



Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15



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President's Report

It gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report for the Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV) for the year ending 31 October 2015.

The Executive Committee and the Council continue to meet monthly to conduct the affairs of the MCCV in accordance with its constitution. This year has been particularly busy with the winding up of two aged care grants funded by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments as well as the extensive refurbishment work undertaken at the Maltese Centre in Parkville.

Welfare Programs

At the commencement of the year the MCCV was providing extensive aged care services to the community through three Federal and State grants being –

- The Home and Community Care (HACC) Program,
- The Community Aged Care Packages (CACPs). and
- The Aged Care Services Improvement and Healthy Ageing Grant

On the introduction of the Consumer Directed Care Regulations, it was clear that the MCCV did not have sufficient resources and staff to continue with the Maltese Community Care Packages.

Following discussions with a number of reputable aged care providers, the MCCV negotiated an agreement with Bapcare, a leading not-for-profit organisation in the aged care industry. Bapcare provides a range of community services and programs from over 30 locations across Victoria and Tasmania. The 25 Community Aged Care Packages that were being managed by the MCCV were formally transferred to Bapcare on 1 May 2015.

Following meetings with our aged care recipients and staff, agreed transition arrangements ensured that the transfer proceeded smoothly with the least inconvenience to clients. Council is confident that the best of care will be provided to our clients by Bapcare.

The Aged Care Services and Healthy Ageing grant expired on the 30th June 2015. A final report was duly submitted to the Department of Social Services.

The Planned Activity Group clients are increasing in numbers. The MCCV has signed agreements with other organisations, including Bapcare, for referral of clients to our programs conducted from our premises in Parkville and Sunshine.

Mindful of the large number of Maltese aged residents in aged care facilities, particularly in the western region, the MCCV has established a team of Maltese cultural presenters who attend at various Aged Care Facilities to deliver Maltese cultural and language presentations to staff, in an endeavour to improve communication with Maltese residents. The presentations have been well received and requests for them are on the increase.

Under the chairmanship of Joseph Borg, a former MCCV president, the presenters made a great contribution to the Maltese Cultural and Resource Directory 2015. A copy of the directory has been distributed to a number of public hospitals,

municipal councils, Catholic parish churches and, of course, affiliated associations and many others.

In conjunction with Carers Victoria, the MCCV continues to maintain a Carers Group with regular bi-monthly meetings at our Sunshine premises.

A detailed report by Maree Rizzo, the coordinator of the HACC program, is included on page 10 of this report.

Home Visitation Scheme

The MCCV continues to seek volunteers to assist with our home visitation scheme. As our community members continue to advance in years, it is essential that every assistance is provided to them. Information should be available to them regarding aged care services provided by MCCV and other service providers.

Premises Refurbishment

It has been some 32 years since the official opening of the MCCV premises at Parkville. It was readily apparent that the building needed considerable maintenance and refurbishment.

Among the required maintenance works were: roof repairs, replacement of ceiling tiles, complete refitting of the toilet block, electrical work and repairs to the ceiling in the kitchen and foyer. The windows in the hall were double glazed.

Replacement of the uneven pavers at the front of the building ensured the safety of aged persons attending the centre.

A grant from the Victorian Multicultural Commission of \$32,000 went a long way in assisting us to meet the cost of refurbishments.

On 3 May 2015, The Hon Robin Scott, Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs attended a specially organised MCCV function and unveiled “The Father Stanley Tomlin Mural” which is contained in the double-glazed windows that extend along the length of the community hall. The late Fr Stanley Tomlin was the Superior General of the Missionary Society of St Paul at the time when the Maltese Community Centre was built in Parkville. It was largely through his efforts that it became a reality.

The Mural was designed by renowned artist, Mr Peter Toyne, and put through a special process. The film reproduction was placed within two panes of the double glazed glass windows. The community is indebted to Mr Peter Toyne and Axess Glass Products for the production of the Mural.

Visitors

We were fortunate this year in welcoming several distinguished visitors to the Maltese Community Centre.

- On 3 May 2015, The Hon Robin Scott, Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs attended the centre and unveiled the “The Father Stanley Tomlin Mural”. The Minister also launched the Maltese Cultural and Resource Directory 2015.
- Mr Victor Grech, Consul General for the Republic of Malta attended the centre on a number of occasions, including 13 December 2014 for the

Malta Republic Day function, 3 May 2015 for the unveiling of the Mural, and 21 September 2015 for the Malta Independence Day function.

- In July 2015 the Rev Fr Dr Victor Shields MSSP returned to Melbourne on a 3-month visit to assist his fellow priests and the MCCV.
- On Monday 5 October 2015 Ms Rebecca Cremona, author, director and producer of the Maltese language film *Simshar*, and her mother visited the Maltese Community Centre at Parkville. The film with dialogue in Maltese and English subtitles had its premier showing at the Nova Cinema in Carlton on 30 September 2015. The film, which is, is currently showing at a number of cinemas in Australia. The film was very well received by the Maltese community and their friends.
- On Monday, 19 October 2015 the Cosmos Wind Ensemble, a group of musicians from the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, visited the Maltese Community Centre. The Ensemble travelled to Australia to represent the Government of Malta as part of the CHOGM Malta 2015 cultural outreach programme. On Saturday 17 October 2015 the Ensemble gave a concert for the Maltese and Australian communities at a concert held at Monash University, Clayton, playing a variety of music by Maltese and international composers. It was a brilliant concert and the thunderous applause at the conclusion of the concert brought the group back on stage on two occasions. The Members of the ensemble were Rebecca Hall – Flute, John McDonough – Oboe, Godfrey Mifsud – Clarinet, Ulrike Buhlmann – Bassoon.

MCCV Community Awards

It is appropriate for a community to give public recognition to those individuals who have made a substantial contribution to members of the Maltese-Australian community.

On 21 September 2015 Mr Victor Grech, Consul General for the Republic of Malta in Victoria, presented the MCCV Community Awards to the following individuals:-

- **Mr George Aquilina** for his contribution to Culture
- **Mr Alfred Bonello** for his contribution to the Community
- **Mrs Frances Bonnici** for her contribution to Education
- **Mrs Rita Catania** for her contribution to Youth
- **Mr Gejtu Deguara** for his contribution to the Community
- **Mrs Mary Dingli** for her contribution to Welfare Services
- **Mr Reno Grima** for his contribution to the Community
- **Mr Eddie Micallef** for his contribution to the Community

Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship

The Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship Committee has called for applicants for the Annual Travel Grant. At present applications are being considered by the committee and an announcement will be made at a later date.

Events and other Activities

Other community events and activities for the year included:

- On Saturday 29 November 2014, the MCCV hosted the annual Children's Christmas Party which was well attended. Entertainment was provided and the young children were kept occupied and seemed to enjoy the activities. Parents and grandparents were also present and encouraged the children to participate. Council wishes to thank Ms Edwidge Borg, Ms Rita Catania, Mrs Marlene Xerri and members of the Ladies Auxiliary and all other helpers for organising and conducting the Children's Christmas Party. Of course, our thanks also go to Father Christmas for his early visit to the Centre.
- On Sunday 3 May 2015 the Hon Robin Scott, Minister for Finance and Multicultural Affairs attended at the centre to unveil the Mural and present the MCCV Community Awards. The Consul General for Malta in Victoria, Mr Victor Grech was also present.
- On Sunday 13 September 2015, the Maltese Community celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Victories ("Il-Bambina") at St Mary Star of the Sea Church, West Melbourne. The Prime Celebrant was Fr Edwin Agius mssp, rector at Parkville. Fr John Taliana mssp, Fr Emmanuel Adami mssp, Fr Lonnie Borg mssp, Can. Fr Mannie Bonello and Fr Karm Borg concelebrated Mass.
- On Sunday 21 September 2015, the Consul General for Malta in Victoria, Mr Victor Grech, attended a social function at the centre at Parkville and, together with MCCV President, Victor Borg, they addressed the community on the historical importance of Malta's Independence Day and the progress made by Malta since gaining independence in 1964.
- On Monday 19 October 2015, the Cosmos Wind Ensemble a group of musicians from the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra together with their manager, Ms Maria Blanco, attended at the community centre in Parkville. Each member of the group introduced themselves and, after a welcome by MCCV President, Victor Borg, the group played music pieces to entertain the audience. During refreshments, group members mingled and spoke with those present. The group had also presented a concert to the Maltese community in NSW and held a Master Class at Monash University.

Maltese Language Classes

Ms Edwidge Borg is the Coordinator of the Maltese Language Classes held at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville. The number of students is constantly on the increase. Weekly classes are held at the centre on Thursday evenings.

Edwidge is assisted by Laura Schembri, Alexandra Scibberras and Danica Micallef (emergency).

Adult students enjoy learning about the Maltese culture and language. We are grateful to Edwidge and the tutors for their dedication, assistance and commitment.

Bereavements

Mr Emmanuel (Laurie) Spiteri died on 8 August 2015. Emmanuel was a long time president of the Maltese Ex-Services Association. Emmanuel who passed away at the age of 92 was a regular attendee at Council's monthly meetings. In accordance with his wishes his funeral service was held at the community centre in Parkville. St Paul's Chapel was not big enough to accommodate the large number of people who attended. May he rest in peace.



3 May 2015: Consul General Mr Victor Grech presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr Emmanuel Spiteri awarded by the MCCV for his long service to the Maltese Ex-Services Association of Victoria and his Presidency of the Association over the last 15 years.

Bingo Sessions and Kitchen Services

The Social Committee is responsible for regular bingo sessions on Friday evenings. MCCV Vice President Joseph Stafrace, who is the convenor of the MCCV Social Committee, and his team of volunteers consisting of his wife Lina Stafrace, Maurice and Carmen Spiteri, Rita Pullicino, Joe and Antonia (Lina) Camilleri, Andrew Gatt and Ann Caruana make sure that bingo players have the opportunity of purchasing traditional Maltese meals before the commencement of the session. They also cater for the family luncheons held on the last Sunday of each month. We are grateful to them for their efforts.

The MCCV also wishes to thank Gejtu Deguara, George Brimmer, Maurice Spiteri, Joe Sammut, Arthur Galea and Charlie Borg for their contribution as callers at the bingo sessions.

Maltese Radio Broadcasts

On 1 July 2015 a Media Release of the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) advised that the SBS Radio Maltese digital only programs, at 12pm Tuesday and 2pm Thursday on SBS Radio 3 will conclude on 6 August 2015.

The MCCV immediately organised a petition and wrote letters to various politicians, including the then Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott, and the then Minister of Communications and now Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull, seeking their assistance for the retention of the Maltese digital programs.

The MCCV and the Maltese Community Council of NSW (MCC) prepared a joint written submission, which was forwarded to the Manager of SBS and Board of the SBS. Verbal submissions were also made by the representatives from the MCCV and the MCC NSW via video link on 22 July 2015. Despite these efforts the SBS board upheld the management decision to stop these programs. As a result, the Maltese community has currently only two hours per week of broadcasts in the Maltese language from the SBS service.

There are a number of community broadcasting stations in this state which broadcast in the Maltese language. The MCCV is grateful to the 3ZZZ Broadcasters and the broadcasters on the other community stations for their efforts in entertaining and educating the community through these broadcasts. These

broadcasters also keep the community informed of events occurring within the Maltese community.

Missionary Society of Saint Paul

Council continues to work in partnership with members of the Missionary Society of Saint Paul (MSSP).

The Australian Provincial Fr Ivano Burdian and his fellow priests at Parkville and Sunshine are always willing to assist Maltese community members and the MCCV.

The MCCV Chaplain Fr Edwin Agius works tirelessly in providing spiritual services to the community. His participation as an executive member of council is also appreciated. Council also wishes to thank other members of the society for their work and efforts.

Malta High Commissioner and Consul General for Victoria

The MCCV wishes to thank Mr Charles Muscat, Malta high Commissioner in Canberra for the assistance of his office throughout the year.

The MCCV also extends its gratitude and thanks to Mr Victor Grech, Consul General in Victoria. He has been extremely helpful to council and is always ready to be of assistance whenever approached. His regular attendance at community functions and *Festas* are much appreciated by the community.

Annual General Meeting

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

President:	Victor Borg
Vice President:	Edwin Borg-Manché
Vice President:	Joseph Stafrace
Treasurer:	Paul Borg
Secretary:	Edwina Mallia
Welfare Director:	Rosemary Attard
Public Relations Officer:	Andrew Gatt (<i>co-opted from April 2015</i>)
Social Secretary:	Marilyn Pace
Assistant Treasurer:	Rita Pullicino
Assistant Secretary:	Antonia Camilleri
Chaplain:	Fr. Edwin Agius

Professor Maurice Cauchi, who had 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. I would like to thank Professor Cauchi and Guy Deguara for their work and contribution on the Council over so many years.

Special Thanks

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to members of my Executive for their efforts throughout the year.

Unfortunately, as a result of my poor health and long hospitalisation, earlier this year, they willingly took on their additional responsibilities and ensured that Council's work plan was accomplished.

Many committee members attend the centre at Parkville, almost on a daily basis, to ensure the continuation of community services.

We look to the future with confidence and feel certain that, as in the past, we will meet the challenges that may present over the next twelve months.

Prosit for your efforts and thank you for your kindness during the period of my incapacity.

Staff Members

Council wishes to thank and acknowledges the efforts of our staff, particularly Maree Rizzo, coordinator of the HACC Program, and Carmen Mamo, our Administrative Secretary.

They have worked most efficiently particularly during this challenging year when many changes took place in the services provided by council and the introduction of new programs and procedures. 'Grazzi ħafna!'

Victor Borg

President, MCCV

MCCV Executive Committee 2014–16



From left, Mrs Rosemary Attard (Welfare Director), Mr Paul Borg (Treasurer), Dr Edwin Borg-Manché (Vice President), Mr Victor Borg (President), Mr Joseph Stafrace (Vice President), Mrs Edwina Mallia (Secretary), Mrs Rita Pullicino (Assistant Treasurer), Mrs Marilyn Pace (Social Secretary).

Not in photo: Mrs Antonia Camilleri (Assistant Secretary), Mr Andrew Gatt (*co-opted to the Committee in the position of PRO from April 2015*) and Fr Edwin Agius mssp (Chaplain).

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.

HACC-funded Planned Activity Group (PAG)

The aim of the MCCV Planned Activity Group (PAG) is to provide a range of socialisation and support services to isolated Maltese older people and people with disabilities who reside in the Northern and Western Suburbs of Melbourne, as well as respite and support for their carers.

MCCV PAG operates five groups each week with a total of 60 clients attending these groups. Three groups run at the Sunshine Centre with an extended hours program every second Saturday. Two groups run at the Parkville Centre.

The MCCV PAG is supported by funding from the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments under the HACC program, soon to be transitioning to Commonwealth funding as part of the new Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP).

MCCV PAG offers participants a range of physical, cognitive and social activities which are designed to meet the individual and diverse needs and goals of each participant and enhance their skills of daily living by adopting Active Service Model principles and practices.

Some activities include gentle exercise sessions, a range of craft activities, music, use of technology, games which stimulate memory and motor skills as well as regular outings and celebrations of special occasions.

Activities

2015 saw the introduction of a number of new activities for PAG participants. Some of these activities included Indoor and Outdoor bocce, walking groups and gentle exercise to music. The highlight of activities for this year was the preparation of Memory Books for all PAG participants. Participants brought in photographs from their childhood and of their families and these photographs were compiled into a book which outlined the life of each participant. PAG staff, carers and participants worked collaboratively to gather information and assemble these wonderful books.

Dementia

With the growing number of Maltese people being diagnosed with dementia in Victoria, the MCCV PAG has begun to focus on more comprehensive staff training in Dementia care, specific activities which assist people with dementia and creating an appropriate environment for Dementia sufferers.

Liaison with other organisation which provide dementia specific care were contacted and invited to join the MCCV PAG group for lunch. This exercise provided an opportunity for MCCV staff to share information and learn from Dementia staff as well as observe how a dementia specific PAGs operate.

Care Planning, Assessment and Reporting

In March 2015, the PAG Coordinator developed a new assessment, care planning and review tool in order to continue to apply ASM principles and also to prepare for the transition to CHSP and ensure MCCV PAG adheres the new guidelines.

All Planned Activity participants had their care plans reviewed and assessment information updated. This involved discussing each participants goals for PAG as well as focussing on what the participants strengths were so that appropriate care and activities could be implemented in future planning.

The Coordinators reporting requirements for the Department of Health in 2015 included, Quarterly submissions of MDS data which outlined statistics of attendance, HACC fees report, Risk Attestation and an audited Financial Accountability report. The Coordinator also submitted monthly PAG reports for the Executive and Community Services Committees.

Apart from the abovementioned reports, the Department of Health required 2 additional reports be prepared by September 2015.

These were a Diversity Plan and an Active Service Model implementation plan. Both reports required the coordinator to outline extensive planning initiatives for the next 12 months based upon needs of the Aging Maltese Community. These needs were identified through analysis of demographic data of the Maltese Community in the Northern and Western LGA's of Melbourne. Other needs were identified through referral numbers and Minimum Data Set statistics of current PAG participants. These plans will serve as the foundation of planning for the entire PAG program in the coming 12 months.

Training

Staff received training in 2015 by attending a number of accredited competency based training sessions delivered through HACC training calendar at Chisolm Institute and other external organisations. Some of the areas of learning included:

- **Active Service Model Approach To Planned Activity Groups (PAG Pathways – A Guide to Implement an ASM Approach to PAGs)** which provided staff with knowledge and practical learning about the everyday operation of a PAG program, assessment, review processes, activity organisation and caring for participant's individual needs.
- **Provide Support for People Living With Dementia.** This unit outlined the knowledge and skills required by staff to support participants with dementia in order to maintain their independence with activities of daily living. It covered areas such as environmental considerations, types of dementia and their symptoms, communication processes and supporting clients with appropriate activities.
- **First Aid.** All staff and some volunteers attended an onsite training session which covered all aspects of first aid and defibrillator use.
- **Palliative Care.** The ECCV and Palliative Care Australia presented a day training session at the Maltese Community Centre. This session covered all aspects of Palliative care including resources, eligibility and care options.

- **Regular In-house Training.** During monthly staff meetings, the coordinator presented a number of information sessions as part of in-house training. These included infection control, Active Service Model principles, Confidentiality and a number of other topics.

Partnerships and Promotion of MCCV PAG

During 2015 the Coordinator formed a number of partnerships with mainstream and ethno specific organisation with the view to increase the number of referrals to the program and share culturally appropriate information with other service providers.

This was done through attending Social Support Alliance meetings, liaising with providers face to face or through telephone and email and sending out brochures, letters and PAG vacancies to a number of Health Care Services and Allied Health providers.

Promotion of the program has proved successful as a number of new referrals have been received by the PAG program from the providers which were contacted. Strong ongoing partnerships continue with organisations such as Annecto, Baptcare, Alzheimers Australia Vic, Isis Primary Care and Western Health.

Staff

The PAG Support Workers continue to perform outstanding work in all areas of the PAG program. Their dedication and duty of care is exceptional and they are always prepared to do little extras in order to ensure that participants feel safe, happy and are kept busy doing activities. They display enthusiasm in suggesting and trying new activities with the participants and are always willing to assist each other with any situation which may arise.

Maree Rizzo

Coordinator Planned Activity Group, MCCV

Maltese Community Centre

During the past 12 months substantial maintenance works were carried out to upgrade the Maltese Community Centre premises.

Works commenced with roof maintenance as the roof was leaking in many spots, particularly in the kitchen, foyer and the main hall. This was followed with internal maintenance works. The male and female toilets stripped completely and refurbished from scratch. This extensive refurbishment was expensive and took some 8 weeks to complete, causing some inconvenience to the people using the premises at the time. The works were completed to every one's satisfaction.

The next project consisted of the replacement of all the panels on the ceilings throughout the building. In the process, some electrical wiring was replaced. This work took just over a week to complete.

We then proceeded to undertake the mural work in the main hall, which was a massive task to plan and execute. It took us some 8 months to complete. We had the good fortune to be introduced to artist Peter Toyne for the mural's design. The artwork was initially done in water colours. It was then digitally refined and enhanced by computer with the insertion of all the PMS colours and prepared for reproduction and enlargement to suit the 36 double glazed window sections across the hall. It took great team work to install the mural and to keep it away from the many inquisitive eyes pending its official launch.

I take this opportunity to thank Peter Toyne for his very professional approach in his design and delivery of the project. Naturally I am also forever grateful to Tony Stafrace and Hank Bos, Directors of Axxess Glass Products, and their crew, for without their great help, support and enthusiasm I doubt very much whether this project would have ever become a reality. The technique used on this project was the first of its kind in Australia. The project required technical precision and was flawlessly executed. This Fr. Stanley Tomlin Mural, as it now officially known, has transformed and given a new character to the main hall of the Maltese Centre.

Other maintenance work included the enclosure created by a brick wall and a door to keep cleaning materials stored under the back staircase of the centre. We are grateful to Joe Camilleri for this work.

The last project related to the outside paving in front of the main entrance to the centre as the uneven pavers were becoming a hazard for our elderly to walk on. It was necessary to pull up the pavers, repave the whole area, and install bollards to prevent cars from parking on it. I would like to thank those associations that made donations towards this project, namely, Newport Maltese Association Inc, Tripoli Social Club and Maltese La Vallette Association Inc, (Vic).

This year we received some \$32,000 in grants from the State Government for which we are very grateful. However, the total cost for the maintenance works done so far is close to \$200,000.

While I would like to say we are done for a while, maintenance work never really ends. There is always more work to be done. In fact, we are currently looking at installing colour bonding on the fascia of the building. This work needs to be

carried out soon in order to preserve and prevent the further deterioration of the timber fascia. It is estimated that it will cost about \$14,000.

The running and maintenance of the Centre does not come cheap. The continuing help of our affiliated Associations will be required to ensure that the premises are kept in good condition to continue to serve the Maltese community for many years to come.

I must not fail to thank Freddie Asciak and Joe Azzopardi, who are forever volunteering their time fixing and doing things around the MCCV premises.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who came up to us and showed appreciation for what we are doing. It's an ongoing task but hopefully not as costly as it has been in recent times.

Joseph Stafrace
Vice President, MCCV

Maltese Language Classes

Twenty-two students enrolled for semester 2 of 2014. In Semester 1 of 2015 thirty-six registered for classes. This was one of the biggest intake of students.

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 run by the MCCV in the 2014-2015 year.



The publications by Charles Daniel Saliba titled *Maltese for Foreigners* trialled in the first Semester of 2014 classes are still being used as part of the class and student self-study. The books proved to be popular with the students, as they were more compatible with their plans in the use of the Maltese language. The books and CD are now part of the textbooks and syllabus for the teaching of Maltese at the MCCV. The interstate schools of the MCC NSW and Mackay are also using these books.

The new publications *More words in Maltese* and *Further words & expressions in Maltese* have been purchased for the time being as resources for teachers. A new publication called *The English-Maltese Dictionary for the 21st century* has greatly assisted in bilingual expressions translation.



Students were also encouraged to use their electronic tablets to practice the Maltese Language using Maltese apps to assist them in their home studies. The CD which accompanies the textbooks is also recommended.



and we have been successful for funding for 2015-2016. The grant approved is for \$2,500.

In 2013-2014 the school applied and was successful in obtaining a grant from the Department of Premier and Cabinet as Support for New & Existing Community Language Schools. The MCCV Maltese Language Classes have again applied for funding this year

The current MCCV tutors are: Laura Schembri, Edwidge Borg, Alexandra Scibberras and Danica Micallef (emergency).

Edwidge Borg

Coordinator MCCV – Maltese Language Classes

Public Relations

Anti-Gambling Educational Campaign

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria along with other ethnic community organisations in Victoria were invited to participate in a project led by HealthWest looking at ways to assist our communities in reducing gambling frequency. The concern arises from statistical data showing a constant yearly increase in the amount of money being spent on gambling in particular by multicultural groups.

The MCCV is using health literacy, financial literacy and empowerment to support groups to make their own decisions about gambling and to assist community leaders in bringing about a sustainable change in their communities.

The key objectives of the project are to:

- Raise awareness in our community regarding the cost of gambling losses on electronic gaming machines (EGM) within our community,
- Work with other multicultural key communities to survey social groups attending gaming venues as a recreational activity,
- Co-design with group leaders, develop responses unique to our community in order to reduce gambling as a social and recreational activity,
- Build expertise within leaders of our community to take sustainable actions around gambling within their groups,
- Encourage use of venues other than those with pokie machines for group outings, and
- Undertake information programs to empower communities to make informed decisions about whether to gamble or not.

The input and participation of our community leaders is very important to help bring about sustainable changes within the Maltese community relating to responsible gambling. The MCCV support group was led by Victor Borg, Joe Stafrace and Andrew Gatt, who are available to assist and support in any way possible in achieving the desired outcome for our community.

MCCV Newsletter

Six editions of the MCCV newsletter *MCCV News* were published during the past year. The newsletter was circulated by email to over 1,000 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, which is maintained by MCCV Vice President, Edwin Borg-Manché, continues to be well received both in Australia and overseas. During the past 12 months our website had about 46,000 visitors from around the world who viewed the website and made a total of 400,000 visits. This equates to about double the number of visitors in the previous year.

Andrew Gatt

Public Relations Officer, MCCV

Maltese Living Abroad

Over one hundred Maltese living overseas participated in the 4th Convention of Maltese Living Abroad organised by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and held in Malta between 20th and 23rd April 2015. The participants hailed from various parts of the globe including Australia, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, France, Italy, Luxembourg, UK and USA. About half of the overseas participants originated from Australia.

Fourth Convention of Maltese Living Abroad in Malta

The MCCV was represented at the Convention by Professor Maurice Cauchi, Immediate Past President, and Mrs Edwina Mallia, MCCV Secretary. Due to work commitments, MCCV Vice President Dr Edwin Borg-Manché was unable to attend the convention.

Various topics of interest were discussed in plenary sessions and at workshops on specific topics and many suggestions were put forward aimed at highlighting issues that in the participants' view require attention to ensure that the relationship between the Malta government and the Maltese diaspora continues to improve and mature.

The Convention for Maltese Living Abroad opened on Monday 20 April with a mass celebrated by Gozo Bishop Mons Mario Grech at the Russian Chapel in San Anton Palace on Monday afternoon. This was followed by a welcome reception at the palace grounds, hosted by the President of Malta H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca.

In her address, Ms Coleiro Preca said that the delegates' presence was a clear evidence of how the Maltese managed to succeed wherever they may be. She said that while Maltese people have ended up living in every corner of the globe, they remained united by culture and by common values.

She insisted that Malta and the Maltese diaspora could contribute to each other's benefit, and pledged that the Presidency would remain close to Maltese people living overseas. "You are a part of us, and we want to help you foster your Maltese identity. Malta still needs you," she said.



The President said that any Maltese people living overseas who may wish to contribute to Malta could do so in various ways, including through the President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society and the Malta Community Chest Fund, which will itself be transformed into a foundation in the near future. She said that she was proud to be the President of every Maltese person, including those living overseas, and encouraged the diaspora to continue to give visibility to their country of origin. Mrs Coleiro Preca also augured that the Maltese living abroad would continue visiting Malta, stating that they will always find people ready to welcome them on their arrival.

Arts Exhibition

Later in the evening the Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Government Dr Owen Bonnici (pictured below, on the left) inaugurated the Diaspora Arts Exhibition with the theme of Beyond Malta—Works by Maltese Artists Living Abroad at Heritage Malta's exhibition venue in the Auberge d'Italie building in Valletta. A number of Maltese artists living abroad took part in this exhibition.

This exhibition presented works in varied styles and art forms which describe the broad connections between Malta and Maltese artists living abroad. Whilst some continue to be inspired by Maltese heritage, society and traditions, others choose not to. Some were chosen from a selection of works proposed by the artist. Others were proposed by the artist directly.

The exhibition was arranged with the support of Heritage Malta and the Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government.

Official Opening

The official opening of the Convention took place on Tuesday 21 April at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, near St Elmo in Valletta. Prime Minister Dr Joseph Muscat said the convention should not serve as nostalgia for the past, but rather a vision for the future.

He said that migration today has changed. In the past, it was a one way ticket, whereas today, some Maltese emigrate more than once or decide to return home after a few years.

He urged representatives of different entities across the world to unite, adding that convergence allows for better management of resources.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr George Vella said that the event serves as a focal point for Maltese living at all ends of the world to share their aspirations, concerns and ideas. This consultation process will allow for assistance projects to be planned and implemented.

The Council for Maltese Living Abroad, launched in 2012, keeps tabs on the standards of those living abroad, allowing for collaboration between them and authorities in their home of origin.

Dr Vella said that the government is doing its utmost to ensure that capabilities of those living abroad are used to the fullest. Maltese living abroad can serve as a powerful advert for Malta, triggering tourism and investment. He added that one can't forget the 700 Maltese missionaries spread across the world, who are putting their lives in danger for the safety of others.

Leader of the Opposition Dr Simon Busuttil said that every Maltese family living abroad serves as an embassy for all that is Maltese. Authorities should assist elderly citizens living abroad to communicate using their national language. For the past ten years, the Council for the Maltese Language has strived to protect the national language, and citizens living abroad do their utmost to promote the language.

Dr Busuttil said that the acquiring of Maltese passport has today become highly liberal who have the best interest for their country of origin. There are still however difficulties that some face, and these need to be sorted out. Between 2004 and 2020, Malta would have benefitted €2.5 billion of funds from the European Union and these allow for infrastructural as well as cultural projects. Maltese living abroad should also benefit from such funds, he said.

Migrants who died at sea remembered

A minute of silence was held in memory of those who lost their lives at sea at about the time of the Convention.

"It is shocking to witness so many deaths, to the point that it has almost made us immune to hearing such news. We must attack the criminal network and we must do our utmost to prevent more lives from being lost at sea," Dr Busuttil said.

"It is quite ironic that we are celebrating Maltese migration history at the same time of such tragedies. We should not only engage in humanitarian projects to save lives, but we need to attack the criminal racket, which is allowing traffickers to make anything between €1 and €5 million for one trip," Dr Muscat said.

The topics covered at the convention were: Maltese Community Abroad – Current and Future; Youth Issues; The CMLA and Maltese Living Abroad; Communication with members of the Diaspora; Identity, Culture and Language Maintenance; and The Writer Abroad.

Writers' Symposium

A literary symposium for Maltese writers living abroad was held in the evening on 22 April at the Valletta Campus of the University of Malta. The symposium consisted of three parts: Translocated Writing, Diasporic Writing and a round-table discussion. The writers who participated included Karl Schembri, Mark Vella, Alex Vella Gera, Josephine Burden, Lou Drofenik, Aline P'nine Tayar and Annamaria Weldon.

Papers presented at the Convention

MCCV Immediate Past President Professor Maurice Cauchi, MCCV Vice President Dr Edwin Borg-Manché and MCCV Secretary Mrs Edwina Mallia, submitted papers that were presented at the Convention.

Professor Maurice Cauchi presented two papers. The first paper titled *The second generation: Who are they?* covered the result of a survey of the second generation of Maltese-Australians that he conducted on behalf of the MCCV. The survey findings indicate that there is still a relatively strong interest within the second generation in relation to keeping in touch with what is happening in Malta, through the use of one or other means of communication, most frequently through electronic means.

Professor Cauchi's second paper titled *Life after retirement – analysis of a survey* presents the results of a survey conducted of persons with Maltese-sounding names were randomly contacted by telephone and asked if they would like to take part in this survey. In his conclusion, Prof Cauchi states: "It must be regretted that studies of this nature have been rare. Unless such studies are done, it is impossible to gauge the needs of our citizens living abroad. It is the policy of governments overseas to wean settlers from overseas away from ethno-specific services, and encourage them to use generic services within the community. This makes sense as a cost-cutting measure, but, as they say, a leopard doesn't lose its spots as it grows older, and neither do Maltese lose their culture with advancing age. It is much more likely that they lose the use of English, and become more and more dependent on their original Maltese language."

Dr Edwin Borg-Manché co-authored a paper on *New horizons for a digitally-enabled engagement of the Maltese diaspora* with Alexander Borg, Manager of the MITA Innovation Hub at SmartCity Malta, who presented it at the Convention. The paper explores new horizons that exploit innovative means of digital communication to enrich the government-diaspora relationship and facilitate the participation of the Maltese living abroad in the "political, social, economic and cultural life of Malta" as envisaged by Section 20A of the Constitution of Malta. The paper considers elements of the Digital Malta – National Digital Strategy 2014–2020 (of which Alexander Borg was a co-author) that are relevant to Maltese individuals, communities and entrepreneurs living abroad and identifies potential opportunities to benefit from them through the intelligent and universal use of digital technology.

Mrs Edwina Mallia's paper titled *The ongoing quest to engage Maltese-Australian youth in Victoria with their Maltese identity continues* provides a brief historical account of the various youth groups and initiatives to encourage the participation of the younger generations of Maltese-Australians in the State of Victoria. The paper concludes that "It is our experience that youth committees are not easy to establish and keep going. However, if a kernel of enthusiastic young people can be brought together and supported by established organisations, then there is hope that they will succeed and flourish. Establishing such groups is crucial for the maintenance of Maltese culture within the community."

Re-appointment on Council for Maltese Living Abroad

In September 2015 MCCV Immediate Past President, Prof Maurice Cauchi, and MCCV Vice President, Edwin Borg-Manché, were re-appointed as members of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad for a second and final term of 3 years.

Edwin Borg-Manché
Vice President, MCCV

MCCV Library

This year more work was carried out in the MCCV library regarding the cataloguing of books and introducing a simpler system to locate books on the shelves.

Firstly, the work of cataloguing has continued. This is based on two systems. The basic Dewey Decimal system introduced in the library several years ago by Mr Brian Zammit has continued to be used as the basic system. This is an international system for libraries and has been applied to our library as well.

Secondly, a simpler system has been introduced whereby each book is also classified by its shelf location. This system is meant to be more user-friendly and allows all books about the same topic to be put together and easily located by anyone browsing through the shelves.

This year also there has been a considerable addition in the number of books in the library. In the first instance a number of books have been bought, relating to various topics, including history, Maltese language, Melitensia, as well as several recently published book relating to fiction or poetry. This helps to keep the library up to date with recent literature. We thank the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Malta for facilitating the transport of several boxes of books.

In addition we have this year received a very large consignment of books that belonged to the late Dr Joe Abela. These relate to a vast range of topics, including Maltese language, poetry, philosophy, history, religious books, children's books etc. Our thanks go to Mrs Carol Abela for sending us all Dr Abela's library to enrich the MCCV library.

While the library is getting bigger and more comprehensive, it is a pity to note the lack of use made of it by the Maltese public. We suggest that every effort should be made to encourage Maltese to make a habit of reading more about Malta and in the Maltese language. The range of books available should interest many Maltese.

We also require more volunteers to help man the library to keep it open at more convenient hours during the week.

We would like to thank all those who have helped in one way or another in maintaining the library.

Charles Belli
(Prof) Maurice Cauchi
Library Co-ordinators

Youth Group

Generation AusMalts (GAM)

Following on from its activities and successes in 2014, GAM continued to work with the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc. and other Maltese counterparts to promote the Maltese culture amongst youth through its growing Facebook page and Maltese themed events.

This year's events included those from both a cooking and cultural nature including the very successful The Art of Pastizzi Making classes, the Darrin Zammit Lupi 'Islanders' Exhibition Dinner and the Melbourne Maltese Community Premiere of Simshar the film.

The Art of *Pastizzi* Making Classes

GAM was fortunate to be able to partner with Catholic Regional College Sydenham Campus and the school's Hospitality Trainer – Peter Haber, to run eight Pastizzi Making classes in June and July. Using the school's commercial kitchen facilities, 170 people, children through to adults, were all able to learn the art of how to make one of Malta's most well known and loved foods. The class also saw a number of non Maltese participants from other descents including people from Anglo Australian, Macedonian, Italian, New Zealand and Vietnamese backgrounds.

Classes were sold out in three days with an additional two classes being added. The feedback received across the board post the classes was extremely positive, with all in attendance advising they enjoyed the class led under Peter's excellent tuition thoroughly. Currently, GAM has a waiting list of 200 plus names, for those wanting to attend the next lot of classes released, along with requests from interstate Australian–Maltese wanting the classes to be held in their respective states including NSW, South Australia and Queensland.

Darrin Zammit Lupi 'Islanders' Exhibition – Up Close & Personal Dinner

In wanting to branch out and organise more events with a different theme, GAM worked with Maltese Consul General Victor Grech for Victoria and his office, along with the support of the Maltese Language Teacher's Association (MLTAV), to organise an up close and personal dinner with Times of Malta and Reuters Photographer – Darrin Zammit Lupi, as part of the official launch of his 'Islanders' Exhibition at the Ballarat Mining Exchange on Saturday, 12th September.

Part of the 2015 Ballarat International Foto Biennale, GAM wanted to support the work of Australian–Maltese photographer Mark Avellino, one of the official organisers of the festival, responsible for organising Darrin's involvement in the exhibition, assist in promoting Darrin's work within the Maltese community and provide an intimate opportunity to hear from Darrin further about his work with refugees and asylum seekers coming to Malta. The dinner was attended by 30 participants and provided a real insight into a topical issue that has not only affected Malta and Europe, but Australia and the rest of the world.

***Simshar* the film – Maltese Community Premiere in Melbourne**

Led by the Maltese Teachers' Association of Victoria (MLTAV), GAM co-sponsored and worked with the MLTAV to assist with organising the official Maltese Community Premiere of *Simshar* the film in Melbourne, at the Cinema Nova in Carlton. Also co-sponsored and supported by Nisġa, the event was a huge success and was attended by 200 people. Tickets to the premiere were sold out within seven days and included a Q&A session with the film's Writer and Director Rebecca Cremona post the film, a complimentary beverage and packet of Maltese *Twisties* for people to enjoy during the film. The film was a great success with further audiences attending to watch the film during additional screenings held at various independent cinemas from October 1st, over a two week period.

GAM Facebook

GAM's Facebook page has been steadily growing, currently with 1,463 followers increasing by over 400 followers this year. The page continues to be a source of information for those who follow the page, with engagement, conversation and sharing growing rapidly, and has become a good resource for people asking questions and sourcing the information they need about many things to with the Australian–Maltese Community, its people, businesses and events.

As always, GAM will continue to work within the Maltese–Australian community to continue promoting the culture and encouraging youth, and further generations to remain engaged with their Maltese heritage.

Rita Catania

Generation AusMalts (GAM)

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.

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc (MCCV) Ladies Auxiliary's (LA) main aim is to support the MCCV which provides welfare services to the Maltese Community at large.

The Ladies Auxiliary's main function is to hold Bingo sessions every Tuesday morning. They commence on the first Tuesday in February and finish 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 a regular basis, every week. 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. The Ladies Auxiliary also provides refreshment for the Children's Christmas Party for both the children and adults. This function is organized by the MCCV. Both functions are well received and enjoyed by everyone.

Lina Dingli joined the Ladies Auxiliary committee in February 2015.

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

Committee members

The Ladies Auxiliary Committee consists of:

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

Marlene Xerri
President

Appendix A – Community Highlights 2014-15

Sunday 13 December 2014

40th Anniversary of Malta Republic celebrated in Melbourne

On Sunday 13 December the Maltese community in Melbourne celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the declaration of the Republic of Malta with a dinner dance held at the Maltese Centre in Parkville. Guests in attendance included the Consul General for Malta in Victoria, Mr Victor Grech and his wife Mrs Patricia Grech, Vice Consul for Malta in the La Trobe Valley Mr Mario Sammut, former MCCV President Prof Maurice Cauchi.



MCCV President Victor Borg welcomed the guests and spoke briefly of the events 40 years ago that involved the then Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff, who, with the consent of some members of the opposition party then led by Dr George Borg Olivier, passed the necessary amendments to the Constitution enabling Malta to be declared a republic. This resulted in a Maltese person becoming Head of State and elected President by the House of Representatives. Malta continued to be a member of the British Commonwealth.

Mr Borg also spoke of the progress that Malta has achieved since becoming a republic. He referred to Malta's adoption of a policy of neutrality and joining the European Union in 2004. He also spoke about significant advances in the field of health, financial services and education.

In his address the Consul General Mr Victor Grech thanked those present for joining in to "share the feelings of national sentiment in a sign of respect to a small island nation which has always contributed peace and prosperity in a concrete manner."

Sunday 13 December 2014

Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation

On Saturday 13 December 2014 at the function held at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Malta's Republic Day, MCCV President Victor Borg presented Certificates of Appreciation to four distinguished persons who made a significant contribution to the Maltese community.

PROF MAURICE CAUCHI

Mr Borg presented the first certificate and a gift to the outgoing MCCV president Professor Maurice Cauchi for his inspired leadership and direction of his MCCV presidency. Prof Cauchi served as president for a total period of fourteen years including the past two consecutive terms of two years each.

Over the years Prof Cauchi has made a significant contribution to the Maltese community and given it a high profile. He has written and published several books on health, migration and various aspects of Maltese community and culture. He also researched and published a book on the history of the MCCV titled *Under One Umbrella*.



Prof Cauchi has represented the MCCV on various committees both in Australia and overseas. His current membership of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad and his past presidency of the Federation of Maltese Living Abroad are an indication of his commitment and involvement. He has also maintained a regular contribution to Maltese newspapers, particularly in relation to issues affecting Maltese living overseas.

For some years Prof Cauchi was president of the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria with the responsibility of being spokesperson for Victorian residents born overseas. For many years he has organised and directed the library at the Maltese Community Centre, which contains the largest collection of books and other publications about Malta, its history, culture and literature outside Malta. Prof Cauchi continues to maintain his presence at initiatives of the MCCV and to serve the Maltese community in Victoria and overseas.

MR GEJTU DEGUARA

Mr Borg presented a Certificate of Appreciation and a gift to outgoing MCCV Vice President Mr Gejtu Deguara, the former president of St Gaetan's Society Inc, an MCCV-affiliated association.

For many years Mr Deguara was responsible for the maintenance of the community centre and has played a major role in activities organised at the centre throughout his 16 years of office. It is due to his efforts that the centre has been maintained to a high level.



MRS JOSEPHINE ZAMMIT CORDINA

Mrs Josephine Zammit Cordina, who recently celebrated 50 years in broadcasting and TV presentations in Malta, was also honoured at the function. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to her *in absentia* and given to MCCV Welfare Director Mrs Rosemary Attard on her behalf.

Mrs Zammit Cordina has visited Australia on many occasions. Her popular programs, *Waltzing Matilda* on TV and *Boomerang* on radio, kept the Maltese in Malta fully informed of Maltese community life and activities in Australia. Her efforts are highly appreciated by the Maltese in Australia.



MR VICTOR AQUILINA

The MCCV decided that Mr Victor Aquilina, a well-known broadcaster in Malta, deserves to be publicly recognised for his efforts in Victoria. A Certificate of Appreciation was also presented to him on the evening.

Mr Aquilina had completed a number of extensive courses with the BBC and produced many programs both for television and radio. Since his arrival in Melbourne in 1982, he was appointed the head of Maltese broadcasting group on SBS Radio, then known as Radio 3EA.



Sunday 3 May 2015

Unveiling of vibrant, flowing mural depicting Malta transforms community centre hall

On Sunday 3 May 2015 the Victorian Minister for Finance and Multicultural Affairs, the Hon Robin Scott, unveiled the new mural installed in the hall of the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville at a cocktail reception organised by the MCCV.

A large audience filled the hall eagerly looking forward to the moment of the unveiling of the mural. When the Minister led the unveiling, it was met with loud applause and expressions of awe for a work of art that aptly reminded all of our beloved Malta.

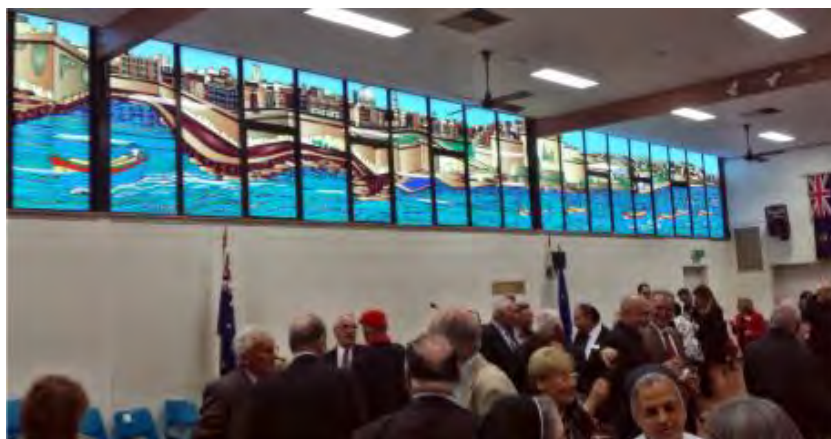
The vibrancy and flow of the mural scene immediately transformed the hall into an apparently

larger space of natural light and colour. The mural is part of a larger program of refurbishment of the Maltese Centre that the MCCV has been undertaking.

Speaking about the mural before it was unveiled, Mr Scott said that he believed that the mural was inspired by the breathtaking coastline and architecture of Malta. He said that there was one other thing about Malta that he knew: "Malta has an old and proud history going back centuries right back to the Phoenicians. However, it is a place not just of culture and history but also a place of natural beauty. The mural pays tribute to those aspects," he said. He expressed his wish to visit Malta one day.

At the same event, Minister Robin Scott also launched the Maltese Cultural and Resource Directory 2015 just published by the MCCV to promote cultural awareness of the Maltese community and provide information specifically targeted towards the Maltese aged residing in aged care facilities.

On behalf of the Victorian government Mr Scott said that he wanted to place on the record his deep respect and thanks for the Maltese community and for the contribution they made to both Victoria and the creation of the multicultural society.



Mr Borg invited the Minister to unveil the mural to the delight and applause of those present. Fr Edwin Agius mssp and Fr Denis Carabott mssp led the audience through a prayer for the occasion and Fr Agius then blessed the mural with holy water.

Mr Borg then presented Minister Scott (picture on the right) with a vase produced in Malta by Mdina Glass as a memento of the occasion. Mr Borg said that he hoped that the gift will have a pride of place in his home and a constant reminder of the close relationship with the Maltese community.

MCCV Vice President Mr Joseph Stafrace, who was the driving force being the mural project, thanked those people without whom the project would not have been possible. He thanked directors Mr Tony Stafrace and Mr Hank Bos, Mr Ben Stafrace, all of Axxess Glass, and the artist Mr Peter Toyne. He



said that he was grateful for his contribution at no cost to the community. Mr Stafrace then presented Mr Toyne with a Certificate of Appreciation (picture on the left).

In his reply Mr Toyne said that his brief for the mural was to produce something that was not just evocative of Malta, but it also had to be colourful and have lots of movement. He spoke about the three story lines that inspired the mural design. The central story of the mural represents his artistic view of Valletta as a magical, romantic place and he hoped that it captured the feeling of Valletta. The second story is of the Mediterranean Sea that surrounds the island of Malta, which has a strong and ongoing relationship with the sea. The third story relates to emigration and, if migrants left by sea, they would have passed by the point of Fort St Elmo depicted in the mural at the entrance to the Grand Harbour.



From Left: Mrs Sammut, Mr Mario Sammut, Mr Paul Borg, Mrs Pauline Borg, Mr Peter Toyne, Mr Joseph Borg, Mr Andrew Gatt, Mrs Rita Pullicino, Mr Victor Borg, Minister Robin Scott, Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, Mrs Edwina Mallia,

Tuesday 8th, Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th September 2015

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.

On Tuesday, 8 September, a Mass was celebrated by Fr Edwin Agius, mssp, in the St. Paul's Chapel, next to the Maltese Centre, Parkville. This was attended by around 100 members of the Maltese Community. Readers were Phyllis Vella and Paul Vella. A special CD was organised with hymns for the occasion. The Homily was delivered by Fr Edwin Agius who incidentally lost his brother the day before. Reskeon committee and members offer their condolences. 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 Saturday, 12 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 President of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Mr Victor Borg; MCCV Vice-President Mr Edwin Borg Manch , MCCV Treasurer Mr Paul Borg and Mrs Pauline Borg, Honorary Life Members of Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group Inc., Dr Clemente Zammit and Mrs Mary Zammit, Life Member of Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group Inc., Mr Caesar Vella and Mrs Phyllis Vella.

Also present were the PRO of MCCV, Mr Andrew Gatt and Mrs Annie Gatt. Mr Victor Borg invited with him Mr Leone Sciberras, who is blind and his carer Ms Lilibeth Cachia, from Malta Guide Dogs, who were in Melbourne for some training and meetings. Apologies for being unable to attend were received by the Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Victor Grech and Mrs Patricia Grech and Fr Edwin Agius, MSSP.

Music was in the hands of DJ King Charlie who catered for the music enjoyed by young and old and kept everyone on the dance floor all night. MC for the night was Joe Cutajar. After he welcomed all those present and thanked President, Salvina Vella, who single-handedly organised the dinner dance, he invited everyone to be upstanding for the singing of the Maltese and Australian National Anthems.

Later in the night the Malta Gozo Concert Band, under the direction of Ms Tanya Schembri, 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 Sunday, 13 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.

Among those present were the Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Victor Grech; the President of MCCV, Mr Victor Borg; 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 2.30 pm by Mr Emmanuel Farrugia. This was followed by a Concelebrated Mass. Prime Celebrant was Fr Edwin Agius, mssp, Rector at Parkville (who incidentally lost his brother in Canada the day before. Reskeon committee and members offer their condolences),. Concelebrating were Fr John Taliana, mssp; Fr Emmanuel Adami, mssp; Fr Lonnie Borg, mssp; Can. Fr. Mannie Bonello (Parish Priest of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, North Reservoir; and Fr Karm Borg. 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.

The Sacrificial Offerings were brought to the Altar by Mr Joe Borg and Mrs Borg; Salvina Vella and Paul Vella, President and Secretary of Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group Inc. respectively.

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 Seniors Group for organising the Feast on their behalf. Thanks went to Fr Anthony Bernal, Parish Priest of St. Mary Star of the Sea. Thanks went to the statue bearers, foricinas and the Malta Gozo Concert Band.

The Procession took place in the streets around the church and this 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.

Salvina Vella and Paul Vella

Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group Inc.

Sunday, 20 September 2015

Il-Grupp Letteratura Maltija jippreżenta Programm Muziko-Lettararju

Nhar il-Ħadd, 20 ta' Settembru 2015, il-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria organizzat Programm Muziko-Lettararju, fiċ-Ċentru Malti ta' Parkville, fis-2 pm. Madwar 50 mill-Komunità Maltija attendew.

Il-programm beda bil-kant tal-Innu Malti u dak Awstraljan. Wara dan, is-Segretarja, Rosemary Attard, tat merħba lil dawk preżenti u ntroduċiet lill-President, Dr Victor Sammut, li dan minn naħa tiegħu sellem lil dawk preżenti u tkellem fuq il-Grupp tagħna, l-attivitajiet ta' matul is-sena u affarijiet li għaw fl-istess żmien. Huwa qal lil dawk preżenti li l-Grupp jiltaqa' darba kull xahar fil-Boardroom taċ-Ċentru Malti fejn il-membri jaqraw proża u poeżija, kemm tagħhom jew ta' awturi oħra. Semma wkoll li darba fis-sena jkollna BBQ għall-membri għand il-ħbieb tagħna Frank u Draga Bonett. Dr Sammut hegġeg lil dawk preżenti biex isiru membri tal-Grupp.

Imbagħad beda l-programm ta' qari u kien imiss lill-istess Dr Victor Sammut fejn qralna żewġ poeżiji li kiteb huwa stess: "Erbat ijiem l-isptar" u "Talba għall-paċi f'dinja mħawda". Rosemary Attard għazlet li taqra żewġ poeżiji tal-mibki u qatt minsi l-membri tagħna, Laurie Armato: "Il-Gawwiya z-zoppa" u "Ta' widnejh kbar". Imbagħad kien imiss lil Paul Vella li qralna n-novella li kiteb huwa stess: "Pietru u l-ħabiba" fejn wara, Ray Anastasi qralna żewġ poeżiji tiegħu stess: "Qasmuli qalbi" u "Dejjem insallbuk, dejjem taħfrilna".

Wara kien wasal il-ħin għall-ewwel intervent mużikali. Il-Grupp magħmul minn Manuel Casha u Joe Gauci fuq il-kitarri, Alfred Xuereb fuq is-synthesizer u Joe Camilleri fuq il-percussion, tawna erba' siltiet mużikali, kemm Maltin u oħrajn.



Hawn kellna waqfien ta' nofsiegħa fejn dawk prezenti kellhom iċ-ċans li jieħdu kikkra te jew kafè, gallettini u kejkijiet, eċċ.

Marie-Louise Anastasi qrat il-poeżija tagħha: "Le qatt ma ninsew" u poeżija tal-poetessa Maltija, Mary Grace Caruana, "Sabieħa l-poeżija". "X'taħwid għandna fi żmienna" hija kitba ta' Ġużi Camilleri li qraha huwa stess. Hawn kellna intervent mużikali ieħor.

Frank Bonett huwa membru tagħna li dejjem ifaħħar lill-fundatur tal-Grupp tagħna, Dr Ġużè Abela li dejjem kien iheggu biex jikteb il-Malti. Din id-darba Frank għażilna żewġ poeżiji ta' Dr Abela: "Ejja hdejja" u "Carol mhix id-dar". Wieħed mill-membri godda tagħna huwa John Muscat. John qralna żewġ poeżiji li kiteb huwa stess: "Art twelidi" u "Il-ħmura". Nazzarene Żerafa huwa membru tagħna li joqgħod fi Brisbane, Queensland. Kull sena jibagħtilna xi xogħol tiegħu u din id-darba baġat poeżija jisimha "Kull par għal paru" li nqrat mill-membri tagħna Rose Lofaro.

Wara intervent mużikali ieħor, kien imiss lil Manwel Cassar li qralna żewġ poeżiji tiegħu: "Tidwija" u "Azzjoni". Żewġ poeżiji ta' Manuel Casha: "Hemm ngħix jien" u "Madwar il-mejda" inqaw minnu stess. Il-membri tagħna, George Portelli, għazel biex jaqralna poeżija sabieħa tal-Professur Oliver Friggieri: "Solitudni". Dr Clemente Zammit qralna proża tiegħu: "Id-Duqqajns". L-aħħar qari tal-programm sar minn Michael Xuereb li qralna x-xogħol tiegħu: "Il-ġenituri" u "Musbieħ inemnem".

Il-programm spiċċa b'aktar mużika mill-Grupp. Fl-aħħar kulhadd gie mistieden biex imur fil-foyer taċ-Ċentru fejn kien hemm te jew kafe, pastizzi, pies u sausage rolls, kejkiet eċċ.

Grazzi lil dawk li organizzaw dan il-programm u lil dawk li ppreparaw u ħadmu fil-kċina, Salvina Vella u Doris Sammut.

Paul Vella, PRO

Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria

Monday, 21 September 2015

Maltese community in Melbourne celebrates Malta's Independence Day

On 21 September 2015 the MCCV held a reception at the Maltese community centre in Parkville to celebrate the 51st anniversary of Malta's Independence. The Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Victor Grech, was the special guest at the event, which was attended by a large number of Maltese community members.



Among those present were Fr Edwin Agius mssp, Rector at Parkville; Fr Lonnie Borg mssp, who had recently arrived from the Philippines to serve in Melbourne; Sr Doris Falzon OP, Administrator of Rosary Home aged care facility, which is run by the Dominican Sisters of Malta; members of the MCCV Executive Committee, and Presidents and committee members of Maltese associations affiliated to the MCCV.

Following the playing of the Maltese and Australian national anthems, Mr George Saliba, MC for the evening, introduced MCCV President Mr Victor Borg to address the audience. Mr Borg welcomed those present to the celebration of 51 years of Malta's independence.

"It is often said that the history of Malta is very exciting, gripping and you can really get value from reading history books to find out how many nations and foreign powers had dominated the island over the centuries," said Mr Borg.

He referred to the tragic parts of Malta's history in which the powers of the time who arrived in Malta and took a fancy to it, just took it over. He said that he often wondered how much suffering the local community in Malta went through over the centuries, not to mention how many inhabitants were taken as slaves to row on the ships of the foreign power.

Mr Borg said that, while we celebrate Malta's independence that was obtained in 1964, we need to remember that, for many centuries before, the Maltese were subjected to foreign dominations. He then briefly went through the list of foreign powers who had ruled over Malta over the centuries.

He spoke about the role that Malta played in the two world wars last century, becoming known as "the nurse of the Mediterranean" for the provision of hospital and medical services it provided to the wounded service personnel who served in the theatres of war. Malta also played a critical part during the Second World War. Several of those in the audience had themselves served in that war.

The Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Victor Grech, then gave his address. He congratulated and thanked those present for their attendance at the special event organised by the MCCV to celebrate Malta's Independence Day.

Mr Grech spoke about the period of British Rule which significantly influenced the Maltese economic, social and cultural life. Despite becoming independent in 1964, Malta has continued to maintain a strong relationship with Britain. The British highly respected the Maltese for their bravery, especially during the Second World War, particularly between 1940 and 1942 during the Siege of Malta, had led King George VI to award the George Cross to the Maltese people in 1943.

In terms of population shift, during the ten difficult years preceding independence, about 35,000 people emigrated to Australia. Due mainly to emigration flows from

Malta, the population of Malta fell by about seven percent or about 21,000 people in the ten years immediately after independence. The population, however, grew by 50% or over 100,000 in the last 40 years.

Mr Grech said that the post-independence years brought much progress to the Maltese islands, initially through the development of the tourism industry.

He said that we celebrate Malta's Independence Day not just as an important milestone in Malta's history but also as a celebration of the values of Maltese society – our strong family ties and the sense of solidarity and beliefs. These values are also implanted in the Maltese migrants who continued to embrace the same values and beliefs.

Over the years the Maltese migrants were successful in all spheres of life, including business and the professions. Despite leaving Malta, they have remained still in love with Malta and highly value Maltese culture. This is found not only among those born in Malta but also among their descendants born overseas who are proud of their Maltese heritage. This can also be considered as an economic resource both in the short and long term.

Mr Grech said that Independence Day is celebrated not as a point of arrival but as a point of departure, when Malta turned a new page in its history from a long history of colonisation.

Since independence, Malta has become an economic success story, from a fortress economy that depended crucially on the UK military budget, Malta's economic structure was transformed into a much diversified and a fairly independent set of industries. The Maltese labour market was also affected by a transformation in the role of women in society. Raised education levels combined with changing social norms resulted in an increase in the level of participation of women in the labour market.

Mr Grech said the transformation of the Maltese economy since independence make us feel proud that successive governments in Malta have made a treasure out of its independence and built a truly strong and bright future for its future generations. We are grateful for all the political figures who contributed over all these years to this success.

Mr Grech said that the role of the State has also changed dramatically, although as in other open and small economies, it continues to play a relatively more active economic function.

Mr Grech finally spoke about the events that will be hosted in Malta in November relating to the EU-African Summit on the refugee migration and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). These two meetings will bring together many nations of the world from the EU, Africa and the Commonwealth, which consists of 53 member States jointly representing 2.2 billion people.

Fr Edwin Agius mssp then addressed the gathering. He spoke about the reference to St Paul's shipwreck in Malta referred to in Chapter 28 of the Acts of the Apostles in the Bible. St Luke reported that they learned that the island was Malta. So unlike many countries, Malta got a mention in the Bible.

Fr Agius said that when St Paul came to Malta he gave us the greatest gift – the gift of the faith. He came providentially and from the time of his arrival, there was a big change in the history of Malta. While the Maltese were religious before St Paul's arrival as the old neolithic temples show, St Paul gave Malta the Christian faith that the Maltese still cherish to this day. Today there are over 365 churches in Malta. This means that one can go to a different church every day of the year.

Fr Agius paid tribute to the many religious leaders who made a positive contribution to the history of Malta.

Monday, 21 September 2015

MCCV Community Awards 2015

The second part of proceedings at the reception for the 51st Anniversary of Malta's Independence consisted of the presentation of the MCCV Community Awards 2015. The Awards were presented to the successful nominees, namely:

- **Mr George Aquilina** for his contribution to Culture
- **Mr Alfred Bonello** for his contribution to the Community
- **Mrs Frances Bonnici** for her contribution to Education
- **Mrs Rita Catania** for her contribution to Youth
- **Mr Gejtu Deguara** for his contribution to the Community
- **Mrs Mary Dingli** for her contribution to Welfare Services
- **Mr Reno Grima** for his contribution to the Community
- **Mr Eddie Micallef** for his contribution to the Community



Consul General Victor Grech presents award to Mr Eddie Micallef (left) and to Mrs Frances Bonnici (right)



Consul General Victor Grech presents award to Alfred Bonello (left) and to Mr Michael Catania (right) who received it on behalf of his wife Rita, who was unable to attend.



Consul General Victor Grech presents award to Mr Gejtu Deguara (left) and to Mr Reno Grima (right)



Consul General Victor Grech presents award to Mr George Aquilina (left) and to Mrs Mary Dingli (right)

[Photos: Paul Vella]

Appendix B – Maltese Historical Association

The Maltese Historical Association has had a very active and productive year. The committee elected at the last AGM has remained the same, namely:

- President: Joseph Borg
- Vice-President: George Portelli
- Secretary: Charles Gatt
- Treasurer: Mario Bonnici
- Other members: Charles Portelli and Lewis Zammit

A BBQ for members and friends that was organised by Joseph Borg for last Christmas was cancelled due to lack of interest. However, the rest of the activities for the year were well attended.

The major focus of this year's lectures was about the Great Siege of Malta since it is 450 years since the event took place. Lectures presented were as follows:

February:	Dr Albert Farrugia	"Elections in Malta between 1947 and 2013".
March:	Prof Maurice Cauchi	"Malta through its monuments"
April:	Mr Mario Bonnici	"WW1 – Malta and the Anzacs"
May:	Mr Joseph Borg	"The events that led to the Great Siege 1565"
June:	Mr Joseph Borg	"The Great Siege from a different perspective"
July:	Book Launch	Frank Scicluna: Malta the Nurse of the Mediterranean
August:	Prof Maurice Cauchi	"People who made History – Sir Themis Zammit"
September:	Mr Robert Blythe	The Great Siege – The Aftermath"
Proposed lecture for October:		Mr Mario Bonnici "WW2 – Video"
AGM will be held in November		

A fun night of Maltese Trivia and History will be the last function for the year.

On behalf of the MHA I want to thank the committee for their help and support throughout the year, especially Charles Gatt for his work in producing the Newsletter, Charles Portelli for his technical support with overhead and mic systems and Mario for keeping the books in order. I want to also thank our speakers – without them we will not exist. I also want to thank our members and friends who attend our discussions – they also help to keep us going.

Lastly I want to thank the MCCV for making the hall available to us.

We also miss those who have passed away during the year, especially Mr Emanuel Spiteri who was a member of the association since its inception.

Joseph Borg
President MHA

Appendix C – MCCV Committees and Memberships

(* Denotes Chairperson or joint Chairpersons)

Centre Management – MCCV Executive Committee

*Victor Borg (President); Joseph Stafrace (Vice President); Dr Edwin Borg-Manché (Vice President); Edwina Mallia (Secretary); Paul Borg (Treasurer); Rosemary Attard (Welfare Director); Andrew Gatt (PRO); Marilyn Pace (Social Secretary); Antonia Camilleri (Assistant Secretary); Rita Pullicino (Assistant Treasurer); Fr Edwin Agius MSSP (Chaplain)

Education

Edwidge Borg; Laura Schembri; Alexandra Scibberras, Danica Micallef (emergency)

Library

Professor Maurice Cauchi, Guy Deguara; Charles Belli

Administration

Edwina Mallia – MCCV Secretary
Carmen Mamo – Administrative Assistant

Maintenance

Joseph Stafrace

Ladies Auxiliary

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

MCCV Welfare Staff

Rosemary Attard (Executive Member) – Welfare Director; Maree Rizzo – Planned Activity Group Coordinator; Victor Borg – Convenor of Community Services & Improvement Committee (Welfare)

Planned Activity Groups (HACC) Staff

Mary Boland; Margaret Mallia; Carmen Mamo; Rose Nuner; Theresa Tabone; Victor Vella

HealthWest Partnership (Reducing gambling frequency with CALD communities)

Joseph Stafrace; Andrew Gatt

Bingo Committee

George Brimmer; Guy Deguara; Horace Dalli; Joe Sammut; Charlie Borg; Mary Deguara; Matilda Borg, Maurice Spiteri, Arthur Galea

MEMBERSHIP & COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria: Mr Eddie Micallef

Radio 3ZZZ Members of Maltese Broadcasting group: Mr Victor Borg and Ms Edwina Mallia

Radio 3ZZZ Board Member: Mr Victor Borg

Executive Committees

Finance
Corporate Management
Community Services and Improvement
Risk Management
Human Resources

Appendix D – Liaison and Outreach Activities

Government Departments

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

Hospitals

Royal Melbourne Hospital
St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne
Western Hospital Footscray
Western Hospital Sunshine
Williamstown Hospital

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
Guidedogs Victoria
Health Research Centre
HealthWest
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

Aged Care Facilities & Hospitals / Organisations

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

Appendix E – Affiliated Associations

Association

Australian Nadur Association Inc
 Bacchus Marsh Good Friday Association Inc
 Ex-Members of the Malta Police Force Ass.
 Hadfield Golden Years Social Club Inc
 Klabb Għannejja Maltin Inc
 Lalor United Bocci Club
 Malta Star of the Sea House Inc
 Maltese Association Hobsons Bay Inc
 Maltese Association Northern Suburbs
 Maltese Australian Association
 Maltese Australian Community Centre & Social Club
 Latrobe Valley Inc
 Maltese Cultural Association of Vic Inc.
 Maltese Historical Association of Australia
 Maltese La Vallette Association
 Maltese Literature Group
 Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society Inc
 Maltese Performing Arts
 Maltese Senior Citizens Club Airport West Inc
 Maltese Social Bowls Club of Victoria
 Maltese Ex Services Association of Victoria
 Melita Social Club Inc
 Moreland Malt. Elderly Citizens Assoc
 Newport Maltese Association Inc
 Newport Maltese Association Seniors Group
 Our Lady of Grace Association
 Portarlington Maltese Pensioners Assoc Inc
 Reskeon Maltese Assoc and Reskeon Seniors Group Inc
 St Bernadette Seniors & Social Club
 St Gaetan's Society Inc
 St Helena Maltese-Australian Social Club
 St Paul's South Eastern Suburbs Ass Inc
 St Sebastian Association Inc
 Stella Maris Maltese Association
 Sunshine George Cross Soccer Club
 Tarxien Social Club Inc
 Tripoli Social Club
 Western Suburbs Maltese Association Inc

President

Mr Tony Sultana
 Mr Lewis Strafrace
 Mr Vince Calleja
 Mrs Rita Saliba
 Mr George Aquilina
 Mr David Ellul
 Mr Raymond Cini
 Chev Joseph Attard
 Mr Lewis Debono
 Mr Benedict Soler

 Mr John Buhagiar
 Mrs Sandra Grech
 Mr Joseph Borg
 Mrs Carmen Camilleri
 Dr Victor Sammut
 Mr Carmel Vassallo
 Mr Ray Anastasi
 Mr Alfred Sammut
 Mr Gregory Grima
 Mr Emmanuel Spiteri
 Mr Edwin Bonello
 Mr John Pace
 Mr George Saliba
 Mr George Saliba
 Mr Joseph Cutajar
 Mr Charles Attard
 Mrs Salvina Vella
 Mr Alfred Zahra
 Mr Jimmy Chircop
 Mr Victor Bartolo
 Fr Noel Bianco
 Mr Raymond Gatt
 Mr Charlie Xerri
 Mr Jamie Chetcuti
 Mrs Lina Mizzi
 Mr Romeo Cini
 Mr Vince Aquilina

Appendix F – Ethnic Radio Stations

Stations Broadcasting Programs in Maltese

Name & Address	Contact Details	Program Time
SBS Radio	Mr Joe Axiaq	SBS Radio 2
PO Box 294	Executive Producer	Friday 12.00 pm – 1.00 pm
Sth Melb 3205	Ph: 9949 2244	Saturday 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm
	Fax: 9949 2385	
BROADCASTER:	Joe Axiaq	
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Radio 3ZZZ	Mr Lewis Stafrace	Monday 5.00pm – 6.00pm
PO Box 1106	Maltese Programs Convenor	Friday 5.00pm – 6.00pm
Collingwood 3066	Ph: 9415 1928	Saturday 10.00am – 11.00am
	Fax: 9415 1818	Last Wednesday of each month: 1.00pm – 2.00pm
BROADCASTERS:	Lewis Stafrace; Emmanuel Brincat; Mario Sammut; Paul Vella	
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Stereo 97.4	Mr Ray Anastasi	Wednesday and Thursday
PO Box 217	Co-ordinator	6.00pm – 8.00pm
Sunshine 3020	Ph: 9318 0930	
	Studios: 9318 0444	
	Fax: 9318 0866	
BROADCASTERS:	Mary Louise Anastasi, Ray Anastasi, Carmen Zammit; Carmen Portelli; Michelle Galea; Joe Farrugia	
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97.9 FM	Mrs Miriam Vella	Tuesday 6.00pm – 8.00pm
PO Box 979	Broadcaster	
Melton 3337	Ph: 9747 8500	
	Fax: 9747 0405	
BROADCASTERS:	Miriam Vella and Robert Vella	
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98.9 North West FM	Mr Emmanuel Brincat	Friday 6.00pm – 7.00pm
PO Box 403	Producer/Presenter	
Glenroy 3046	Ph: 9304 1244	
	Fax: 9304 1468	
BROADCASTER:	Emmanuel Brincat	