



## 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, former MCCV Vice President Mr Gejtu Deguara, and Mr Victor Aquilina and Mrs Rosalie Aquilina, and members of the MCCV Executive Committee.

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

Above, MCCV President Victor Borg welcoming guests with (from left) Fr Edwin Agius mssp, MCCV Vice President Joe Stafrace, DJ Mario Sammut and Consul General Victor Grech.

[Photo: George Brimmer]

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."

Mr Grech referred to the 50th anniversary of independence when Malta's destiny was to abandon her role as an island bastion in the power struggles of the Mediterranean. The first and second generation of Maltese that migrated to Australia remember very clearly the developments that have taken place in Malta over the last half a century.

Mr Grech said that the Malta Independence Constitution of 1964 established Malta as a Constitutional monarchy, but in 1974 the Constitution was modified to the effect that Malta became a Republic with the President of Malta as Head of State.

"Today, we are commemorating this important milestone of Maltese political

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## President's Perspective

# Mario Azzopardi's distorted view of Melbourne's Maltese-Australians

In a recently published book, *Kitarri, Tombli u Teatrin* Mario Azzopardi comments on the ways that Maltese in Australia (Maltese-Australian or 'Maltawstraljani' as he calls them) amuse themselves. In so far that he limits himself to this topic, the author tries to give a picture of how Maltese who came to Australia in the 1950s and 60s tend to while away their spare time.

The author describes the various venues where guitar playing still plays a part in the life of the average Maltese. He compares life in Australia with that in Malta, and emphasises that in Australia entertainment is very much centred around the family and friends, with barbeques, *festi*, etc.

He takes a considerable degree of effort to point out that, in the past when, a generation ago, people like Albert Marshall and Vince Pulo were involved, particularly with *Harmonics 65*, there was a considerable degree of interest particularly in the performing arts. The author keeps harking back to what it was like at that time when Maltese settlers were still young and full of energy.

The author keeps harping on the idea that Maltese in Australia have not developed since they came from Malta and have failed to open their minds and appreciate developments in the fields of the theatre or get involved in other intellectual pursuits. He remarks that many Maltese in Australia simply attended plays and preferred farces to more serious drama.

More serious criticism is reserved for the absence of any attempt at producing modern literature in Maltese. This is true in that there have been no locally grown novelists writing in Maltese, and the many poets that have been very productive have preferred to stick to a nostalgic approach with little attempt to tackle more varied and challenging topics. He quotes Alfred Cachia, a member of the group, as saying that the Maltese Literature Group has become a "Dead Poets' Society".

One major failing of this work is that the author never defines what precisely he means by 'Maltese-Australians'. One gets the impression that he is referring to those who came from Malta 50-60 years ago, and keeps complaining that these people haven't changed and are living in a ghetto, starved of all intellectual activity. He obtained most of his information from interviewing Maltese who attend bingo sessions or play billiards or other suchlike activities. He does not seem to realise that these cohorts of individuals represent only one-fifth of the total number of persons who consider themselves Maltese-Australians. The vast majority of 'Maltese-Australians' today are born in Australia and are completely integrated within the Australian community. The author of this book tells us nothing about these – they do not attend clubs and bingo, and therefore have been completely excluded.

Another flaw in this book is that the author seems to have limited his interviewees to those born in Malta, and therefore represent the culture in Malta that existed half a century ago (i.e., the first generation). He also compares them with the average Maltese living in Malta today. It would have made much more sense to compare the first generation Maltese-Australians, who were mainly manual labourers from villages in Malta and Gozo, with those of the same age from the same geographical areas. Would he have found any major differences there? Are these Maltese attending theatre, writing modern poetry and keeping up

with the main stream of European culture as the author seems to think?

We all know that Maltese language is quickly disappearing amongst Maltese-Australian, being spoken mainly by the first generation Maltese. From the [survey of the second generation](#) conducted recently by Prof Maurice Cauchi there seems to be still a considerable degree of interest in Maltese culture among these younger Maltese Australians – who now form the vast majority of Maltese-Australians: there are now four times as many Maltese-Australian born in Australia as in the first generation (born in Malta).

What interests the MCCV particularly are the negative and unjustified comments that the author reserves when referring to the Council, comments he highlighted in an interview that he later had with SBS Maltese program broadcast recently. It is, therefore, relevant to summarise some of the MCCV achievements and involvement with the maintenance of Maltese culture, particularly in view of the fact that the author did not bother to discuss these issues with any member of the MCCV Executive Committee (he refers to a vice-president of another association which he confuses with the MCCV!):

- Regarding Maltese language maintenance, the MCCV has been holding Maltese language classes at the Maltese Centre in Parkville for the last 30 years. They are still being held every week. Last year the MCCV spent \$10,000 to maintain this program. If it wasn't for the MCCV's considerable effort to put 8 students at the VCE examination, the magic number of 15 students sitting this exam (required to ensure the continued accreditation of the Maltese language as a VCE subject) would not have been reached. This would have meant that our younger generation would in future have lost the option of choosing Maltese as a VCE subject enabling them obtain valuable extra points towards entry into tertiary education courses. The author makes no reference to this critical ongoing activity of the MCCV in the area of language maintenance.
- The Maltese Historical Association, which is affiliated with the MCCV, was set up in the 1980s by a former president of the MCCV, following an intensive weekend course in the History of Malta (also organised by another ex-President). It continues to provide monthly talks on all aspects of Maltese culture. The author did not even bother to mention the work of this Association in his book. We understand that Mr Azzopardi was invited to give a talk to the MHA on any aspects of culture in Malta, but apparently, he never bothered even to respond.
- The Library at the Centre in Parkville has been built over the years and now contains a couple of thousand books about history, culture, language, etc. It is undoubtedly the largest Maltese library outside Malta. It is an important source of material relating to Maltese history and other aspects of Maltese culture. We understand that the author spent quite a considerable time in this library, making use of the facilities provided by the MCCV, but not one mention of this library was made in this book.

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## President's Perspective (cont. from page 2)

- The author quite rightly makes mention of the annual activities at the Shrine of Remembrance. He however omits to mention the functions to commemorate the George Cross Award with an annual ceremony at the Maltese Centre in Parkville, largely through the activity of the Maltese Ex-Services Association of Victoria – another association which is affiliated with the MCCV.
- In relation to the Maltese Literature Group, about which the author, who is a respected poet himself, had nothing but disdain, one must remember that the MCCV was also involved over a period of time with this association. Collections of poetry books have been published and musico-literary evenings are held annually at the Maltese Centre in Parkville.
- While the author mentions the work of Manwel Casha, he does not really give sufficient credit to the pivotal role that he has played in resuscitating this form of folk music. The MCCV has always encouraged this expert and his team by inviting them to perform at the Centre on special occasions. The MCCV has also been involved in writing a comprehensive introduction to the book being prepared for publication by Casha.
- The Maltese Cultural Festival, which originally used to last a couple of weeks, and more recently restricted to a weekend, was used to showcase Maltese arts and crafts, not only at the Maltese Centre but also in more public places like Melbourne's City Square or House of Parliament with the aim of encouraging Maltese as well as non-Maltese to get a glimpse at what can be produced by Maltese.
- The Maltese language program on SBS Radio is one of the most important links that Maltese have with the home country. When there was a very real threat that the SBS radio time would be significantly curtailed, it was the MCCV who organised a major petition to object to this in the strongest possible terms and succeeded in considerably reducing the impact of the proposed savage cuts to the Maltese language program. No reference is made to this in the book.
- The author regrets the fact that there are no attempts by poets to become more modern in their approach to writing. He doesn't seem to be aware of the relatively enormous output of novels produced by Maltese-Australians (often with a background reflecting Maltese way of life). The MCCV has always been supportive of these publications and has on a number of occasions launched these books at the Maltese Centre in Parkville. A recent review of these authors was published by Prof Cauchi, until recently MCCV president, in a number of articles published in *The Sunday Times of Malta*.
- Also along this vein, the author seems to be unaware of the list of publications which have been published by the MCCV on the contribution of Maltese migrants to various aspects of life (including cultural) in Australia. These include:

<i>Maltese Migrants in Australia</i>	1990
<i>Maltese Achievers in Australia</i>	2006
<i>Under One Umbrella</i>	2009

The MCCV was the only Maltese organisation who thought it crucial to have the seminal book '*Malta and the Maltese: A study in Nineteenth Century Migration*' by Charles A. Price, which had been out of print for several years, to be reprinted and made available for scholars of the subject.

In addition, the MCCV has published a number of reports relating to various aspects of life including *Maltese Background Youth*, the latest being a *Survey of the Second Generation*. Other publications relating to various aspects of life in Australia, including culture maintenance have been published by members of the Executive of the MCCV

- The MCCV has set up a Fund, the Bishop Joe Grech Fund which has now reached a figure of \$40,000, to enable the reward of annual scholarships to young persons of Maltese-background to visit Malta to ensure that they familiarise themselves with Maltese culture.

It is a great pity that this author seems to have spent his research time talking to a selected and very eclectic number of Maltese who seem to have a limited view of life in Australia. He made no attempt to have an unbiased discussion with the younger generation, which these days form the majority by far of Maltese-Australians. If he had done so, he would have formed a very different view of cultural activity, and would not have concluded that Maltese-Australians do not care about modern cultural trends, do not attend cultural activities in Melbourne and Sydney, and seem to be stuck in a rut.

Unfortunately, the majority of Maltese-Australians do not belong to Maltese associations, do not attend bingo, do not listen to *ghana*, do not go to Maltese-organised *teatrin*, but they have a very full and active cultural life. A considerable proportion of them even keep in touch with what is happening in Malta through the means of internet, which allows them to read the daily Maltese newspapers. The author's criticism of Maltese-Australians failing to open their minds and appreciate developments in the fields of the theatre or get involved in other intellectual pursuits is simply not based on fact and highly insulting.

One gets the impression that the author created a straw man and then proceeded to destroy it. If he had studied the situation a bit more deeply, if he even bothered to talk to members of the MCCV Executive Committee at least to verify his conclusions about the MCCV, something which he amazingly did not bother to do, if he had widened his net and talked to more representative members of the Maltese community, and not restricted himself to selectively interviewing only some persons with whom he was familiar – the most obvious way of ensuring an unbalanced view of the situation – then he would possibly not have written that "at the Maltese Centre in Parkville, in Victoria, there does not seem to have a cultural product on its agenda" (*our translation*).

**Victor Borg**  
MCCV President

## MCCV News

The MCCV News is published by the Maltese Community Council of Victoria every two months to inform the Maltese community about activities, news and information that would be of interest.

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

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## 40th Anniversary of Malta Republic celebrated in Melbourne

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history, the day when the Maltese Parliament enacted important changes to the Constitution and on that same day, Malta was declared a Republic within the Commonwealth. It was the 13 December 1974, when Sir Anthony Mamo who was by then serving as Governor-General, was nominated as the first President of the Republic of Malta. I remember it was a cold and windy day of winter. Since 1974, Malta had nine different Presidents and two Acting Presidents.” he said.

“What changes took place on Republic day? It meant that the supreme power of the State remained within the citizens (who are entitled to vote) and is exercised by the representatives chosen directly or indirectly by them. The power of the country is effectively within the hands of the people. The Head of State of Malta was no longer a monarch. Sir Anthony Mamo, in his new role of President of the Republic, became the guardian of the Maltese Constitution, the highest law of the country. The President is also regarded as the figure of national unity with the political responsibility to speak in the name of all the community,” said Mr Grech.

“As an Island Republic, the Maltese people have gained more and more confidence and self-esteem and the country’s institutions were now all under Maltese leadership.

“From 1964 to 1974 and beyond, Malta has been through a period of industrialization, urbanization and modernization. As the years passed by, Tourism has become a pillar of the economy and later on the Manufacturing sector grew and developed at a fast pace,” said Mr Grech.

The Consul General spoke about how the country developed its infrastructure, services and standard of living. Today, Malta’s GDP (Gross Domestic Product) is 25% generated by the industrial sector and 74% services. The period of development was also reflected in the population growth and the effect of such a growth on the Maltese society. The population increased from 300,000 in 1964 to 420,000 who live today on the Maltese Islands. The increase meant also a significant demand for additional services, including the need to cater for the elderly especially those who could no longer be met by the family alone.



Photo: George Brimmer

Mr Grech said that Malta’s historical membership in the European Union meant a structural change in the country’s administration and its capacity, which had a direct influence on the socio-economic dimension. It meant new tough challenges and opportunities for Malta especially for the younger generations.

He referred to the increased awareness of the Australian/Maltese younger generation of these opportunities. They are, in fact, tapping the resource of employment contracts and professions in Europe as well. This is evident from the increasing numbers of Maltese Citizenship Certificates and the Maltese Passports issued. Malta’s GDP is in the 14th place out of 28 countries of the EU or the best GDP out of the Group of ten Nations which joined the EU together with Malta in 2004.

Mr Grech recognised that the Maltese-Australians are also a resource to the Maltese islands by contributing to the economy when they visit their homeland and many of them have also returned and settled back. It is remarkable to note that the Maltese community in Australia has treasured the Maltese traditions especially with the annual religious commemorations of the patron saints and the Maltese cuisine, said Mr Grech.

Mr Grech acknowledged that the MCCV has been a point of reference for a number of Maltese Associations in Victoria. The various sub-committees of the MCCV merit support and active participation by all the Maltese community, especially the younger generation. The promotion of the Maltese

language is fundamental to retain the Maltese identity in Australia. This is a struggle which includes the responsibility of the older generations who need to push and encourage the young Maltese to follow in their footsteps.

Mr Grech encouraged the participation of the Maltese community when the annual commemorations of the Award of the George Cross and the Santa Maria Convoy take place at Parkville and at the Shelter of Peace near the Shrine of Remembrance. These are important events in the Maltese history. The Maltese-Australian community must feel proud and privileged to have two monuments which are meant to preserve Malta as an island of peace.

In closing Mr Grech referred to the Victoria Multicultural Commission’s policies and financial assistance that have been a significant contribution to the preservation of the Maltese culture and heritage in Australia. Indeed, it has been acknowledged by the representatives across political spectrum in the State of Victoria that the Maltese community has been and is still regarded as an asset to the socio-economic development of the State.

MCCV Vice President Mr Joseph Stafrace was responsible for organising the function which was a great success. He was duly assisted by a number of volunteers, who made sure that the function was enjoyed by all those who attended. Mario Sammut kindly volunteered his services as disk jockey for the evening. ●

# Contributions to Maltese community recognised

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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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. ●

Photos from top: Presentations to Prof Maurice Cauchi, Mr Gejtu Deguara, Mrs Rosemary Attard on behalf of Mrs Josephine Zammit Cordina and (right) Mr Victor Aquilina.

[photos: George Brimmer]





## MCCV Council News

There are a number of challenges ahead for the MCCV over the next 12 months.

**Refurbishment of the Maltese Centre at Parkville.** Council premises at Parkville are undergoing substantial refurbishment. These include replacement of a large section of the roof and all ceiling tiles and the double glazing of windows in the main hall. Council was fortunate to obtain a grant from the Victorian Multicultural Commission for one half of the cost of these works. The toilet block is presently in a state of part demolition. It is expected that these works will be completed by the end of January 2015.

**Aged Care Services.** Council will continue to give priority to our aged care services. Our community is ageing at a fast rate and many services previously provided by family members are no longer possible. The Federal and State Governments have provided grant funding to the Council to enable it to provide a number of services. The Home Visitation Scheme will be expanded and volunteers will be sought to assist in this project.

**Youth engagement.** Youth of Maltese background are being encouraged to be engaged in Council activities. Ms Rita Catania has organised special cooking sessions from the Maltese Centre and with her group of volunteers has maintained a presence on the social pages including Facebook.

**MCCV newsletter.** MCCV Vice President and PRO Dr Edwin Borg-Manché has continued to produce Council's bi-monthly newsletter, which is circulated widely to our community members in Australia, Maltese living in Malta and overseas as well as politicians in Australia and Malta. Contributions are regularly sought for publication of articles in the newsletter.

**MCCV Social Calendar.** The Council's Social Committee is hard at work to organise social functions and activities for 2015. Consideration is being given to organising group travel overseas and cruises to places of interest. Council has held regular bingo and social functions of Friday evenings. It is keen to attract more people with the provision of evening meals and other forms of entertainment. The new MCCV Executive Committee is determined that all activities, including the celebration of Independence Day (21 September) and Republic Day (13 December) be celebrated annually. The facilities available at Parkville are available for community use and Council expects that many more associations will make use of the hall. ●

## A Christmas Message from the Bishop of Gozo THE LAMPLIGHTER

*My dear fellow countrymen living in Australia!*

Our life is a mixture of lights and shades. Those who do not succumb to the temptation to lock themselves in an ivory tower or in sacristies, but choose to walk in the street, will soon realise that there is around us a fascinating view, but there are also scenes of terrible suffering – among us and in us there is an urge to treasure and enhance the good we experience, but there is also bad trouble that can force down a man to his knees.

In this social context, we must not get discouraged. As the French thinker Emmanuel Mounier wrote, "discouragement and fear of the future are, in themselves, already forms of sickness. Acceptance or refusal of hope means that one is accepting or refusing to be human". Therefore, we must exhibit all that strengthens our hope, even if we know that sometimes what we can rely on gives us only limited hopes. There is a lot of good around us, especially in youths, and when we discover it, it may turn out to be a positive energy. We should not waste a single matchstick that we can strike to dispel darkness.

We remind those whose taper of hope is dying or perhaps is already dead that today the Catholic community is entering the period of Advent – a period that may give us hope. I am not surprised that not everybody knows that the Advent is a school where mankind is stimulated to increase his hope. I am not referring to the cheap hope that we buy from shop windows or commercial establishments; but Advent leads us to meet Jesus Christ and thus helps us come face to face with the hope of God, who never gives up on mankind (even if man himself does that) and also has the courage to always find new ways of communicating with us men. God continues to hope that when he knocks on our door, we would open for him to enter and stay with us, and be the *Ghimmanu-El*, "God with us". God knocks on every door. There is no single human situation that he would evade.

We need to ask a person who experienced suffering in order to get an idea of what his presence among us is worth. His presence instils in us the love, the sweetness, the goodness of God;



above all, it is a presence which, when we feel lonely, offers shelter and company. It is a presence that helps whoever has lost all hope to start finding sense in his life.

When God sent his Son in the world on the first Christmas, I imagine he sent among us the lamplighter, to make use of the title of a beautiful poem by Anton Buttigieg, the poet of nature. I imagine that we humans, without exception, have a heart that is not easily satisfied, because we are always in need of something. This "disquiet" or lack of peace of mind increases when we are pressed by problems of poor health, broken relationships, financial difficulties, moral or spiritual failure, and more. In hard moments like these, the Gozitan poet Anton Buttigieg does not lose hope, so he writes that "every evening, as with sunset the power of day ebbs and dies, there comes Majsi with his ladder and lights under the window a small lamp that lessens the sadness of night".

I do not know who Majsi was; but he surely resembles Christ who, when darkness overshadowed the heart of man, used the ladder, descended from heaven and lit below the window of each of us a small lamp that lessens the sadness of night. I have a great wish during this Christmas that you, who are reading this, will meet Majsi, the lamplighter... that you, like Christ, will also instil hope in others.

**+ Mario Grech**  
*Bishop of Gozo*

22 December 2014 ●



**H.E Mr Charles Muscat**  
Maltese High Commissioner in Australia



## Christmas Messages from the Maltese and Australian High Commissioners



**H.E. Ms Jane Lambert**  
Australian High Commissioner in Malta

It has been almost a year and a half since I have presented my credentials to His Excellency the Governor General of Australia. I have recently also presented my credentials to His Excellency the Governor General of New Zealand.

I feel that during this period I achieved quite a lot in so far as our relations with the Australian and New Zealand Governments and our Maltese-Australian community is concerned.

In the last twelve months, together with my staff, we gave our best to serve the large number of our Maltese Community and those who asked for our assistance through our High Commission and Consulate Offices, including also our Honorary Consuls.

One of my initiatives this year was to open the High Commission of Canberra to the community where we had local and several interstate visits of Maltese groups, including one group from Malta.

At the same time, as Head of Mission, I kept up the contacts and enhanced our diplomatic relations with the Australian and New Zealand officials. I also maintained my constant contacts with my colleagues in the diplomatic corps.

I have been in touch with many of our Maltese-Australians living in various states. This I have done by visiting some states and taking the initiative to speak to them when they call for assistance at the High Commission. I believe that this would further promote a sense belonging.

Because of the large number of Maltese origins living in this continent, I feel that besides my diplomatic duties, I am duty-bound to ensure that our Mission is also to promote and protect the welfare of the Maltese where possible.

My appeal to the leaders of the Maltese Community and to the community at large in this season of togetherness is to encourage solidarity, respect and understanding of each other. As Maltese, we are well known for our sense of togetherness.

On behalf of my wife, Victoria, and the Officers and Staff of the High Commission, Consulates and Honorary Consuls, I extend to you our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. We look forward to a better and prosperous 2015. ●

On behalf of all the team here at the Australian High Commission in Malta I would like to wish the Maltese community in Australia a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to working with the community during 2015, which will be an important year as it will mark the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli Campaign and Malta will host the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in November.

I hope you and your families have a safe and happy holiday.



F'isem it-team tal-Kummissjoni Għolja Awstraljana f'Malta, nixtieq lil-komunità Maltija f'Awstralja xewqat sbieħ għall-Milied u s-Sena t-tajba.

Ahna herqana biex naħdmu flimkien mal-komunità matul l-2015, li se tkun sena importanti għax se jtfakkar l-100 anniversarju tal-Kampanja ta' Gallipoli u Malta se tilqa' l-Kapijiet tal-Gvernijiet tal-Commonwealth għall-laqgħa li jmiss f'Novembru li gej.

Nispera il intom u l-familji tagħkom ikollkom festi ferħana u bla periklu. ●



## Messaġġ tal-Milied mill-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni Simon Busuttil

*Gheżieħ hutli Maltin li tgħixu barra minn Malta,*

F'dan iż-żmien tas-sena nirriflett fuq dak li għadda u nħarsu 'l quddiem lejn dak li ġej. Intom il-Maltin li tgħixu barra tghinuna nirriflett fuq Malta bħala parti minn dinja ferm akbar b'rabtiet ma' ħafna pajjiżi u ovvjament anki fuq ir-rabta b'saħħitha li għad għandna magħkom bħala Maltin hutna, ulied l-istess pajjiż, li tgħixu f'pajjiżi oħra bħall-Awstralja, l-Istati Uniti, il-Kanada, u anki aktar viċin f'pajjiżi oħra Ewropej.

F'din is-sena li qed tintemm fakkarna żewġ anniversarji ta' grajjet li sawruna bħala nazzjon żgħir imma kburi, nazzjon Ewropew. Iċċelebrajna l-hamsin sena tal-Indipendenza tagħna u l-għaxar snin tas-shubija tagħna fl-Unjoni Ewropea. Dawn huma żewġ grajjet li llum il-koll naqblu li kienu ferm importanti biex għamilna l-kisbiet li għamilna u biex illum wasalna fejn wasalna. Huma żewġ grajjet li l-Partit Nazzjonalista tant emmen fihom, li stinka għalihom u li kisibhom – għalina u għalikom.

Kif tafu, llum il-Partit Nazzjonalista huwa partit fl-Oppożizzjoni u bħala Kap tal-Partit jien qed nara li ż-żmien tagħna fl-Oppożizzjoni ma nehlux imma nuzawh sew. U hekk qed nagħmlu.

Matul din is-sena, il-Partit Nazzjonalista għadda minn numru ta' riformi biex jerga jissahha u biex jerga jirbaħ il-fiduċja tal-magħoranza tal-poplu Malti u Għawdx.

Wettaqna bidliet fl-organizzazzjoni tal-Partit, fil-policij tagħna u anki fil-media tagħna li



nuzaw biex inwasslu l-messaġġ tagħna. Dahhalna nies ġodda fil-Partit, kandidati ġodda u ergajna hrigna għand in-nies biex nerġghu inkunu viċin in-nies.

Konna wkoll Oppożizzjoni b'saħħitha għaliex biex ikollok demokrazija b'saħħitha għandek bżonn Oppożizzjoni b'saħħitha.

Per eżempju, pproponejna diversi liġijiet ġodda fil-Parlament – fil-fatt konna l-aktar Oppożizzjoni li preżentat liġijiet ġodda fil-Parlament mill-Indipendenza 'l hawn. Għamilna aktar. Tajna vuċi lin-nies meta hassejna li l-Gvern ma kienx qed jimxi sew. Per eżempju, meta qamet il-kwistjoni tal-bejgħ tal-passaporti konna aħna li bil-pressjoni tagħna wassalna biex din l-iskema tinbidel. Meta qamu kwistjonijiet oħra marbuta mal-aġir tal-Gvern konna aħna li tajna vuċi lin-nies meta hassew li l-affarijiet messhom saru aħjar.

Pero rridu wkoll insaħħu r-rabta tagħna magħkom għaliex jiena nemmen li pajjiżna

għadu tagħkom daqs kemm huwa tagħna. U l-fatt li tgħixu barra ma jneħhi xejn mis-sens ta' identita' u ta' kburija li l-koll inhossu meta ngħidu; aħna Maltin. Jiena kont inhoss dak is-sens meta kont ngħix barra għal disa' snin u mgħandix dubju li anki intom thossuh. Għaldaqstant jien nixtieq li intom thossu li l-Partit Nazzjonalista qiegħed hemm għalikom ukoll, biex jagħti vuċi lil-kom ukoll.

Kemm ili li sirt Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni diġa kelli okkażjoni nżur l-Awstralja u l-Istati Uniti għalkemm fuq żjarat qosra ferm. Għandi l-hsieb li nagħmel żjarat oħra u ftit itwal fl-Awstralja u l-Istati Uniti kif ukoll fil-Kanada. Fl-Ewropa, ovvjament, peress li aktar viċin, hemm kuntatt aktar regolari.

Permezz ta' dan il-kuntatt intom thossu li intom għadkom parti mill-familja Maltija anki jekk fiżikament qed tgħixu 'l bogħod minn xtutna, minn dawn il-gzejjer tagħna daqstant sbieħ. B'hekk intom ukoll tkunu kburi b'dan in-nazzjon tagħna u b'hekk intom ukoll, Maltin li tgħixu barra u li naf kemm thobbu lil Malta, tkunu kburi bl-omm li tatna isimha.

Nixtiqilkom, f'isem l-Oppożizzjoni u l-Partit Nazzjonalista, il-Milied it-tajjeb u sena ġdida mimlija risq.

Ara l-video tal-messaġġ fuq YouTube: <http://youtu.be/rXphByYJhCw> ●

## Ftit mid-drawwiet tal-Milied f'Malta

Meta tqabbilha ma' pajjiżi oħra Ewropej, Malta għadha tiċċelebra Milied Nisrani, minkejja li diversi drawwiet barranin dahlu ukoll. Għal ħafna anzjani, nies ta' mezza età u tfa' l-Milied għadu wieħed reliġjuż b'diversi attivitajiet reliġjużi organizzati fl-iskejjel u mis-Socjetà tal-MUSEUM. Mhux l-istess jista' jingħad għall-generazzjoni żagħżugħa għalkemm numru ta' żgħażaġħ imorru l-quddies ta' Nofs il-Lejl tal-Milied.

### Il-Purċissjoni tal-Bambin

Il-qaddis Malti, San Gorg Preca, stinka ħafna biex tinxter id-devozzjoni lejn il-misteru tal-Inkamazzjoni. Sa mill-1920 ha ħsieb li f'kull raħal u belt, lejlet il-Milied, tiġi organizzata "Dimostrazzjoni ad unur ta' Gesù Bambin", użanza li dahlet sew fost id-drawwiet sbieħ tal-Milied Malti. Ix-xewqa tiegħu kienet li għall-Milied kull tifel u tifla li kienu jattendu l-M.U.S.E.U.M. jieħdu magħhom id-dar, grotta b'Gesù Tarbija. Fl-1920, Dun Gorg kien għar lis-soċji tal-M.U.S.E.U.M. tal-Flamrun biex jaqsam magħhom xewqa li kellu: li ssir dimostrazzjoni bil-Bambin tal-Milied fejn it-tfal u s-soċji f'lejlet il-Milied johorġu mat-toroq tal-Flamrun jgħajtu l-aħbar li Gesù Bambin twieled għalina. Minn dakinhar, il-purċissjoni bil-Bambin kibret u xterdet ma' Malta u Għawdex u fl-artijiet l-oħra fejn hemm il-M.U.S.E.U.M.: l-Awstralja, il-Kenja, il-Perù, l-Inghilterra u l-Albanija.

### Presepi, grotti u bambini

L-eqdem presepiju f'Malta kien inħadem fil-kunvent tal-patrijiet Dumnikani fir-Rabat fl-1617. Fil-monasteru tas-sorijiet Benedittini fl-Imdina għadna nistgħu naraw presepiju li sar fl-1826. F'dan l-istess żmien inħadem l-

ewwel presepiju mekkanizzat f'Malta. Sar minn Antonio Muscat Fenech f'Hal Qormi, u kien jithaddem bit-taqir tal-ilma. L-istil tal-presepiju Malti origina mill-istil Sqalli iżda matul iż-żmien inbidel.

### Il-Priedka tat-Tifel

Din id-drawwa bdiet fis-seklu 19. Fl-1883 it-tfajjel, Gorg Sapianno, kien għamel il-priedka tal-Milied fil-knisja parrokkjali ta' Hal Luqa. Fl-imghoddi, it-tifel kien johroġ minn wara l-altar il-magħgur jew mis-sagristija akkumpanjat minn żewġ abbatini. Kien isellem is-sagrament u liċ-ċelebrant u wara jittla' fuq il-pulptu. L-abbatini ikollhom gandlier bix-xemgħa tixgħel. Meta jittla' fuq il-pulptu minn wara jittla' min għall-em il-priedka u joqgħod fuq it-tarag biex jekk dan it-tifel jinsa xi haġa jgħidilil fil-pront. Meta t-tifel jasal fuq il-pulptu jselem lil dawk preżenti u jibda bil-kliem b'Isien Latin. Dejjem l-istess frażi: Annuntio Vobis Gaudium Magnun, li tfisser 'Se nagħtikom aħbar ta' ferħ kbir.' Ix-xjuħ tal-lokalità kienu jkunu fuq ix-xwiek biex jisingħu din il-priedka. Anke l-familjari tat-tifel ikollhom ċertu herqa għal din il-priedka. Bħal dejjem in-nies preżenti mat-tmiem tal-priedka jkollhom kliem ta' tifhir bħal 'prosit', 'kemm kellu jistudja miskin!', 'Alla jbierek ftakar kollox', 'kemm kien heġu'.

### Ninni La Tibkix Iżjed

Il-Benniena ta' Gesù Bambin jew, kif inhi magħrufa, in-Ninni La Tibkix Iżjed, hija għanja mill-aktar



magħrufa fost il-Maltin. Inkbitet fl-1846 mill-patri Ġizwita Indri Schembri (xelluq). Meta kitibha, dal-patri minn Hal Luqa kien f'Algeri u kitibha għal dawk il-Maltin li kienu emigraw lejn Tuneż. Saret popolari mindu bdiet titkanta fil-purċissjonijiet tal-Milied. Ta' min jgħid li n-Ninni' anke nqalbet bit-Taljan u titkanta fl-Talja: "Ninni la tibkix iżjed, ninni Gesù Bambin / Hallih għalina l-biki, għax aħna midinbin."

### Ikel Tradizzjonali Malti tal-Milied

Għall-Milied, il-familji Maltin jingħabru u jippreparaw ikel ftit jew wisq differenti mis-soltu. Qabel, kien ikun hemm l-imqarrun il-forn, il-pastizzi u l-qassat u l-qagħaq tal-ghasel. Popolari kienu ukoll il-qastan, l-imbujuta (xarba magħmula mill-qastan), u l-ixkumvat (qisu spagetti moqli u miksi biz-zokkor). Illum l-iktar ikla popolari tal-Milied hija d-dundjan jew serduk il-forn u l-pudina tal-Milied.

Ix-xarba tal-imbujuta tista' tgħid li hi xarba Maltija. Din kienet l-aktar tiġi offruta wara l-quddies ta' nofs il-lejl, fejn il-familji kienu jirritornaw id-dar wara l-quddies u f'dak il-lejl ta' ksieħ kienu jissahħnu b'kikkra imbujuta. Il-kokkodina, il-qastan, l-imsiefer tal-qronfol, iz-zokk tal-kannella u l-qoxra tal-mandolina huma l-ingredjenti prinċipali. ●

## MHA Annual General Meeting Election of new committee

The Annual General Meeting of the Maltese Historical Association was held on Tuesday 18 November 2014 at the Maltese Community Centre, 477 Royal Parade, Parkville.

The AGM was well attended. After receiving a number of apologies, Charles Gatt, the Secretary, read the minutes of the last AGM and SGM. Joseph Borg then presented the President's Annual Report, followed by Mario Bonnici, the Association's Treasurer, presenting the Financial Report.



The 2015 committee was then elected and comprises:

President:	Joseph Borg
Vice President:	George Portelli
Treasurer:	Mario Bonnici
Secretary:	Charles Gatt
Committee Member:	Charlie Portelli

In **General Business** the following motions were carried:

1. That the MHA donate \$500 to the MCCV
2. That the MHA donate \$250 towards sponsorship of Frank Scicluna's forthcoming book, *Malta, Nurse of the Mediterranean*.

After some discussion it was agreed that the Association's popular monthly lectures continue to be held on the third Tuesday, rather than every second month or weekends. ●



## Gejtu Pace awarded 'Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika'



On Republic Day each year the President of Malta, on behalf of the Government and people of Malta, pays public tribute to a number of Maltese citizens who distinguish themselves in different fields of endeavour. Among the recipients of the 'Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika' (Medal for Service to the Republic) awards this year was Mr Gejtu Pace, a prominent member of the Maltese community in Sydney.



Mr Pace is a member of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad having been appointed to the Council in 2012 as one of two persons living in the State of New South Wales, Australia. The Council was established by an Act of the Maltese Parliament in 2011.

Mr Pace is a solicitor by occupation specialising in industrial law, personal injuries and workers compensation. He is the current president of La Valette

Social Centre in Blacktown, NSW, and has been performing this leadership role since August 1997.

Mr Pace is also the Chairman of the Maltese Care Services and coordinator of the La Valette Social Centre Respite Services, which also incorporates the Baulkham Hills Shire Council (Maltese & Korean) Care Services. He is the editor of the monthly magazine *Iċ-Ċentru* published by the La Valette Social Centre and of the Centre's website at [www.lavaletteclub.net](http://www.lavaletteclub.net).

Mr Pace has held other positions including:

- Founding member of the Maltese Cultural Association of NSW
- Founding Chairman of the Maltese Australian Chamber of Commerce
- Consul General of Malta and Senior Trade Commissioner of Malta in Sydney, Australia from 1978 to 1983 and from 1985 to 1987
- Senior Trade Commissioner of Malta in London from 1983 to 1984
- Delegate at the CHOGM held in Melbourne in 1984
- Delegate at the Meeting of Non-Aligned Mediterranean Members on Cooperation and Security in the Mediterranean in 1984

Mr Pace is married to Dolores neé Farrugia and they have two sons, Jason, who is a consultant psychiatrist, and Patrick, who is an architect.

The President and Executive Committee members of the MCCV congratulate Mr Pace on this award. ●

## Maltese carers' picnic at Lake Wendoree in Ballarat

On Friday 28 November 2014 MCCV President Victor Borg and Welfare Director Mrs Rosemary Attard accompanied a group of Maltese carers in Council buses to a Maltese picnic BBQ in Lake Wendoree in Ballarat, a city north west of Melbourne.

The picnic was jointly organised by the MCCV and the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council. Ms Annalisa Cannizzaro, the Carer Community Education Officer from the Regional council also attended.

The group met with a number of Maltese people resident in Ballarat and surrounding areas. The Ballarat resident group was organised by Katia Fiedler, the Health and Active Ageing Coordinator from the Regional Council. She had reserved a cabana equipped with BBQ facilities.

The group walked through the adjoining Ballarat Botanical Gardens and the display of roses and other bushes and flowers were magnificent. The swans in the lake provided a relaxed background and atmosphere.



Maltese sausages were one of the delicacies served together with sweets brought along by the carer groups. These included *pudina tal-hobż* (bread pudding), *biskuttini tar-rahhal* (village biscuits) and *qaghaq tal-ġunġlin* (sesame seed rings).

It was interesting exchanging news with the residents from Ballarat. Many of them had been residing in Ballarat for a number

of years. One of them, Joe, had a few acres of property and bred ringneck parrots and alpacas.

The weather was perfect and many enjoyed playing *boċċi*. The buses were driven by two volunteers, Joe Sammut and Terry Borg. An invitation was extended to the Ballarat group to visit the MCCV group in Melbourne next year. ●

## Reskeon Seniors' Christmas Party

By Paul Vella

The Reskeon Seniors Group organised a Christmas Luncheon for their members at the Firenze Receptions, Fawkner, on Wednesday, December 3. Around 152 members and friends attended.

Distinguished guests were the Parish Priest of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Canon Fr Emmanuel Bonello, the Honorary Members of Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group, Dr Clemente Zammit and Mrs Mary Zammit, the ex Vice-President of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Mr Gejtu Deguara and Mrs Mary Deguara; the Treasurer of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Mr Paul Borg and Mrs Pauline Borg, ex Co-Ordinator of Reskeon Seniors, Mr Caesar Vella and Mrs Phyllis Vella; Director of First National Real Estate Borg & Associates, Mr Joe Borg and Mrs Josephine Borg; the President of the Xaghra Association of Australia, Mr Tony Bonello and Mrs Mary Bonello.

Secretary, Paul Vella, acted as MC for the day. After he welcomed the distinguished guests and all those present he led the singing of the Maltese National Anthem and Advance Australia Fair. Afterwards he invited all present to fill their glasses with champagne to make a toast for Christmas and the New Year. Music was provided by DJ King Charlie who kept the guests dancing all day.



President Salvina Vella delivered her Christmas message in which she thanked all members for their help throughout the year and wished them and their families all the best for a Merry and Holy Christmas and the New Year filled with good health and happiness.

A list of birthday and anniversaries that occurred around this time was read out. A Christmas gift was given to all those present. The men received a bottle of red wine while the ladies received a large German Marzipan Christmas *Stollen*.

Father Christmas paid us a visit and cheered all those present and gave out lollies.

It was a very good day and all those attending enjoyed themselves and many thanked members of the committee for the way it was organised.

Thanks to all those involved in helping to make this luncheon a successful one as always, especially President, Salvina Vella, who did all the organising and preparations. Thanks also to the owners and waiting staff of Firenze Receptions for the way they always look after us. ●

## Reskeon BBQ for volunteer helpers

*By Paul Vella*

Every year, Reskeon Association in appreciation of the help received throughout the year from some members, organise a free BBQ to say 'thank you'. This year it was held on Sunday 16 November at Edwardes Lake Park, Reservoir.

Although we were heading for Summer, it was a bit of a wintry day, but the rain stopped just in time for the cooking.

The BBQ was fully catered for by the committee. President Salvina Vella extended her thanks to one and all for their help and assistance. ●



## Dana Volpi's painting in Federation Square

*By Paul Vella*

Dana Volpi, 16, granddaughter of Reskeon members Salvina and Paul Vella, had one of her paintings exhibited in The Atrium of Federation Square, in Awesome Art, Kildonan UnitingCare's annual art competition for young people aged 10–25 who live, work or study in the City of Whittlesea.

The exhibition provides a great opportunity for young people to communicate their ideas, feelings and concerns to a wider audience and gain recognition for their work by their friends, family, teachers and the general public.

As part of Awesome Art's 10th Anniversary celebrations, Federation Square has teamed up with Kildonan UnitingCare to hold the exhibition in the architecturally magnificent foyer of The Atrium for one week in November.

Dana's painting was that of the late film star, Audrey Hepburn, using a special style of painting she was experimenting with.

In the meantime, a lady visitor from NSW visiting the exhibition, showed interest in purchasing the painting. ●



## GOLDEN GIRL — Jade Colver-Vella

*By Paul Vella*

In August we read about Jade Colver-Vella competing in the Karate National Championships in Perth, winning gold in her division of Kumite 12/13yo -50kg, which was her a third time National Champion in a row. She also competed in the teams Kumite 12/13yo event and won gold for Victoria taking home two gold medals.

Now, Jade Colver-Vella, granddaughter of Caesar and Phylis Vella, has followed up her performance at the Nationals by winning two gold medals representing Australia at the World Karate Federations 16th Oceania Championships in Fiji.

Jade won Gold in the 12-13 year old girls under 50kg Kumite (sparring) and team Kumite events.

She trains at Ishinryu Karate club under Sensei Peter Hollowood and said Jade "really deserves her success".

"She trains hard and makes sacrifices to make sure that karate comes first in her life. She is chasing the ultimate goal in our sport to be world champion and I'm happy to be able to help and be part of her journey." ●



Jade Colver-Vella (centre) collecting her latest gold medal.

# Lourdes Day Mass 2014 in Melbourne

By Paul Vella

The Order of Malta, formally known as The Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Rhodes and Malta, organised the annual Lourdes Day Mass 2014 on Saturday 6 December at St. Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne.

The Cathedral was full. There were many who attended in their wheelchairs and others had to be helped to come in the Cathedral.

The Maltese Community was well-represented. Many members of the Order, including the member of the Order, Joseph Borg, helped people in wheelchairs to get off the coach and wheeled inside the Cathedral and after the ceremony wheeled back to the coach to go home.

Every one attending received a plastic bag containing a little plastic bottle with Lourdes water and Rosary beads, the Church book for the Mass and other little booklets with information about Lourdes and about the Lourdes water.

Principal Celebrant was Most Rev. Denis J. Hart, DD, Archbishop of Melbourne. Concelebrants were Bishop-Elect Terry Curtain and Rev. Brian Boyle. Masters of Ceremonies were Rev. Richard Rosse and Mr Duc Nguyen, while Mr Paul Hughes was the Cantor, Dr Geoffrey Cox the Organist and Mr Peter Roberts (visiting Musician) was the Harpist. The Readers were Mr Damian Benson and Mrs Barbara Hamilton while the Offertory Procession was in the hands of Ms Helen Burt and Sr. Tony Matha.

Archbishop Hart gave the Homily. Members of the Order helped with the Holy Communion.

After Mass all those present received a bottle of drinking water as many times the day is very hot in the high 30s. This year it was a cool cloudy day.

It was a delight to see around 50 or more young ladies and youths from several Catholic Colleges who welcomed those attending, on entering the Cathedral, and act as ushers.

The Order of Malta has as its mission the care for the sick and those at the margins of society, and support for the Church.

The origins of the Order go back to the 11th Century. In around 1048 the Hospitallers established the Hospital of St. John the Baptist in Jerusalem, to care for pilgrims coming to the Holy Land. They were formally established as a Religious Order by Pope Pascal II in 1113, to defend Christian territory and care for the sick.

The Order today has projects in 120 countries, where its 58 national institutions



carry out programs of emergency assistance, healthcare, training and education for those in need and for the most marginalised members of society. These works are carried out without distinction of religion, race, origin or age.

The Australian Association of the Order has several overseas projects, in Timor-Leste and in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Within Australia, the Order has various charitable projects including its Coats for the Homeless program. In Victoria, the Order has its headquarters in the Caritas Christi Hospice in Kew. It supports the conduct of a Day Care Centre at Caritas Christi, and is also a partner in the Eastern Palliative Care, which provides home-based palliative care in the Eastern Corridor of Melbourne from Kew to the Dandenongs.

Australian Members of the Order and volunteers participate in the annual International Pilgrimage of the Order of Malta at Lourdes. This link with Lourdes is continued by the Order throughout Australia

in Masses where the sick are blessed with Lourdes Water.

The Order of Malta in Melbourne every year celebrates the Feast of Our Virgin Lady of Mount Philereimos, in the Holy Spirit Chapel of Newman's College, Melbourne's University, Carlton.

At the same time, members of the Order always attend the Mass of the Feast of Maria Bambina (Our Lady of Victories) at the St. Mary Star of the Sea Church, West Melbourne, organised by Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group on behalf of the Fathers of the Missionary Society of St. Paul.

Congratulations to the Order of Malta for the way they organised the Lourdes Day Mass this year. ●

## Newport Maltese Association Inc.



### New Year's Eve Dinner Dance

#### Emerald Reception Centre

213-215 Settlement Road, Thomastown

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

*Don't miss out!*

Tickets: \$85 per head

Bookings: Carmen Casa on 9436 8196



*The President and Executive Committee of the Maltese Community  
Council of Victoria wish our readers a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy and Safe New Year 2015*