



Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc.



ANNUAL REPORT
2013-14

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President's Report

'Of all Maltese communities in Australia, the best organised community is that in the State of Victoria' – Dr Tonio Borg, former Deputy Prime Minister and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malta.

It gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report for the Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV) for the year ending 30 September 2014. The Executive and Council have been meeting regularly on a monthly basis to discuss issues of relevance to the Maltese Community in Victoria. The following report addresses some of these issues and highlights some of the activities that occurred throughout the year.

The MCCV is involved in several functions, namely:

- To co-ordinate and represent the views of the Maltese community through the affiliated associations. This involves also representation with authorities both in Malta as well as in Australia,
- To provide a professional welfare service particularly to aged and home-bound Maltese,
- To encourage culture and language maintenance.

Welfare Programs

A major function of the MCCV is to provide a comprehensive welfare service to the Maltese community through three basic programs

Firstly, we have the *Home and Community Care (HACC) Program* which enables Maltese elderly to attend for one or more days a week, either at the Centre in Parkville or that in Sunshine where activities and a meal is provided.

Secondly, the *Community Aged Care Packages (CACPs)* enable us to organise home visits by members of staff on a regular basis to assist Maltese elderly to remain living independently in their home or community rather than having to reside in a hostel or similar care facility.

Thirdly, the MCCV runs a *Community Development Program* with the aim of ensuring that other organisations which provide services to elderly Maltese understand ethno-specific issues.

These programs are supported by grants received from the government which enable us to continue to provide these services. More details about these services are covered below in the report by the staff members responsible for these Welfare program.

Because of the considerable strain that these functions impose on the volunteer staff, including executive members, and following more stringent requirements by the authorities, starting from July 2014, it was considered necessary to dispose of the CACP program. Current negotiations are taking place to transfer these packages to a suitable agency.

There is also an increasing need for a home visiting scheme which was started a some years ago, and efforts are being made to increase the number of volunteer visitors to ensure that we can implement successfully this important function.

Awards and Scholarships

The **MCCV Community Awards** were set up to recognise exceptional contribution by individuals to the Maltese community. A subcommittee of the MCCV Executive was selected, consisting of the President, and the two vice-Presidents. Certificates were presented to the several individuals at a function held at the Centre held on 21 September 2014, as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| ○ Scholarship and Education | Prof Joseph Camilleri |
| ○ Education | Ms Edwidge Borg |
| ○ Culture | Mr Joseph Borg and Mr Albert 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, Mrs Carmen Testa and Mr John Pace |

The **Bishop Joe Grech Fund and Scholarship** were set up to encourage maintenance of Maltese culture among the younger generation of Maltese Australians. There were only two applicants for the 2014 scholarship. The selection committee decided that, as neither satisfied the guidelines for the scholarship award, there would be no award made this year.

Events and other activities

On 9 November 2013 the new Consul General of Malta for Victoria, Mr Victor Grech, was welcomed at a reception at the Maltese Centre. On this occasion also, we welcomed the new High Commissioner of Malta for Australia, HE Mr Charles Muscat.

Mr Albert Marshall, Chairman, Malta Council for Culture and the Arts, gave a talk at the Centre on current developments in Malta

The Children's Christmas Party has again been successful this year.

On the 5 June 2014, a special meeting was organised by the MCCV (through Paul Lia) and the ECCV to raise awareness about palliative care. The Minister for Health, Mr David Davis was the guest of honour.

Other activities and functions are listed under the various sub-headings below.

Maltese language teaching

Language classes are carried out every week, under the direction of Ms Edwidge Borg. In addition an immersion class was organised by the Maltese Historical Association on 23 August, to give an opportunity of children to get an idea of Maltese language and culture. This year also there has been a considerable number of students sitting for the VCE examination, ensuring that this examination will continue to be held for the next couple of years.

Community information and education

Several talks have been organised throughout the year, including talks by Dr Fr Victor Shields, and talks about welfare services.

Visitors

It has always been our policy to welcome visitors from Malta. In the past twelve months the guests visiting Melbourne included Malta's Leader of the Opposition, Dr Simon Busuttil, accompanied by opposition Member of Parliament, Dr Joe Cassar. They were in Melbourne at the invitation of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) to attend an international conference on Diabetes. The MCCV held a well-attended welcome reception for them on 29 November 2013 at the Maltese Centre in Parkville. EU Commissioner for Health, Dr Tonio Borg, also paid us visit at the Maltese Centre in Parkville while in Melbourne to attend the same conference.

Congratulations

- The MCCV would like to congratulate *Mr Paul Borg* on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) as part of the Queen's Birthday Awards in June 2014.
- Congratulations to *Mr Eddie Micallef*, who was elected Chairperson to the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria.
- Congratulations to *Mr Victor Borg*, Vice-President MCCV, who was awarded Life Membership of the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria.

The Second Generation

A survey was conducted this year about the second generation of Maltese in Australia. The results were published in a report which is available for download from the MCCV website.

The Youth Committee has been active this year, firstly through their Facebook, which provides contact with persons of the same background, and secondly through their organisation of functions like *Figolli* and *Ravioli* masterclasses, which have proved very successful. Thanks to Rita Catania and her helpers for organising these functions.

Bereavements

Mr George Cini passed away on 6 March. He was a well-respected member of the community, President of the Malta Star of the Sea, and keen on Maltese welfare, as well as much involved in presenting Maltese drama on stage.

Mr Charles Zammit ('Iz-Ziffa) passed away on 21 May. He was well-known as a singer, actor and radio personality.

Mr Noel Bonnici, passed away on 10 June, well known for his radio programs.

Mr Frank Consiglio passed away on the 16th June. Mr Consiglio was Consul (and later Consul General) for 16 years.

Several other members of the Maltese community have passed away this year, and we offer our condolences to all their families.

Issues of Concern

SBS: Concerns about current government policies hinting at reduction of SBS funds, which might result in reduction in the hours in Maltese language currently available on SBS radio. The MCCV has expressed its concerns to SBS about any future reduction in hours assigned to the Maltese language programs.

Refurbishing the Maltese Centre: After just over 30 years since its inauguration, the Maltese Centre in Parkville has started to require some serious maintenance. The roof needs fixing, and likewise the toilet block needs a make-over. We have obtained quotes and applied for some grants to help with the not-inconsiderable expenses involved. We hope to start work soon.

Other issues

The question of noise arising from functions held at the Maltese Centre in Parkville and the objections by the Melbourne City Council have been addressed, and equipment has been provided to ensure that noise does not exceed acceptable levels.

Acknowledgement

The Council could not function without the assistance of several persons who selflessly devote themselves to the running of the Council and the Centre itself.

Firstly, I would like to thank the members of the Executive Committee, who have been very supportive to me over the year. In particular, I am indebted to the Vice-Presidents: to *Gejtu Deguara* for taking on the extra duties of manager of the premises at Parkville, and to *Victor Borg* for his valued advice and assistance, particularly involving the running of the Welfare commitments.

Paul Borg, our treasurer is the bed-rock on whom we depend for the health of the finances of the Centre. He provides us with professional, precise, up-to-date financial reports on a monthly basis. He is also responsible for managing the bingo session on Friday evenings. Our Secretary, *Edwina Mallia*, and in her absence, the Assistant Secretary, *Marilyn Pace* for dealing with correspondence, and other administrative duties. Our Public Relations Officer, Dr *Edwin Borg-Manché*, is responsible for administering the MCCV website as well as editing and producing our bi-monthly newsletter, *MCCV News*. Both of these publications have maintained their high quality and circulation levels. Our Welfare Officer, *Rosemary Attard* has been responsible for preparing monthly reports presented at the Council meetings. *Joanne Ellul* as Assistant Treasurer is currently in charge of the Friday Bingo group. To all these people I owe my thanks.

Carmen Calleya-Capp was engaged as a consultant on a temporary basis to advise on best ways to improve the service to the community. My thanks go to her for her valuable contribution.

I would also like to thank those affiliated organisations who take their duties seriously and ensure that delegates from their organisation attend regularly at Council meetings. Without their cooperation the functions of the Council would come to a standstill.

I welcome the new member of the Welfare group, Maree Rizzo who is currently in charge of the HAC program following the departure of Michael Caruana in December 2013. The position of Jeffrey Saliba, who also resigned during the year, was not filled, in view of the projected changes mentioned above. Community Development Worker, Paul Lia, continues to provide an active role particularly liaising with other organisations who have responsibilities to Maltese clients.

I thank the Administrative Secretary, Carmen Mamo for her excellent performance of her duties and support of the Council.

There are also a large number of volunteers who cannot be named individually, but who provide an essential service to the Council. Among these one must mention:

- The Ladies Auxiliary who have been active for decades in providing assistance to the Council not only in preparation for receptions on various occasions, raising funds, and also running social activities on Tuesdays.
- To Alfred Asciak and his supporters for his unstinting efforts in continuing to organising and preparing the Centre for the various functions, including Good Friday, Christmas and several other occasions throughout the year.
- To all those others, too numerous to mention, who lend a hand when required, I also say thank you. We cannot work without you.

Relations with Religious Institutions

The Council would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Maltese religious institution to the Maltese community in general and the MCCV in particular. Our relations with the MSSP have always been very cordial and have been crucial to our success in establishing our centre in Parkville. This close cooperation has continued ever since.

We would also like to acknowledge the service given by the Diocesan priests, as well as the Dominican Sisters and other members of the various religious orders. Their service to the community is well appreciated.

Finally, I hope that we will continue to work together to provide a focus for all Maltese in Victoria, and to provide welfare, cultural and other social functions for the benefit of all. As the Maltese community grows older, their needs seem to increase, and we strongly believe that there will be a need for a Council for a long number of years to come. By working together we can achieve our aims.

Maurice Cauchi
President, MCCV
30 September 2014

MCCV Executive Committee 2012-2014



Back row, from left: Mr Joe Stafrace (Social Secretary), Mrs Rosemary Attard (Welfare Director), Dr Edwin Borg-Manché (Public Relations Officer), Mrs Marilyn Pace (Assistant Secretary), Mrs Joanne Ellul (Assistant Treasurer). Front row, from left: Mr Paul Borg (Treasurer), Mr Gejtu Deguara (Vice President), Prof. Maurice Cauchi (President), Mr Victor Borg (Vice President), Mrs Edwina Mallia (Secretary)
[Photo: Nino Xerri]

Community Services

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria has as one of its objects the provision of Welfare Services to members of the Maltese Community in the State of Victoria.

Initially services were provided on a personal level by members of the council's executive and volunteers. Resources were extremely limited and funds were raised within the community generally through social functions and donations.

At a later date council was successful in obtaining funding from the Commonwealth and State Governments which enabled it to employ professional and administrative staff to service the community.

Community services are currently provided from the Maltese Centre in Parkville and premises at 14 Watt Street Sunshine.

Home Visitation Scheme

The Home Visitation Scheme, established by the MCCV, was staffed by volunteers and well received by elderly community members as this provided them with companionship and security. The elderly were often isolated in their own home with little or no contact with the Maltese or general community. Regular visits were arranged and council staff were alerted should they notice that the person whom they visited was showing signs of illness or deterioration in health.

As a result of lack of referrals the program has been partly suspended, however council is anxious to re-establish the same as soon as possible. Anyone interested in assisting in this program, should contact Maree Rizzo at the Maltese Community Centre.

Planned Activity Group (PAG)

The Planned Activity Group runs four days a week, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and every second Saturday at our Sunshine premises for participants in the Western suburbs and Tuesdays and Thursdays at our Centre in Parkville for those who live in the Northern suburbs. PAG caters for Maltese frail elderly or disabled people who are socially isolated and also for Maltese people who have Alzheimer's disease. The activities included in the coordination of the Maltese PAG are aimed at stimulating the physical, social and cognitive skills of all participants.

The number of clients during the January-March Quarter stood at 55 and it increased to 65 in the April-June Quarter. The hours of operation have been increased for each session which has shown attendance statistics to have doubled since last Quarter.

Our PAG staff provide transport to and from home and a Maltese meal as well as morning and afternoon tea is prepared on site. Participants take part in a range of different activities including arts and crafts, internet usage, gentle exercise, games and puzzles and Bingo and cards. Participants also go on an outing to various places in Melbourne every 6 weeks.

PAG staff have scheduled monthly meetings to discuss issues regarding staff, clients or the program in general. These staff meetings also provide an opportunity for in house training to occur on a variety of different topics including infection control, confidentiality of clients, hygiene as well as other topics which staff show an interest in.

In July 2014, a satisfaction survey was distributed to all PAG clients. Participants were given the option to remain anonymous. Clients were asked about the quality of the food, service, activities and outings and were invited to suggest any changes they would like to see in the

Planned Activity Group. This survey was prepared to adhere to the Active Service Model, which is now a Government requirement in all PAG programs.

Most of the surveys have been returned and a report will be prepared once all statistics have been collected and analysed.

The Maltese Planned activity group is Coordinated and operated to comply with the Community Care Common Standards and the Active Service Model.

The Planned Activity Group Coordinator is Maree Rizzo who can be contacted at the Maltese Community Centre on (03) 9387 8922.

Community Aged Care Packages

The commonwealth department of health and ageing allocated 25 (level 2 low care) aged care packages to the MCCV in the Western and Northern suburbs for the provision of services to Maltese aged in their own homes.

Home Care Services are provided to the elderly Maltese to enable them to live independently in their own home for as long as it is physically possible for them to do so.

Maltese-speaking aged care workers are engaged by council to provide a variety of services. These include domestic chores such as cleaning, washing, ironing and cooking. Clients are also accompanied on medical appointments, shopping and various visits for social purposes. The personal care provided includes showering and dressing.

Clients with complex care needs are also assisted by staff arranging access to nursing services and allied health professionals.

Clients carers are also engaged and consulted in the general care of clients and particularly in organising a care plan. Lawn cutting and light gardening can also be offered as part of a care plan.

The care manager who supervises the program is responsible to ensure that care plans are being followed and reviewed at appropriate intervals. The commonwealth department of social Services has forwarded letters and literature to the council advising of reforms to the aged care system applicable to clients who are allocated an aged care package after the 1 July 2014. Clients are required to make a financial contribution for services at a rate calculated on an income and means test.

From the 1 July 2015 all Home care packages including existing packages will be on a consumer directed basis. Service providers are also required to allocate a budget for each client and services provided must be within the budget allocation. Council is closely monitoring these changes and their effect on its clients. Council is appreciative of its staff who have provided excellent service and are extremely committed to their tasks.

The MCCV is currently conducting a community survey aimed at obtaining information on the needs of Maltese aged. It will continue to monitor their changing needs and the provision of services to provide for the same.

Community Development

The Healthy Ageing grant is made available to the MCCV through the Commonwealth Department of Social Services. This year was a very fruitful year in Community Education with current programs growing and new ones taking shape.

The Maltese Cluster Program is in its third year with the first group of residential facility staff, from a non – English speaking background completing their Maltese Language classes. These classes started in March of this year and ended in October.

Our partnership with Community Chefs, an organization that provides meals to elderly in their homes through local councils, is gaining ground with the first Maltese meals to be tested by members of the Maltese community next year. We hope that traditional Maltese meals will be introduced in their menu, so that those of the Maltese community who use their service will be able to have a Maltese meal delivered to them in their homes.

The Maltese Carers Support Group has grown from 15 to 25 members. This group receives information and support from Carers Victoria as well as from each other. During this year they have had a number of interesting information sessions such as food and mood as well as de-clutter your life.

This year Council took part in a project with the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV) and Palliative Care Victoria to provide information sessions in Maltese to Maltese Groups and associations. This project was launched on Thursday, 5 June 2014 by The Hon. David Davis, State Minister for Health and Ageing at the Maltese Community Centre, Parkville. A number of representatives from other organizations were in attendance.

This year four groups benefited from these information sessions on Palliative Care and Council wishes to thank them for their interest and support

Victor Borg

Vice President, MCCV

Currently Honorary CACP Manager

Rosemary Attard

Honorary Welfare Director, MCCV

Maltese Community Centre

The Maltese Community Centre at Parkville is now 32 years old and, despite maintenance repairs having been carried out from time to time, it is now apparent that major repairs and refurbishment are necessary.

The MCCV Executive and Council have approved plans for the refurbishment of the toilet block within the building. It is expected that this work will commence within the next few months. The estimated cost for this work is \$110,000.

We have lately been experiencing roof-leaking problems with rainwater entering the premises. Quotations for roof repairs have been obtained and priority will be given for appropriate works to be undertaken.

The interior ceiling tiles in the hall have become discoloured and damaged and badly in need of replacement. The replacement of these tiles is also being considered.

From time to time our neighbours have complained about excessive noise from our hall, particularly when there is musical entertainment. In an endeavour to remedy this the MCCV engaged an acoustics engineer and sound technician and on their advice sound level control equipment has been installed in the hall to control noise levels.

Council is also considering double-glazing of some of the windows on one side of the hall.

An application for part funding of these maintenance projects submitted by the MCCV to the Multicultural Infrastructure Grant Scheme 2015 has been successful. This will enable council to attend to the necessary work to the roof, ceiling tiles and double-glazing. Council is required to meet one half of the cost for these works.

The paving at the front of the premises requires attention as some pavers have moved. An application for a grant to assist with these repairs has been made to the City of Melbourne for this purpose.

Guy Deguara

Vice President, MCCV

Property Maintenance Officer

Maltese Language Classes

The MCCV continued to hold Maltese language classes at the Maltese Centre in Parkville. Thirteen students enrolled for semester 2 2013. Eight were students who progressed from the beginner's class. Eleven students enrolled for Semester 1 2014 and seven students progressed to the *Advanced* class.

New advertising posters and updated brochures were developed and posted on the internet. There has been an increase in enquiries for the semester 2 classes. It is envisaged that there will be an increase in number of new students attending Maltese Language classes at the MCCV in the 2014-2015 year.

The current MCCV tutors are Laura Schembri, Edwidge Borg and Alexandra Scibberras. The 2013-14 year marks the tenth anniversary since Laura and I joined forces to continue working towards promoting the Maltese Language in Victoria. We have attended both training and professional seminars organised by the Ethnic schools Association of Victoria and have worked together to develop Language study plans and scope and sequence linked to the curriculum. Rita Cachia replaced Mark Bonello in Semester 2, 2013 as tutor for one semester. We would also like to thank Georgina Scillio for her assistance and dedication to the teaching of Maltese language and culture to the Maltese Community.

Alexandra Scibberras joined the school in early 2014. Alexandra is a recent immigrant to Australia from Malta and has extensive experience working in the Maltese public service. In house professional development and mentoring has assisted her to accelerate her induction to teaching Maltese. We are planning further development for all teachers next year.

During the 2013-14 year, tutors and students borrowed books from the MCCV library. All new Students are encouraged to become members of the library.

No conversation classes were held this year as time was dedicated to mentoring and assisting the new teacher in professional development.

Late in 2013, the school acquired new resources to assist in the teaching of Maltese as a second language. These were the publications by Charles Daniel Saliba titled *Maltese for Foreigners*. Trained in the first semester 2014 classrooms were the full set of books and CD. The books proved popular with the students, as they were more compatible with their plans in the use of the Maltese Language. The new set of books and CD is now part of the textbooks and syllabus for the teaching of Maltese at the MCCV.

Also trained in the classrooms, is the use of Skype. This technology assisted students who had difficulty attending classes. Also explored is the use of low cost Webinar software. A sponsor for the Webinar payments would assist in keeping costs down. The use of Webinar would extend the classroom to students who do not live or work near Maltese language classes. Students were also encouraged to use their electronic tablets to practice the Maltese Language using Maltese *apps* to assist them in their home studies.

Edwidge Borg

Coordinator MCCV - Maltese Language Classes

Public Relations

Council for Maltese Living Abroad

On 24 March 2014 the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon Dr George W Vella, chaired the fourth meeting of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad held via video-conferencing. Both Council members from Victoria, Prof. Maurice Cauchi and Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, participated in the meeting.

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.



Photo - DOI - Clodagh Farrugia O'Neill

In these meetings the Council discussed a variety of issues on its agenda, such as, the creation of a roadmap for the further development of the Maltese Government-Diaspora relations, biometric passport services, the establishment of the Maltese Culture 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 in other countries.

At the last meeting in Malta 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 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 that 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.

MCCV Newsletter

Six editions of the MCCV newsletter *MCCV News* were published during the past year. The newsletter was circulated by email to over 600 readers locally and overseas and is available for download from the MCCV website. Detailed news reports were published in the newsletter on various MCCV and Maltese community events that took place during the year.

MCCV Website

The MCCV website continues to be well received both in Australia and overseas. During the past 12 months our website had about 30,000 hits from around the world who viewed the website, which is about a 20 percent increase in the number of visitors on the previous year.

Edwin Borg-Manché

Public Relations Officer, MCCV

MCCV Library

This year we have undertaken a complete overhaul of the library in order to make it more user-friendly.

Books have been presented on the shelves under clearly marked categories (eg: Prehistory, The Knights of Malta, Second World War, etc). Novels and poetry books have been sorted and displayed by author. Other sections deal with children's books, Maltese language, etc.

In addition, several rare and expensive books have been put on display strictly as reference books. The library also serves as a lending library, and several persons have taken advantage of this and borrowed books.

The library also has a number of reference books which are of great value for members to get information about Malta.

This year, the library has received a number of books from authors in Malta, as well as several from authors in Australia. These include:

- Joe Axiaq: *Dr Joe Abela: Hajtu F'Hidmietu*
- D'Andrea Hunt: *Growing up Maltese*
- Mario Azzopardi: *Kitarri, Trombi u Teatrin*
- Carmel G. Cauchi: *L-Avventuri ta' Roderick Gridoro*
- Doris Micallef: *Painting of Malta and Gozo*
- Adrian Grima: *Denb il-Vlegga*
- Adrian Grima: *Hawn jidhol il-Gawwi*
- Adrian Grima: *Rih min-Nofsinhar*
- Adrian Grima: *"Minn kull xorta ta' qziez"*
- Adrian Grima: *Xufftejk spjegati*
- Adrian Grima (ed): *skariggi*.

We have also received from Mr Albert Agius a collection of old Maltese newspapers, including *The Maltese Herald* and *Il-Maltija*.

The library is open on Wednesdays from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm and on Fridays from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm. Several persons have taken the opportunity to borrow books from the library. We urge members to make even greater use of this facility. There is no cost to join and become a member: it simply requires filling a form with proof of identification.

Members of the MCCV Library Committee are Prof Maurice Cauchi, Guy Deguara and Charles Belli. Joe Ellul has also been helpful and has assisted Charles Belli with library book entry on the computer file.

We thank all those who have assisted throughout the year in keeping this library, the largest outside Malta, in working order.

Charles Belli
Guy Deguara
Library Co-ordinators

Youth Group

Throughout 2014 Generation AusMalts (GAM) a sub-committee of the MCCV representing youth, continued to expand its activity, promoting the Maltese culture to first, second, third and fourth generations of Australian-Maltese youth via scheduled events and a growing Facebook page.

In wanting to connect with its audience on Facebook further and expand on its involvement with the MCCV's annual Children's Christmas Party over the last two years, introducing new events on the youth calendar was a key objective on GAM's agenda.

GAM were successful in doing this by conducting two key events - a *Figolli Baking Masterclass* held in April to coincide with Easter celebrations (supported by the MCCV and Nisga), and a *Ravjul Masterclass and Ravjulata* (supported by the MCCV) held in July. Both events were held at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville, each attended by up to 120 participants from differing age groups. The events were coordinated and run by GAM, with the assistance and efforts of volunteers, and mentors who taught participants how to make each of the respective traditional Maltese foods.

Apart from the cookery aspect involved with each Masterclass, which provided each student with a copy of the recipes in both English and Maltese, the classes also placed strong emphasis on teaching participants other elements associated with each of the class themes. The *Figolli Baking Masterclass* highlighted the religious customs and celebratory traditions that take place around the island at Easter time, as well as an Easter prayer from Father Edwin Agius, who came to bless everybody's *Figolli*, as is done on the islands. The *Ravjul Masterclass and Ravjulata* saw everybody not only come together to learn how to make *ravjul*, but experience the common practice often seen in Malta, of people coming together to eat *ravjul*.

The involvement and enthusiasm of participants and volunteers at each of these events has reinforced that there is still an interest within the Australian/Maltese community for the Maltese culture to be maintained and passed on for multiple reasons including - more exposure to the culture for those who haven't previously been exposed to it, making new connections with those from the same heritage, to those wanting to reconnect with the culture because their parents have now passed on, taking the traditions with them. In 2015, GAM will continue to build on the platform it has established in running these events, with the continued support of the MCCV, its team and volunteers, to further introduce other Maltese activities for the community to be involved with and learn from.

GAM will also continue to work on its Facebook page and content which has been the foundation of the group's existence. The Facebook page acts a key communication tool between GAM and its audience, and is an information portal promoting all aspects of the culture, once again encouraging people to come together via conversation and sharing.

GAM will also keep working with other Maltese associations and groups working to promote the culture and language, by continuing to support or participate in activities run by these groups, to grow solidarity and strength for the Maltese culture within the community.

Rita Catania, Kristy Galea & Rita Ellul
Youth Committee

Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Fund

Various fundraising activities were organised during the year and these were very successful. Donations from individuals, associations and companies were received. These funds have encouraged the committee to continue offering the scholarships for the forthcoming year.

The Bishop Joe Grech Scholarship Fund Committee met during the period between July 2013 and June 2014.

The committee once again, agreed to pay for the scholarship to be advertised in the local papers distributed in the Western suburbs as this produced many applicants in the previous year. The scholarship was also advertised on Maltese radio stations, schools and Australian Catholic University.

There were only two applicants for the June 2014 scholarship. The selection committee scrutinised the applications and found that neither of them satisfied the guidelines for the award of the scholarship. The applicants were advised and asked to reapply next year. No scholarships were awarded this year.

In the meantime Kristy Galea, last year's scholarship winner, has been very active in the Maltese community especially in assisting Rita Catania (winner of the 2012 scholarship) in the youth community. Several activities and functions were held by the committee encouraging both young and not so young Maltese Australian to participate in Maltese culture and history.

The committee hopes that next year there will be several applicants and possibly award 2 scholarships.

Edwina Mallia

Secretary, MCCV

Hon Secretary to Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Fund Committee

Ladies Auxiliary

The main aim of the Ladies Auxiliary (LA) group of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV) is to assist and support the MCCV in its provision of welfare services to the Maltese Community at large.

As part of their commitment in supporting the MCCV in the community services program and in promoting the Maltese culture, the Ladies Auxiliary donated \$1,000 towards Bishop Grech Scholarship Fund.

Bingo commences on the first Tuesday in February and concludes on the second Tuesday in December. During the year Birthdays and Special days are also celebrated such as Shrove Tuesday, St Patrick's Day, Easter and Christmas are also celebrated.

The Bingo sessions on Tuesdays provides an outlet for a small group of women who come to the Centre on regular basis. They look forward to their social gathering and enjoy playing bingo in a more relaxed atmosphere. This year more women joined the bingo group.

November and December are busy months for the Ladies Auxiliary. They prepare and organize the Aged Care Christmas Luncheon together with the welfare staff. The Tuesday's bingo group is invited to attend the luncheon. A raffle is held during the luncheon to help with the day's expenses as the Ladies Auxiliary sponsor and prepare the Christmas lunch. This Christmas lunch is enjoyed by everyone.

The Ladies Auxiliary also provides refreshment for the Children's Christmas Party organised by the MCCV.

The Ladies Auxiliary appreciates the support of all the committee members, their partners and volunteers. Their assistance throughout the year is greatly appreciated.

In December 2013 Pauline Farrugia resigned as Treasurer after many years of dedication. We thank Pauline for her involvement over the years. Theresa Tabone was appointed Treasurer in her stead.

The Ladies Auxiliary Committee consists of:

- Marlene Xerri, *President*
- Therese Tabone, *Treasurer/Vice President*
- Mary McLaughlin, *Secretary*
- Mary Cefai, *Member*
- Pauline Farrugia, *Member*
- Inez Mifsud, *Member*

Marlene Xerri
President

Men's Group

The Men's Group has now been active for over 30 years, and it continues to provide an opportunity for men of Maltese background to meet on a weekly basis.

The aim of the Men's Group is to offer friendship and social contact with those men who have found themselves isolated at home and from their community. Group members make new friends and are very supportive of each other.

The Men's Group at the Maltese Community centre is open to all men, not to just those of Maltese background. There are no membership fees and everyone is welcome.

The group meets every Monday from 8.am to 2.pm for a chat over a cup of coffee or tea and some traditional Maltese *pastizzi* and beautiful fresh home-made salad rolls. During the colder months, hot meals are available for purchase from the kitchen. These include, *pastizzi*, *ravjul*, *qassatat* and the ever famous "*ħobż biż-żejt*", or a freshly made sale roll with tea, coffee, soft drinks and Kinnie.

Topics of discussion include Maltese and local current affairs, family visits overseas, football and Australian Rules AFL results and other hobbies and topics of interest. Fireworks and TV viewing of news from Malta often engage members in their discussion. Members also reminisce about their lifetime experiences particularly those in Malta and Gozo. Feasts days are also well remembered and occasionally a DVD is available for viewing by the members around particular feast times.

Other activities available at the Centre include billiards, card games and board games, such as, draughts.

Further information can be obtained from John Pace at the Maltese Community Centre on 9387 8922 Monday 9am – 2pm or Friday 3pm to 9pm.

John Pace and Marilyn Pace
Men's Group Coordinators

Malta Discovery Tour 2013

The Malta Discovery Tour, aimed at the young and not so young Maltese Australians, in conjunction with myself and the MCCV, was started in 2006. Many young people as well as older Maltese have benefited from these escorted tours to Malta and Europe.

The number of participants grew gradually from 10 persons to 34 persons over the years. The Malta Discovery tour was not held in November 2013 due to lack of participants.

It is hoped that for the forthcoming years this trip will be held during the warmer months of the European summer rather than in November. The purpose of travelling in November was to attract students who would have just finished their end of year university exams. These students could choose to elect the Malta Study/Discovery Tour as a subject to earn credits towards their degree.

The support from the various Malta government and private enterprises are most appreciated and we hope that we shall continue to work together for the next Discovery Tour of Malta.

Edwina Mallia

MCCV Secretary and Tour Co-ordinator

Appendix A – Community Highlights 2013-14

Saturday, 9 November 2013

Maltese in Melbourne welcome Malta's new High Commissioner and Consul General



Above: Malta's new High Commissioner to Australia HE Mr Charles Muscat addressing the gathering

At a well-attended reception hosted by the Maltese Community Council of Victoria held at the Maltese Centre in Parkville the Maltese community in Melbourne welcomed the new Malta High Commissioner for Australia, His Excellency Mr Charles Muscat, and the new Consul General for Malta in the State of Victoria, Mr Victor Grech.



HE Mr Charles Muscat with his wife Victoria



Consul-General Victor Grech with his wife Patricia

Saturday, 30 November 2013

Opposition Leader meets with Maltese community in Melbourne



Above: Dr Busuttil and Dr Cassar with some members of the Maltese community present at the reception.

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria hosted a well-attended welcome reception in honour of the Malta's Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Dr Simon Busuttil MP, and the Opposition spokesperson on Education, the Hon Dr Joseph Cassar, at the Maltese Centre in Parkville. Dr Busuttil and Dr Cassar are in Melbourne at the invitation of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) to attend an international conference on Diabetes.

In his address in Maltese, Dr Simon Busuttil thanked those present for their attendance. "It is an experience that is not only beautiful but also a moving one, that you come to Australia, you meet with the Maltese community and you feel the great love that you still have towards our country. It is something that I will be taking back with me as a very beautiful memory that I will continue to appreciate," he said.



Monday, 2 December 2013

EU Commission for Health visits the Maltese Community Centre



Above: From left Consul-General Victor Grech, EU Commissioner Dr Tonio Borg and MCCV President Professor Maurice Cauchi

The EU Commissioner for Health, Dr Tonio Borg, paid a visit to the Maltese Centre in Parkville to meet with members of the Maltese community in Melbourne. At the Maltese Centre Dr Borg was greeted by the MCCV President Professor Maurice Cauchi, Consul General of Malta for Victoria Mr Victor Grech and members of the MCCV Executive.

Dr Borg said that he has been visiting Australia every two years since 2007 and this time his was visiting as EU Commissioner for Health. Sometimes to some people his role may be confusing. He had noticed a certain lack of knowledge about the EU structures and their workings even among the politicians. While his role is different from his previous roles, his experience as a minister has assisted him greatly in carrying out his current role.

Dr Borg explained that an EU Commissioner is basically equivalent to a minister with the important proviso that it is not quite the same because there is no commonwealth of Europe or United States of Europe. EU President Barroso calls it "a federation of sovereign states" which sounds like a contradiction in terms, because when a federation is formed, the member states do not remain sovereign.

Sunday, 7 December 2013

Children's Christmas Party at the Maltese Centre



This year's Christmas party also had quite the Maltese spin on it. Apart from being held at the Maltese Community Centre, everybody involved got to hear the St Bernadette's Choir sing beautiful Christmas carols in Maltese, children got to enjoy the traditional Maltese activity of making paper chains at Christmas time, as well as making a collage of with images from the nativity scene, also known as *preseju*.

Other activities included making food for the reindeers in preparation for Santa's arrival, handmade Christmas cards, face painting by Shiney Shelley and the magical stylings of The Amazing David. After much anticipation, Mrs Claus made her appearance on behalf of Santa who was busily working away in the North Pole, and gave out loads of presents.



Sunday, 6 April 2014

Generation AusMalts Figolli Baking Masterclass a big success



By Rita Catania

GAM's first Figolli Baking Masterclass went off with a huge bang ... or should we say ... a huge bake! The Maltese Community Centre in Parkville was full of colour, all things sweet and, of course, enthusiastic AusMalts of all ages, coming together for some fun and Maltese tradition.

It was a beautiful sight to see so many gathered together with their family and friends, as the buzz of excited bakers filled the room.

When the clock struck 1pm – it was on! There was a sea of working hands and rolling pins, as sweet pastry started to form different shapes, eventually to be filled with the delicious almond filling made by our groups.



Thursday, 5 June 2014

Raising Maltese community awareness of palliative care services in Victoria



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

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

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

Sunday, 20 July 2014

Well-organised GAM 'Ravjul' Masterclass – another 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!



Sunday, 21 September 2014

Celebrating 50th Anniversary of Malta's Independence



Above: From left MCCV Vice President Mr Victor Borg, Consul-General Victor Grech, Hon Andrew Elsbury, Hon Colin Brooks and Fr Edwin Agius mssp



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; the Hon Andrew Elsbury, members of

the Victorian parliamentary group 'Friends of Malta', representing the Premier of Victoria; the Hon Colin Brooks representing the Leader of the Opposition; Hon Consul for Malta in Victoria and MCCV PRO Dr Edwin Borg-Manché; MCCV Vice President Mr Victor Borg; 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 to put the Independence event in its historical context.

Consul General Victor Grech, the Hon Andrew Elsbury, the Hon Colin Brooks and Fr Edwin Agius then addressed the audience for the occasion.



Sunday, 21 September 2014

MCCV Community Awards 2014

The second part of proceedings at the reception for the 50th Anniversary of Malta's Independence consisted of the presentation of the MCCV Community Awards 2014. 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**



Hon Andrew Elsbury presents award to Prof Joseph A Camilleri and Ms Edwidge Borg



*(Left) Hon Colin Brooks presents award to Mr Albert W Agius and
(right) Consul General Victor Grech to Sr Doris Falzon OP*



*(Left) Hon Colin Brooks presents award to Mr Albert W Agius and
(right) Consul General Victor Grech to Sr Doris Falzon OP*



*(Left) MCCV Vice President Mr Gejtu Deguara presents award to Mr John Pace and
(right) MCCV Social Secretary Mr Joe Stafrace to Mr Nicholas Chircop*



*(Left) MCCV Assistant Secretary Mrs Marilyn Pace presents award to Mr Jimmy Dingli and
(right) MCCV Welfare Director Mrs Rosemary Attard to Mrs Carmen Testa*

[Photos: George Brimmer]

Monday 8 & Sunday 14 September 2014

The Feast of Maria Bambina celebrated in Melbourne

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.

This year the dinner dance was held a week before the feast as the reception hall was booked for a wedding on the Saturday before the feast.

On Saturday, 6th September, Reskeon organised the Vittoria Dinner Dance at Firenze Receptions, Fawkner, which was well attended by more than 150 members and friends. Distinguished guests were the Fr Edwin Agius, mssp; Fr Dr Victor Shields, mssp; Honorary Life Members of Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group Inc., Dr Clemente Zammit and Mrs Mary Zammit; Life Member of Reskeon Maltese Association, Mr Laurie Bartolo and Mrs Theresa Bartolo; Ex-President of Reskeon Maltese Association, Mr Caesar Vella and Mrs Phyllis Vella, The MCCV Vice-President, Mr Victor Borg and Mrs Terry Borg; Apologies for being unable to attend were received by the Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Victor Grech and Mrs Patricia Grech; MCCV Treasurer, Mr Paul Borg and Ms Pauline Borg and Life member Mrs Anne Gauci.

Music was in the hands of DJ Domenic who catered for the music enjoyed by young and old.

This year we were pleased to see among us a lot of young ones who enjoyed the dinner dance and asked us to let them know for next year.

Entrée was ante pasta, second course was a ricotta cannelloni and tortellini with Bolognese sauce on each plate. Main course was chicken involtini and veal schnitzel with vegies on each plate. This was followed by Mocha ice cream or Cassata ice cream, a fresh fruit platter and coffee with Continental cakes. Beer, red and white wine and soft drinks were served all night.

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.

All those attending complimented the way the night was organised, the food and the atmosphere.

On Monday, 8th 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. Readers were Yvonne Caruana and Paul Vella. Singing during Mass was in the hands of Emmanuel Farrugia, accompanied on the organ by his wife, Margaret. After Mass, all were invited to go to the foyer of the Maltese Centre where free refreshments were served. There were sandwiches, cakes, biscuits, tea and coffee.

On Sunday, 14th 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.

Due to the fact that there was a change in the administrative booking of St. Mary's, there was a double booking for a wedding and two christenings on the same day. Because of this there was a change in the time of the Mass from 2.30 pm to 5 pm. Extensive

advertising and mailing of letters, a lot of the community knew about this and we were surprised to see the Maltese Community attending in such a great numbers that the church was full.

Among those present 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, of Rhodes and of Malta; Mr George Portelli, Chief Representative of the Bank of Valletta in Australia; members of Sisters from religious Orders; members of the Society of Christian Doctrine and members of the Maltese Ex-Services Association of Victoria. A large number of Maltese Associations attended as well along with their banners, as well as the banners from the four villages and towns where the Bambina is celebrated in Malta and Gozo: Senglea, Mellieha, Naxxar and Xaghra, Gozo.

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, who also did 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-Manche` did the second Reading. Prayers of the Faithful were read by Ms Anoinette Bajada and Mrs Phyllis Vella.

The Sacrificial Offerings were brought to the Altar by Mr Joe Borg and Mrs Borg; Salvina Vella and Caesar Vella.

During Mass two collections took place: one going towards the Missionary Society of St Paul and the second one going towards the Church of St Mary Star of the Sea.

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. 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. Because of the the time change the procession took place in, while for the same reason the Maltese own Band didn't not attend this year's feast. The Procession was followed by the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Later on refreshments were served to the distinguished guests and the helpers of the Feast.

Thanks to all those Reskeon members who on Friday helped with the taking the statue, pedestal, etc. to St Mary's Church and on Monday doing the same job back to the chapel in Parkville. Thanks to Mr Alfred Zahra, of St Bernadette's Community Centre, for providing us with his tray truck to be able to transport the feast items to St. Mary's and back.

Salvina Vella and Paul Vella

This was the first time the Feast was held under the new President,

Wednesday, 10 September 2014

Talk on Palliative Care to Reskeon Seniors Group

Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group always try to organise talks on subjects like diabetes, glaucoma or other health matters at their weekly meetings for the benefit of their members. The Group meets every Wednesday, at Merrilands Community Centre, Reservoir.

Some weeks before, Susan Trimmings, from Palliative Care Australia, Specialist health care and practical support, made contact with Secretary, Paul Vella, to organise talk about the subject of Palliative Care.

On Wednesday, 10th September, Mr Paul Lia, from the Maltese Community Council of Victoria visited our Group to give us a talk on this subject.

Paul Lia explained what is Palliative Care. He said that this 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.

He told the 120+ members 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 doesn't mean that there is no hope for life. One can continue to receive the treatment he was receiving.

Paul said that 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.

Paul Vella

Secretary

Sunday, 28 September 2014

IL-Grupp Letteratura Maltija Torganizza Programm Muziko – Lettararju

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

Fost dawk preżenti 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 merġba lil dawk preżenti u ntroduċiet lill-President tal-Grupp, Dr Victor Sammut, li ta l-messaġġ ta' merġba. Huwa qal lil dawk preżenti fuq ix-xogħol tal-Grupp u heġġiġhom biex jissieħbu mall-GLM. Spiċċa biex irringrazzja lill-kumitat u oħrajn, fosthom lil Rose Lofaro li tgħin ħafna fil-qari tal-provi kemm fil-folju ta' kull xahar u ukoll fil-ktejjeb tal-Programm Mużiko-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-Żgħożija". Dr Victor Sammut qralna żewġ poeżiji tiegħu, "Id-Dnub ma Jorqodx" u "Terroriżmu".

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 Maltija li allegat ħafna lil dawk preżenti.

Marie Louise Anastasi qrat il-poeżija tagħha, "Farfett" u poeżija ta' Publius Bugeja, "Ipokrita". Warajha smajna lil Paul Vella jaqra żewġ poeżiji tiegħu, "Ħarifa" 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 ħalliena f'it xhur ilu, miġbura minn Dr Clemente Zammit. L-illanċjar sar mis-Sur Victor Grech li tkellem fuq Laurie Armato u l-ħidma tiegħu fl-Ilsien Malti. Preżenti kien hemm ukoll in-neputi ta' Laurie Armato, John Galea. Kellna x-xorti li nisimgħu żewġ poeżiji ta' Laurie, moqrija minnu stess, "Warda Maltija" u "L-Ilsien li Bih Twelidt".

Wara intervent mużikali ieħor, kien hemm waqfien ta' 20 minuta fejn dawk preżenti kellhom iċ-ċans jiehdu kikkra te jew kafe, kejk 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 ħafna snin għalkemm joqgħod Queensland. Dejjem jibgħat xi xogħol tiegħu u din is-sena il-poeżija tiegħu, "Tlift Kull Tama" inqat mill-membru Rose Lofaro. Frank Bonett, li dejjem jistqarr li jirringrazzja lill-fundatur tal-Grupp, Dr Ġuże' Abela u lill-Grupp, għax dejjem għe mhegġeġ minnhom biex jitgħalliem il-Malti u jiktbu, qralna żewġ poeżiji li kiteb hu stess, "Namrati" u "Il-Ħlewwa tan-Natura".

Hawn kellna sorpriża meta ċ-ċkejna Charlotte Ann Camilleri, ta' tliet snin u nofs, li tigi n-neputija ta' Joe Camilleri tal-grupp mużikali, tatna "Il-Pupa Wisq Sabieħa", li għallmitielha n-nanna tagħha. Charlotte qalghat ħafna applaws.

Wara intervent mużikali ieħor, Ġużi Camilleri qralna x-xogħol tiegħu, "Kemm Kienu Għażżenin 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, inqraw minn Ray Anastasi, "Amen" u "Bejn Waqt u leħor"

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 ħadmu 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.

Paul Vella
PRO, Grupp Letteratura Maltija

Appendix B – Maltese Historical Association

The Maltese Historical Association had its Annual General meeting last November and a new committee was elected.

The office holders are:

- President, Joseph Borg
- Vice President, George Portelli
- Secretary, Charles Gatt
- Treasurer, Mario Bonnici
- Lewis Zammit
- Agnes Cauchi
- Charles Portelli

Lectures are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Maltese Centre in Parkville starting at 7.30pm. Since February, we have had a meeting every month with a range of interesting topics that were presented by the various speakers. Attendance figures have been good, averaging about thirty people for each lecture. We hope that as the warmer months approach, the attendance will increase.

Topics presented so far were:

February	Joseph Borg	The Arab years in Malta
March	Albert Agius	Superstition and the Maltese Bogeyman
April	Prof Maurice Cauchi	Maltese Surnames and their significance
May	Dr Lou Drogenic	Bushfire Summer: her latest novel
	Joe Flores	Malta in the Past through photographs
June	Joseph Borg	Pietro Caxaro's 'Cantilena'
July	Dr Adrian Grima	Pretty Brits and Sleeping Poles: One hundred years of Maltese Literature about the Other
August	Dr Consiglia Azzopardi	From Craft, to Industry, to Art: the History of Maltese Lace
Sept	George Portelli	Malta between the 15 th and 18 th Centuries Pt 1: an overview from a historical and social perspective.
October	George Portelli	Malta between the 15 th and 18 th Centuries Pt 2: an overview from a historical and social perspective.
November	Annual General Meeting: election of office bearers etc.	
December	<i>to be organised.</i>	

Apart from these lectures, we now have our own website. It is being co-ordinated by our secretary, Charles Gatt, who is doing an excellent job. We also wish to thank Edwin Borg-Manché for developing and maintaining the MHA website for so many years and teaching us how to do it ourselves. Anyone wishing to find out more about our activities and other matters should visit this web site. www.mha.org.au

We look forward to another successful year and more to follow. On behalf of the MHA, I invite members of the Maltese community to come along to our meetings. You may wish to become a financial member if you so desire. Cost is \$10 per person or \$15 for a couple. You will then receive our monthly newsletter and you will also have the right to take part in the running of the Association and stand for a position on the committee. Otherwise you may wish to come along and listen to what is being presented.

Finally I want to thank all members of the past Committees of the MHA for leading and guiding the Association over the last few years, and the present committee for a job well done so far this year. We sincerely hope that with the support of the Maltese community at large, the MHA will prosper for many more years to come.

Joseph Borg
President MHA

Appendix C – MCCV Committees and Memberships

(* Denotes Chairperson or joint Chairpersons)

Centre Management – MCCV Executive Committee

*Professor Maurice Cauchi (President); Victor Borg (Vice President); Guy Deguara (Vice President); Edwina Mallia (Secretary); Paul Borg (Treasurer); Rosemary Attard (Welfare Director); Dr Edwin Borg-Manché (PRO); Joe Stafrace (Social Secretary); Marilyn Pace (Asst Secretary); Joanne Ellul (Asst Treasurer); Fr Edwin Agius MSSP

Men's Group

John Pace and Marilyn Pace

Education

Edwidge Borg; Laura Schembri; Georgina Scillio; Edward Mercieca

Library

Professor Maurice Cauchi, Guy Deguara; Charles Belli

Administration

Edwina Mallia – MCCV Secretary
Carmen Mamo – Administrative Assistant

Maintenance

Guy Deguara

Ladies Auxiliary

Marlene Xerri (President); Theresa Tabone (Vice President & Treasurer); Mary McLaughlin (Secretary) Mary Cefai; Inez Mifsud; Pauline Farrugia, Committee Members

MCCV Welfare Staff

Rosemary Attard (Executive Member) – Welfare Director; Maree Rizzo – Planned Activity Group Coordinator; Victor Borg Hon Case Manager CACPS; Paul Lia – Community Development Officer

Planned Activity Groups (HACC) Staff

Pauline Fenech; (resigned) Josephine Gauci (resigned); Margaret Mallia; Carmen Mamo; Rose Nuner; Theresa Tabone

Community Aged Care Packages (CACP) Staff

Mary Boland; Joan Buhagiar (resigned); Doris Cauchi; Annie Demetriou (resigned); Connie Fenech; Carmen Gauci; Josephine Gauci (resigned); Wayne Micallef (resigned); Vicky Sammut; Marina Scholz, Josephine German, Georgina Deak

Bingo Committee

Paul Borg; Joanne Ellul; George Brimmer; Guy Deguara; John Pace; Marilyn Pace; Horace Dalli; Joe Sammut; Charlie Borg; Mary Deguara; Matilda Borg

MEMBERSHIP & COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria
Radio 3ZZZ Members of Maltese Broadcasting group

Mr Eddie Micallef
Mr Victor Borg and Mrs Edwina Mallia

Executive Committees

Finance
Community Services and Improvement
Human Resources

Corporate Management
Risk Management

Appendix D – Liaison and Outreach Activities

Government Departments

Dept. of Health and Ageing
Dept. of Health
Dept. of Immigration, Multicultural & Indigenous Affairs

Employment, Education & Training Youth Affairs

Victorian Multicultural Commission

City Councils

Brimbank City Council
Darebin City Council
Hobson's Bay City Council
Hume City Council
Maribyrnong City Council
Melbourne City Council
Melton City Council
Moreland City Council
Whittlesea City Council
Wyndham City Council
Yarra City Council

Diplomatic & Consular Mission

Malta High Commission - Canberra
Consul-General for Malta - Victoria

Maltese Organisations

Maltese Community Council - Canberra
Maltese Community Council of NSW
Maltese Community Council of QLD
Maltese Community Council of SA
Maltese Community Council of WA
Maltese-Australian Club - Tasmania

Other Organisations

Public Library of Malta
University of Malta
Bank of Valletta Ltd

Ethnic Organisations

Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria
Australian Greek Welfare Society
Australian Jewish Welfare & Relief Committee
Ethnic Services Network
Italian Assistance Association (COASIT)

Welfare, Educational and Cultural Organisations

Age Care Assessment Team (ACAT)
Altona Migrant Resource Centre
Alzheimer's Association Victoria
Australian Council for Rehabilitation
Australian Council on Population and Ethnic Affairs
Brimbank Community Health Service
Catholic Education Office
Catholic Family Welfare Bureau
Commonwealth Voluntary Learning Group
Community Justice Centre
Diabetes Australia
Ethnic Consultation Committee of Victoria
Health Research Centre
ISIS Primary Care
Linkages
Marian Secondary College Sunshine
Melbourne University
North West Migrant Resource Centre
Northern Metropolitan Migrant Resource
Royal Park Psychiatric Hospital
St. Bernadette's Primary School, North Sunshine
St. Albans & Deer Park Agencies Network Group
The Australian Association of the Sovereign
Military Order of Malta
Victoria University
Victorian Committee for Child Care Services
Victorian Committee on Discrimination in
Employment and Occupation
Victorian Council of Social Service
Victorian Deaf Society
Vision Australia Foundation

Hostels & Hospitals / Organisations

Aberdeen Aged Care Facility
Arcare
Ardeer House
Baptcare
Carers Victoria
Catholic Homes
Cumberland Manor
North West Hospital
North-West Hospital Royal Park
Rosary Home
Royal District Nursing Service
St. Bernadette's Hostel
St. George's Nursing Home/Hostel
Western Hospital
Winteringham Hostel

Appendix E – Affiliated Associations

Association	President		
Australian Nadur Association Inc	Mr	Tony	Sultana
Ex-Members of the Malta Police Force Ass	Mr	Vince	Calleja
Hadfield Golden Years Social Club Inc	Mrs	Rita	Saliba
Klabb Ghannejja Maltin Inc	Mr	George	Aquilina
Lalor United Bocci Club	Mr	David	Ellul
MABPAV	Mr	Damien	Digby
Malta Star of the Sea House Inc	Mr	Raymond	Cini
Maltese Association Hobsons Bay Inc	Chev	Joseph	Attard
Maltese Association Northern Suburbs Inc	Mr	Tony	Abela
Maltese Australian Association	Mr	Benedict	Soler
Maltese Australian Community Centre & Social Club L.V	Mr	John	Buhagiar
Maltese Cultural Association of Victoria Inc	Mrs	Sandra	Grech
Maltese Ex Services Association of Victoria	Mr	Emmanuel	Spiteri
Maltese Historical Association of Australia	Mr	Joseph	Borg
Maltese La Vallette Association	Mrs	Carmen	Camilleri
Maltese Literature Group	Dr	Victor E	Sammut
Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society Inc	Mr	Carmel	Vassallo
Maltese Performing Arts	Mr	Ray	Anastasi
Maltese Salesian Past Pupils Assoc of Vic Inc	Mr	Charlie	Cutajar
Maltese Senior Citizens Club Airport West Inc	Mr	Alfred	Sammut
Maltese Social Bowls Club Inc	Mr	Gregory	Grima
Melita Social Club Inc	Mr	Edwin	Bonello
Moreland Maltese Elderly Citizens Assoc.	Mr	John	Pace
Newport Maltese Association Inc	Mr	George	Saliba
Newport Senior Citizens Group	Mr	George	Saliba
Our Lady of Grace Association	Mr	Joseph	Cutajar
Portarlinton Maltese Pensioners Assoc Inc	Mr	Charles	Attard
Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group	Mrs	Salvina	Vella
St Albans Good Friday Ass Inc	Mr	Lewis	Stafrace
St Bernadette Seniors & Social Club	Mr	Alfred	Zahra
St. Gaetan's Society Inc.	Mr	Jimmy	Chircop
St. Helena Maltese-Australian Social Club	Mr	Victor	Bartolo
St. Paul's South Eastern Suburbs Assoc. Inc.	Fr	Noel	Bianco
St. Sebastian Association Inc	Mr	Raymond	Gatt
Stella Maris Maltese Association	Mr	Charlie	Xerri
Sunshine George Cross Soccer Club	Mr	Jamie	Chetcuti
Tarxien Social Club	Mrs	Lina	Mizzi
Tripoli Social Club	Mr	Romeo	Cini
Western Suburbs Maltese Assoc. Inc.	Mr	Vince	Aquilina

Appendix F – Ethnic Radio Stations

Stations Broadcasting Programs in Maltese

Name & Address	Contact Details	Program Time
SBS Radio PO Box 294 Sth Melb 3205	Mr Joe Axiaq Title: Executive Producer Ph: 9949 2244 Fax: 9949 2385	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. 12.00pm – 1.00pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday 7.00pm - 8.00pm. Sunday – 7am
BROADCASTERS:	<i>Joe Axiaq; Marlene Galea; Tony Spiteri; Rita O'Dwyer; Antoine Said Pullicino</i>	
Radio 3ZZZ PO Box 1106 Collingwood 3066	Mr Lewis Stafrace Title: Maltese Programs Convenor Ph: 9415 1928 Fax: 9415 1818	Monday and Friday 5.00pm - 6.00pm Saturday 10.00am – 11.00am Last Wednesday of month 1.00pm – 2.00pm
BROADCASTERS:	<i>Lewis Stafrace; Emmanuel Brincat; Mario Sammut; Paul Vella</i>	
Stereo 97.4 PO Box 217 Sunshine 3020	Mr Ray Anastasi Title: Co-ordinator Ph: 9318 0444 Fax: 9318 0866	Wednesday and Thursday 6.00pm - 8.00pm
BROADCASTERS:	<i>Mary Louise Anastasi, Ray Anastasi, Carmen Zammit; Carmen Portelli; Michelle Galea; Joe Farrugia</i>	
97.9 FM PO Box 979 Melton 3337	Mrs Miriam Vella Title: Broadcaster Ph: 9747 8500 Fax: 9747 0405	Tuesday 6.00pm – 8.00pm
BROADCASTERS:	<i>Miriam Vella and Robert Vella</i>	
98.9 North West FM PO Box 403 Glenroy 3046	Mr Emmanuel Brincat Title: Producer/Presenter Ph: 9304 1244 Fax: 9304 1468	Friday 6.00pm - 7.00pm
BROADCASTER:	<i>Emmanuel Brincat</i>	