-Synthesiser, Joe Camilleri fuq il-perkussjoni u Joe Gauci fuq il-kitarra. Dawn tawna mużika Maltja li allegat hafna lil dawk prezenti.

Marie Louise Anastasi qrat il-poeżija tagħha, "Farfett" u poeżija ta' Publius Bugeja, "Ipokrita". Warajha smajna lil Paul Vella jaqra żewġ poeżiji tiegħu, "Harifa" u "Għidli, Ċkejna!". Poeżija oħra ta' Josephine Cassar, "L-Infermiera Żagħżuġha" inqat mir-raġel tagħha, Manwel Cassar.

F'dan il-programm sar l-illanċjar tal-ktejjeb ta' poeżiji tal-membru tagħna, Laurie Armato li halliena f'it xhur ilu, miġbura minn Dr Clemente Zammit. L-illanċjar sar mis-Sur Victor Grech li tkellem fuq Laurie Armato u l-hidma tiegħu fl-Ilsien Malti. Prezenti kien hemm ukoll in-neputi ta' Laurie Armato, John Galea. Kellna x-xorti li nisingħu żewġ poeżiji ta' Laurie, moqrija minnu stess, "Warda Maltja" u "L-Ilsien li Bih Twelidt".

Wara intervent mużikali iehor, kien hemm waqfien ta' 20 minuta fejn dawk prezenti kellhom iċ-ċans jiehdu kikkra te jew kafe, kejkis u gallettini.

Fit-tieni parti smajna lis-Sur Victor Grech jaqra poeżija, "L-Emigrant". Albert Agius qara l-poeżija tiegħu, "Għannej tax-Xewqa" li spiċċa jgħanni l-aħħar parti tagħha akkumpanjat mill-grupp mużikali.

Nazzarene Zerafa, ilu membru tal-Grupp għal hafna snin għalkemm joqgħod



*Fuq: L-udjenza prezenti għall-programm mużiko-letterarju.*

*Taht: Iċ-ċekjkna Charlotte Ann Camilleri ta' tliet snin u nofs tkanta "Il-Pupa Wisq Sabiħa".*

[Ritratti: Paul Vella]



Queensland. Dejjem jibgħat xi xogħol tiegħu u din is-sena il-poeżija tiegħu, "Tliet Kull Tama" inqat mill-membru Rose Lofaro. Frank Bonett, li dejjem jistqarr li jirringrazzja lill-fundatur tal-Grupp, Dr Guze` Abela u lill-Grupp, għax dejjem gie mheġġeg minnhom biex jitgħalliem il-Malti u jiktbu, qralna żewġ poeżiji li kiteb hu stess, "Namrati" u "Il-Flewwa tan-Natura".

Hawn kellna sorpriża meta iċ-ċekjkna Charlotte Ann Camilleri, ta' tliet snin u nofs, li tigi n-neputija ta' Joe Camilleri tal-grupp mużikali, tatna "Il-Pupa Wisq Sabiħa", li għallimitielha n-nanna tagħha. Charlotte qalghat hafna applaws.

Wara intervent mużikali iehor, Ġużi Camilleri qralna x-xogħol tiegħu, "Kemmi Kienu Għażzenin Ċensa u Rokku". Michael Xuereb qralna żewġ poeżiji tiegħu, "Niftakar" u "Bebbuxu". Il-poeżija ta' Joe Bonett (li kien Malta), "Lil Missieri", inqat minnn Rosemary Attard.

L-aħħar żewġ poeżiji fil-programm, kitba ta' Baldass Armato, inqat minn Ray Anastasi, "Amen" u "Bejn Waqt u Iehor".

Wara li saru xi ringrazzjamenti lil dawk li taw l-għajjnuna tagħhom biex dan il-programm ikun tas-suċċess li kien, speċjalment li Salvina Vella u Yvonne u Sam Caruana li hadmu fil-kċina biex ippreparaw l-ikel għar-rinfreskanti, il-grupp mużikali tawna aktar mużika allegrija.

Imbagħad, kulhadd mar fil-foyer taċ-Ċentru fejn kien hemm te u kafe, kejkijiet, pastizzi, pies u *sausage rolls* u affarijiet oħra.

Grazzi lill-Grupp Mużikali li ferrhu lil kulhadd u talli aċċettaw li jkunu magħna f'qasir żmien. ●

# Maltese singer Eleanor Cassar entertains in Melbourne

By Paul Vella

Recently, well-known singer from Malta, Eleanor Cassar, visited Melbourne to give three concerts. The first concert was on Friday, 17 October at the Maltese Association Hobsons Bay. Eleanor Cassar who was warmly greeted by the large audience and sang for two hours nonstop.

The packed audience enjoyed Eleanor's songs and they kept wanting more and more, but time ran out.

On Saturday the 18 October, the St Helena Maltese-Australian Social Club held a concert night at the Errington Hall, St Albans, featuring Eleanor. Victor Bartolo, the club's President read a short biography of Eleanor Cassar and, as he introduced her, the audience stood and cheered her on when she entered the hall singing her first song "Malta".

Eleanor sang for an hour and after just about every song she received a standing ovation.

After a break, Eleanor returned to the stage for another one hour of popular music which included some great songs such as "Kemmu hu Sabih", "Tema 79" from Gensna, "Il-Festa", "Ave Maria", "Blue Riviera Blue" and many more.

Eleanor also invited the singer from Malta Renato, who happened to be in the audience, to sing a song with her and they sang the beautiful song "The Prayer", in which again the audience stood up before the song was finished and went crazy clapping till the song was finished.

Once Eleanor finished her singing people flocked at the front to buy her two CD'S and DVD.

The president and the Committee of St Helena Maltese-Australian Social Club would like to thank the Maltese United Promotions, Reno and Lyn Grima, for bringing the best talent Malta to the Club.

The following day, on Sunday, Eleanor Cassar sang at another concert, this time at Melrose Receptions, Tullamarine.

The show started with DJ Tony playing music in front of a full house for an hour before the great Renato came to the Dance Floor and started his one hour of nonstop singing and laughter. At one stage Renato's wife Allison came and danced during one of his songs.

In the middle of his first bracket Renato introduced a young lady named Prashanti Middling, who performed a couple of numbers and the audience were stunned by her beautiful voice.

Renato continued until the audience had their main meal. After this, Renato introduced the main guest, Eleanor Cassar, and there was a repeat of her Saturday show where she had the audience standing and clapping just about every song she sang, and. Eleanor sang a couple of songs with Renato.

Eleanor Cassar has had a very successful musical career and is still going strong. Amongst her successes one finds her first major achievement was in the year 2000 where she placed first in the National Festival "L-Ghanja tal-Poplu".

In 2001 she received the Most Promising Artist Award at the prestigious Malta Music Awards. In



Above: Eleanor Cassar during one of her songs at Errington Hall, St Albans.

Below: Mr Victor Bartolo, President of the St Helena Maltese-Australian Social Club, presenting a memorable plaque to singer Eleanor Cassar.

[Photos: Paul Vella]



2004 Eleanor received the award for the best interpretation again in the National Festival "L-Ghanja tal-Poplu". During the same year she placed first in the Super One TV Festival. Another first place for Eleanor was in 2005 in "Kanzunetta Indipendenza" and first place again in 2006 in the Malta International TV Song Festival.

On an international level, Eleanor took part in a number of festivals and has put Malta's name forward by winning an outstanding string of song contests and awards. Some of her achievements include the Discovery Song Festival in Bulgaria in 2001 where she placed first. Her music career progressed further after winning the Grand Prix amongst several competitors from twenty-seven different countries at the Golden Stag International Festival in Romania in 2004. In 2005, Eleanor placed first in the Astana International Festival in Kazakhstan and in 2007 she proudly took home the Gold Award at the Unisong Festival in the Canary Islands. ●

## Newport Maltese Association Inc.



### New Year's Eve Dinner Dance

#### Emerald Reception Centre

213-215 Settlement Road, Thomastown

Pre-dinner drinks, Five course meal,  
plus wine, beer and soft drinks  
Come and join us in the fun &  
celebrate the New Year 2015!

*Don't miss out!*

Tickets: \$85 per head

Bookings: Carmen Casa on 9436 8196



## Apprezzament

# Ihallina Charlie Debono ‘tal-Preseppju Mekkaniku’



Minn Paul Vella

Nhar il-Ħamis, 11 ta' Settembru, tħabbret il-mewt ta' Carmel "Charlie" Debono, minn Fawkner, Victoria. Charlie kien l-aktar magħruf bħala "Charlie tal-Preseppju Mekkaniku".

Charlie twieled il-Qala, Għawdex. Huwa emigra lejn l-Awstralja fl-1952 u, wara xi snin, nieżel Malta fl-1960 fejn sena wara żżewwieg lil martu, Maria u sena wara kellhom l-ewwel tarbija, Joseph. Flimkien ma' martu reġa' lura lejn l-Awstralja fejn bdew ħajja ġdida f'Melbourne.

Meta kien għadu tfajjel f'Għawdex, Charlie dejjem kien dilettant tal-preseppju u kien jagħmel preseppi bil-karti bit-tqiq kemm għan-nies kif ukoll għal tal-Mużew fejn kienu jiehdu ħafna pjaċir bihom.

Meta mar Melbourne ma' Maria bdew ikabbru l-familja. Għall-ewwel kienu joqgħodu Brunswick u hemm kien bena preseppju żgħir li kien jagħmlu fil-veranda u kienu jieqfu ħafna nies biex jarawh.

Meta l-familja bdiet tikber bdew ifittxu dar akbar u raw waħda Fawkner li l-ewwel

li laqqtu kien il-garaxx li kien imdaqas u mall-ewwel qal "din id-dar għalina". Mill-ewwel waħhalha f'rasu li f'dak il-garaxx seta' jibni preseppju ferm akbar u hekk għamel. Kull sena kien ikabbru xi ftit u jżidlu aktar pasturi u bil-mod il-mod beda anki jagħmel pasturi li kienu jiċċaqalqu, kollu xogħol tiegħu.

Fl-aħħar spiċċa bi preseppju ta' 12-il pied bi 12-il pied, b'ħafna pasturi jiċċaqalqu u oħrajn le.

Fil-għar kien hemm San Ġużepp u l-Madonna li kellha l-Bambin f'idejha u ttella' u tniżżel. Kien hemm in-nghaġ u r-rgħajja jimxu mill-bogħod għall-għar. Kien hemm sajjied li kien jistad, iehor furnar li kien idahhal il-hobz fil-form, kien hemm il-haddied jahdem fil-forġa u jsammar fuq il-hadid, iehor itella' l-ilma mill-bir u ħafna oħrajn.

Jien kważi ta' kull sena kont immur u nintervistah għall-programm tiegħi fuq ir-radju komunitarju 3ZZZ. Kull darba li kont immure, dejjem kont nara xi haġa ġdida.

Charlie kien jiftaħ dan il-preseppju għal ħmistax-il gurnata għal żmien il-Milied, bejn is-7 u l-10 ta' filgħaxija. Kienet l-għaxxa tiegħu meta kienu jiġu n-nies biex jarawh, mhux Maltin biss, imma Vjetnamizi, Filippini, Taljani, Griegi u oħrajn. Kien hemm minnhom li huma tant devoti li kienu jinżlu għarkoptejhom quddiem il-preseppju. Kienu jiġu wkoll tfal tal-iskola matul il-gurnata.

Imma maż-żmien Charlie beda jhoss l-età tagħmel bih u kien isibha bi tqila biex jidhol taht il-preseppju biex jirraġa l-makkinarju u għal dawn l-aħħar tliet snin ma kienx jifthu.

Huwa ħalla jibdku t-telfa tiegħu lill-martu, Maria, lill-uliedu Joseph, Connie, Raymond u Patrick, l-irġiel u n-nisa tagħhom u 11 neputijiet.

Il-Komunità Maltija tilfet li Charlie u l-preseppju mekkaniku tiegħu. Ahna noffru l-kondoljanzi tagħna lill-martu Maria u l-familja kollha.

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

## Educating the community on Palliative Care Services in Victoria

By Paul Vella

Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group often organises educational talks on subjects like diabetes, glaucoma or other health matters at their weekly meetings for the benefit of their members.

On Wednesday 10 September Mr Paul Lia (pictured right), a social worker with the Maltese Community Council of Victoria gave a talk on Palliative Care services available in this state.

He explained how Palliative Care helps people with a life-limiting illness to have the best possible quality of life. It is available for everyone – of any age, race, culture, background or religion, and most services are free.

Paul told the large gathering present that depending on one's needs, palliative care may include medicine and other therapies to relieve pain and manage symptoms, support the family members, help and equipment to live comfortably at home where possible, help to meet the spiritual, religious or cultural needs and provide regular visits from health workers and other care providers.



Paul continued by saying that when someone uses palliative care, the person with the illness and his family are always in control of decisions about their health, medical treatment and well-being.

He stressed that palliative care does not mean that there is no hope for life. One can continue to receive the treatment he was receiving. Palliative care can be provided by one's own doctor, specialist doctors and nurses, physiotherapists, religious or spiritual advisors or others.

One can receive palliative care at home, hospital, hospice or other care facility. Care in a hospital or hospice is usually for a short

time to treat one's symptoms and pain so that he or she will return home if possible.

Paul said that most services are free but there may be some costs for equipment or medicines. He also explained about some pain-killing medicines.

He finished by telling those present that if the person feels better speaking in his or her own language, they should let the palliative care service know as most of them can organise an interpreter for free.

The committee and members thanked Paul Lia and Palliative Care Victoria for providing this interesting talk ●

## Community Events Calendar

For up-to-date and more detailed information, visit our website at [www.mccv.org.au/community-events](http://www.mccv.org.au/community-events)

<b>NOV</b> <b>15</b> Sat	<b>Family Get Together BYO – St Helena Maltese-Australian S.C. Inc. @ Errington Community Centre</b> Nov 15 @ 6:00 pm – 11:30 pm
<b>NOV</b> <b>16</b> Sun	<b>Bus trip across the NSW border – St Gaetan's Society</b> Nov 16 @ 12:00 am – 12:00 am
<b>NOV</b> <b>26</b> Wed	<b>MCCV Executive Committee Meeting @ Maltese Community Centre</b> Nov 26 @ 6:30 pm
<b>DEC</b> <b>3</b> Wed	<b>MCCV Council Meeting @ Maltese Community Centre</b> Dec 3 @ 7:00 pm
<b>DEC</b> <b>13</b> Sat	<b>Malta Republic 40th Anniversary Dinner Dance @ Maltese Community Centre</b> Dec 13 @ 6:00 pm – 11:00 pm
<b>DEC</b> <b>14</b> Sun	<b>Christmas Get Together – San Gejtanu Society Inc. @ St Martin de Porres Church</b> Dec 14 @ 11:00 am
	<b>Christmas Dance – Moreland Maltese Elderly Citizens Assn @ Firenze Riceptions</b> Dec 14 @ 5:00 pm
<b>DEC</b> <b>31</b> Wed	<b>New Year's Eve Dinner Dance – Newport Maltese Association @ Emerald Reception Centre</b> Dec 31 @ 6:00 pm

Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.



### Malta Republic 40th Anniversary DINNER DANCE

at the **Maltese Community Centre**

477 Royal Parade, Parkville

**Saturday, 13 December 2014**

**from 6.00 pm to 11.00 pm**

Musical Entertainment by Mario Sammut

Excellent menu will be served  
including wine and soft drinks

Dress: Tie and jacket for gents & after five for ladies

Tickets \$30 each

**BOOK EARLY** as numbers are limited

For tickets and more information please phone  
Carmen Mamo 9387 8922 or Joe Stafrace 9848 4786