



MCCV News

Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.

477 Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria 3052, AUSTRALIA

Phone: (03) 9387 8922 | Fax: (03) 9387 8309

Email: admin@mccv.org.au | Website: www.mccv.org.au

Editor: Dr Edwin Borg-Manché

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Australian High Commissioner in Malta calls for restoration of Australia Hall

The Australian High Commissioner to Malta, Her Excellency Ms Jane Lambert, told News Corp Australia that she would like to see Australia Hall in Pembroke, Malta restored as a place for the community to use.

According to an article published on thenews.com.au website in January, the Australian Government has yet to step in financially but has made it clear it would like to have the building restored as a meeting or conference centre as a continuing memorial to the thousands of Anzac troops who used the hall. Final decisions are not expected to be made for some months.

Ms Lambert said the fact it was built on Australian donations at the time of the Turkish campaign was indicative Australians at the time understood its worth.

"I think it has a very strong place in the history of the Gallipoli and the ANZAC story but perhaps it has been a story that has not been well known," she said.

"That is quite surprising even when you consider just the statistics. There were about 55,000 troops from the Gallipoli campaign brought to Malta for care, so it is surprising their experiences here were not recorded or understood in any way outside the local Maltese community. The 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign and also the centenary of the First World War is a time for reflection and looking back in history and making sure we haven't forgotten the important things that need to be remembered," she said.

Malta Heritage Trust chairman Mario Farrugia also wants restoration, whether by the new developers or the Australian Government through a trust arrangement. He said there had been about 800 Maltese volunteers who went to Gallipoli as muleteers or to dig the trenches and some even fought within the Australian ranks or worked as stevedores unloading the ships. There are about 300 Anzacs buried in Malta, dying from wounds suffered in Gallipoli.

An inscription on the Australia Hall building, which still shows the Australian coat of arms, states: "This building was erected in November 1915 by the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society for the benefit of the soldiers of the Empire." ♦





President's Perspective

MCCV launches new community projects

As we welcome in 2015 the MCCV is well placed to play its part in providing services to the Maltese Community in this state. With an ever-increasing ageing community our priorities are mainly directed to the provision of welfare and other services to them.

The MCCV Community Services and Improvements Committee has embarked on two new projects for 2015.

Maltese Diabetes Group

The first project is the establishment of a Maltese Diabetes Group to operate from the MCCV Sunshine premises. It is common knowledge that the incidence of diabetes within our community is high. Generally, it is late onset diabetes otherwise known as Type 2 diabetes. There are many sufferers who do not fully understand the complication of this disease, which often leads to heart attacks, loss of sight and, in extreme cases, loss of limbs and other ailments.

There are many who neglect their health and suffer the consequences and loss of enjoyment of life. The MCCV is seeking assistance from Diabetes Victoria and Western Health in establishing the Maltese Diabetes Group.

As part of the new service, the MCCV proposes to:

- Arrange for a series of lectures by Diabetes Educators
- Distribute diabetes related brochures and educational material
- Organise bi-monthly meetings at our Sunshine premises
- Encourage members to exercise and join walking groups
- Present cooking demonstrations as part of the better living program
- Prepare material in the Maltese Language including CDs for distribution.

Activities relating to this project will be publicised by means of announcements on local Maltese radio programs and the MCCV website.

Aged Care Facilities Information Service

The second project relates to the provision of services for those seeking admission to Aged Care facilities for themselves, family members or friends.

The MCCV is regularly contacted for advice as to the availability of places in Aged Care facilities. A list of facilities in areas where a large number of Maltese reside has been prepared and distributed on request.

It is proposed that this information service will include:

- Establishing a close working relationship with Aged Care Facilities
- Maintaining a list of Aged Care facilities with particulars of contact

- Arranging visits to Aged Care Facilities for those who are considering residential care
- Maintaining details of vacancies in Aged Care Facilities which are regularly updated
- Maintaining contact with Aged persons taking up residence in these facilities.

Maltese Language classes

The maintenance of the Maltese language and culture is of paramount importance to ensure that links with our country of birth are maintained and strengthened. Maltese Language classes at the Maltese Community Centre at Parkville have recommenced under the direction of Ms Edwidge Borg, and her volunteer teachers. Maltese Classes are also conducted at the Maltese Cultural Centre in Albion, the premises of Klabb Ghannejja Maltin in St Albans and at the Victorian School of Languages in Taylors Lakes.

It is essential that the Maltese language is retained as a VCE subject, but this is only possible if the quota imposed by the Victorian School of Languages over a 3-year period is met. Children should be encouraged to enroll for Maltese classes as additional points are allocated to the subjects for their ATAR score that determines which courses that are able to take at tertiary level.

The proposed agreement between the Victorian School of Languages and the Ministry of Education in Malta for the secondment of a qualified teacher of the Maltese Language, has unfortunately not yet materialised. The MCCV will continue to pursue the matter.

Convention for Maltese Living Abroad 2015

The fourth Convention for Maltese Living Abroad will take place in Malta between 20 and 23 April 2015. Professor Maurice Cauchi, MCCV Secretary Mrs Edwina Mallia and MCCV Vice President and PRO Dr Edwin Borg-Manché (jointly with Alexander Borg) will be presenting papers at the Convention.

The Council for Maltese Living Abroad will also meet in Malta immediately following the Convention. Council is hopeful that the Convention and Council meeting will be a great opportunity for strong recommendations to be made to the Malta Government in the interests of the large number of Maltese living abroad. In a watershed decision announced after the last Convention held in 2010, the Maltese Government agreed to set up the Council for Maltese Living Abroad by an act of Parliament that had bipartisan support in the House of Representatives. It is hoped that this time there will be a similar positive response from the Government to actioning the various recommendations after the meetings. Any delay or shelving of the recommendations would undoubtedly provoke great opposition from the Maltese residents overseas.

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President's Perspective (cont. from page 2)

MCCV newsletter

Council's newsletter *MCCV News* edited by Dr Edwin Borg-Manché has become very popular and its distribution is constantly on the increase. The newsletter is most informative covering topics and current Malta and Australia news of interest to our community members. Activities of the Maltese community particularly in this state are well covered.

Affiliated associations

The *Maltese Historical Association* under the presidency of Joseph Borg has continued to hold regular meetings at the Maltese Centre in Parkville and providing guest speakers on various interesting aspects of Maltese history and culture.

The *Maltese Literature Group* under the presidency of Dr Victor Sammut has recommenced its regular monthly meetings at Parkville. It is most encouraging to observe the interest shown by their members and their presentation of poems and short stories.

Maltese Associations affiliated to council, continue to enjoy access to our community centre for their meetings and social functions.

Fund raising and volunteers

Fund raising is a constant task for the MCCV. It is over 30 years since the Maltese Centre building in Parkville was officially opened and signs of wear and tear are quite apparent. Extensive refurbishments are currently being undertaken.

The toilet block is undergoing a total reconstruction and works should be completed by the end of March. The leaking roof has been attended to and a storm damaged evaporator replaced. Acoustic ceiling tiles are to be installed and windows in the hall are in the process of being double glazed. A grant from the Victorian Multicultural Commission will assist the MCCV in meeting part of the cost of these works.

Bingo sessions recommenced in January and hot meals are being provided by our kitchen volunteers on Friday evenings. Attendances are on the increase and the friendly atmosphere has been appreciated by all those attending.

The MCCV is currently looking for Maltese-speaking volunteers to enable us to revamp our Home Visitation Scheme and other services. Anyone interested should contact our office in Parkville.

Council's community commitments can only be achieved if a number of volunteers would make themselves available for this purpose.

I would encourage the community to fully participate in Council activities in the interest of all.

Victor Borg
MCCV President



MCCV Council News

Refurbishment of the Maltese Centre at Parkville. Refurbishment of the community centre is proceeding at a satisfactory rate. Work on the renovation of the female toilet block has been completed and work on the male toilets commenced in mid-February. The replacement of the steel decking on the roof has commenced and is expected that this work will be completed shortly. The replacement of the ceiling tiles and painting of the steel frame will follow. Work on the double glazing of the windows in the hall was planned to start by the end of February.

Defibrillator training. The MCCV has purchased a defibrillator for use at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville. Training sessions are being arranged for staff, relating to First Aid, Resuscitation and defibrillator. Associations are encouraged to nominate a member of their executive who may wish to attend. Charges are at \$100 per person.

Aged Care Services. Continuing its focus on giving priority to aged care services, MCCV President Victor Borg advised that the Council was to undertake 2 projects:

- The establishment of a Maltese Diabetes Group at the Sunshine premises. Letters have been written to Diabetes Victoria and to the Western Hospital Sunshine for assistance in organising the group and for setup of the project.
- A referral service for the elderly seeking accommodation in aged care facility. Letters are to be written to various facilities seeking information in relation to conditions of entry to the facility and any brochures available. It is expected that visits to the various facilities could be arranged on a bi-monthly or quarterly basis.

Home Visitation Scheme. The Home Visitation Scheme is to be revamped and volunteers are requested to contact Council as soon as possible. Affiliated associations are urged to bring this to the attention of their members and assist in finding interested volunteers to participate in the scheme.

MCCV Social Calendar. The Council's Social Committee is hard at work to organise social functions and activities for 2015. The first **Sunday family luncheon** was held at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville on Sunday, 22nd February 2015. The monthly Sunday restaurant is open between 12.00 noon and 5.00 pm. A **Port Phillip Bay cruise** is being organised for the **18th April 2015**. The cruise will depart from Docklands at 7.00pm and returning at 11.00pm. The all-inclusive price is \$100. The cruise will only proceed if there is sufficient interest and bookings taken. Minimum of 100 guests is required. An **overseas trip** possibly to Europe is being planned for 2016. MCCV Secretary Mrs Edwina Mallia is preparing a proposal for further discussion by the MCCV Executive Committee. 💧

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 or alternatively by post to:

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

Anarchy in Libya and the potential ISIS threat to Malta and Europe

Malta cannot ignore the worsening situation in Libya and wash its hand of the matter, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said in Parliament on Tuesday 17 February.

According to Italian media reports, the Islamic State has warned Italy that if they are attacked they will send over 500,000 migrants. The information was confirmed by Italian authorities, and was obtained via the interception of phone calls between jihadists, TGcom reports. The idea is to destabilise the country.

It is possible that many of these migrants end up in Malta, apart from also meaning that the Maltese army's limited resources will be overstretched in operations to save lives.

In Parliament Dr Muscat said there is clearly a need for the United Nations to intervene in Libya, and ideally this should be done on the agreement of the two rival governments in Tobruk and Tripoli.

There are now three factions in Libya, the internationally recognised government in Tobruk, the self-declared Tripoli government and a growing extremist element.

Dr Muscat said extremists have advanced on strategic situations having taken the towns of Derna and Sirte.

"It is not for me to go into whether they are Islamic State members or imitating them. The violence shown is the same as this organisation [IS]," Dr Muscat said.

Time is fast running out for a solution backed by a unity government, Dr Muscat said.

If the UN decides on sending a peacekeeping force to Libya, Dr Muscat said Malta can act as a point of contact with the Libyan people and offer logistical support to the UN.

If no action is taken then the problem will spread to the rest of North Africa with consequences for Europe, Dr Muscat said. He repeated the maxim that there can be no peace in Europe without peace in the Mediterranean, going one further by adding that there can be no peace in the world without peace in the Mediterranean.

The Prime Minister again reiterated that the government has no indications of any impending threats to Malta.

"Alarmist stories from dubious sources cannot be trusted," he said.

Over the past weeks Malta has been in communication with a number of



European leaders about the situation in Libya, Dr Muscat said.

Irregular migration

The Prime Minister said more irregular migrants are expected to depart from Libya given the present turmoil.

Criminal organisations are forcing hundreds of migrants to make the crossing no matter the weather.

"If we thought we had a problem today, it is going to be an even greater one now," he said.

Dr Muscat said the recent terror attacks in Europe could lead to Schengen rules being tweaked. He mentioned the possibility of increased security checks "without hindering freedom of movement."

The existing Schengen framework will be used in order to carry out "coordinated controls." This will not involve the reintroduction of frontiers, he said.

Libya in a state of anarchy – Busuttil

There is no doubt that Libya is in a state of anarchy and Malta has a failed state on its doorstep, Opposition leader Simon Busuttil said.

He said the Libya situation is worrying for people in Malta and questioned why Malta has not formed part of the international coalition against IS.

Dr Busuttil said Malta has the perfect model on which to base a humanitarian role in Libya, given the role it played during the uprisings against Colonel Ghaddafi in 2011.

He implored the government to get the rest of the EU on board, as "Malta cannot speak alone" on the matter.

The Opposition leader said the restriction of certain freedoms such as those offered by Schengen is what the terrorist want.

"We have to show them that we are not scared of ready to sacrifice our liberties," he said.

In reply to the Opposition leader, Dr Muscat said Malta is willing to join the coalition against IS.

"It is not a question of being against the coalition, the government wanted to deliver a message that nothing can be taken for granted when it comes to Malta's foreign policy. There was a miscommunication in this regard."

The PM explained that the EU had issued a statement listing the countries, including Malta, as having joined the coalition.

Malta's inclusion in the coalition was issued by the EU bureaucracy without prior consultation, and Malta wanted to send a message that it is not for the EU to dictate its foreign policy, Dr Muscat said.

Malta has no air defence capability

Malta has zero missile or air defence capability or early warning radar in the event of some form of attack by terrorists. Army sources told this newspaper that the only line of defence would be for a Nato vessel to provide early warning systems and/or surface to air defence.

Successive governments have neglected this aspect of defence, which was critically exposed when two Libyan jets landed in Malta without notice at the height of the 2011 revolution.

Sources within the AFM said that under successive governments, there was never any serious interest to acquire new modern ordnance and expertise with associated training packages, since all was deemed too expensive an investment.

In the event that missiles were launched towards Malta, it would have to rely on Surface to Air defence missiles deployed by ships. The UK, the US and France possess vessels with such ordnance.

[Source: www.independent.com.mt]

Former Tourism Minister Michael Refalo passes away

On Thursday 5 February hundreds turned up this morning to pay their final respects to former PN Tourism Minister Michael Refalo, who passed away two days earlier in Sliema, aged 78.

People spilled over into the street at Stella Maris Church in Sliema as politicians from both sides of the spectrum attended the funeral.

Born in Sliema, Dr Refalo studied at St Aloysius College and graduated as a lawyer in 1961. In his University days, he was president of the Students Representative Council.

He was elected with the Nationalist Party for the first time in 1971 (he was not elected in 1962 and 1966) and was elected in subsequent elections until 1998, serving as a member of Parliament for 33 years.

In 1987, he was appointed parliamentary secretary for tourism, a post to which he was reappointed in 1992.

Dr Refalo, in an interview he had given to *The Malta Independent*, had set the target of tourism arrivals to one million a year, a target which was subsequently reached and surpassed in later years.

In 1995, he was appointed minister for justice and culture and in 1998 for tourism and culture. He was also the editor of *Il-Mument* between 1972 and 1980.

In 2005, Dr Refalo was appointed Malta's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, a post he held until October 2008.

He married Blanche Smith in 1963 and they have a son, Edward, and three daughters, Angela, Tin and Nichola.

In a statement, Nationalist Party leader Simon Busuttil thanked Dr Refalo for his work in the PN and as a minister, mentioning in particular his being



Dr Refalo's funeral cortege in Sliema.



Dr Refalo seen presenting his credentials to HM Queen Elizabeth II as Malta's High Commissioner to the UK in 2005.

instrumental in the setting up of the newspaper *Il-Mument*.

He recalled Dr Refalo's endeavour in the tourism sector and said that, in the earlier part of his political career, Dr Refalo had worked towards the attainment of Independence. He is one of the longest-ever serving MPs, with 33 years of service to the Maltese Parliament.

The Nationalist Party expressed its sorrow and extended its condolences to the Refalo family.

In a statement, the Labour Party also expressed its sorrow, saying that Dr Refalo had worked hard for the country's progress, in particular the tourism sector.

The government also issued a statement, saying that Malta had lost a personality who left an impact and gave economic impetus for the country to move forward.

Dr Refalo worked hard for Malta to obtain one of its major achievements, Independence, and worked in the tourism and culture fields. ♦

Australia Day celebrations in Malta

On Sunday 2 February the Australian High Commissioner in Malta, H.E. Ms Jane Lambert, hosted a reception at her official residence to celebrate Australia Day 2015.

Among the guests were President H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr George Vella, the Minister for Home Affairs, Mr Carmelo Abela, and the Parliamentary Secretary for EU Affairs, Dr Ian Borg. Also present were other Members of Parliament and Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps

In her welcoming address Ms Lambert said that Australia Day is a day for all Australians, in Australia and around the world, to celebrate the Australian nation and to reflect on its history, on contemporary Australia, on its achievements as a nation and people, on its disappointments and how it can do better, on the core values of its liberal democratic society, and to reflect also on what Australians want for their future. This year on Australia Day 16,000 people were welcomed as new Australian citizens.

Ms Lambert said that it is a tradition on Australia Day to honour members of the community who have stood out through their personal endeavours and experiences. The Committee for the Order of Australia announces the recipients for medals in that Order. She was pleased to note that Mr Virgil Bugeja, from the Friends of Australia in Malta, was a recipient for his services to the community and pleased that he is with us this evening and she congratulated Mr Bugeja on his award of the Order of Australia Medal (OAM).

The National Australia Day Committee also announces the Australian of the Year, the Young Australian of the Year, the Senior Australian of the Year and Australia's Local Hero. This year for the first time all of the award recipients are women.

Ms Lambert said that "on Australia Day we also recognise the unique status of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The National Australia Day Council seeks to play a part in the journey of Reconciliation by helping all Australians to move forward with a better understanding of our shared past, and importantly how this affects the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today and how we can build a better future together."

"Australia will continue to have an ever evolving and ever diversifying population.



From left: Australian High Commissioner Ms Lambert, Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vella, and the President of Malta Mrs Coleiro Preca.

This helps to build a resilient society, create a strong economy, drives prosperity and builds Australia's future," said Ms Lambert.

Referring to the many Maltese who have made Australia their home over the years, Ms Lambert said that the Maltese community in Australia has been and continues to be one of the major success stories in the evolution of multicultural Australia. Over 164,000 people in Australia identify themselves as having Maltese heritage, and more than 50,000 people left the shores of Malta and Gozo from the 1950s and onwards to seek a new life for themselves and their families in Australia. The Australia-Maltese community has made its mark in the business, professional, cultural, political, academic and sporting spheres.

"These strong people-to-people links have underpinned the depth and real warmth between Australia and Malta. We continue to build on the relationship, and it was very pleasing to reflect on the past year's developments in expanding links in the areas of culture, arts and education. The visit by the delegation of young trainee teachers from the Australian Catholic University was one such example. The students told me afterwards that a highlight for them, all young women, was the opportunity to meet with you and the inspiration that gave them to pursue their careers," she said.

In September 2014 Malta marked its 50th anniversary of independence, it was also the 50th anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between Australia and Malta. "We were very pleased to work in close collaboration with the Argotti Botanic Gardens in Floriana and the Australian National Botanic Garden in

Canberra to create an Australian plant collection to mark this anniversary. The collection will be located near to the ANZAC Memorial that was so generously funded by the community, she Ms Lambert.

Our two countries have also stood together in the dark times too, Malta and the Maltese people have been there for us during the wars and social and political upheavals of the 20th century, the nurse of the Mediterranean and safe haven for those in need. Malta provided safe haven for the thousands of people evacuating Libya in 2011, which included a number of Australians, and again in July and August of 2014.

The High Commissioner then turned to the ANZAC Gallipoli campaign centenary this year. She said that "an important event this year will be the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign and the story of the ANZACs, the Australian and New Zealand soldiers, who fought beside so many soldiers in that terrible and costly campaign. Many of the sick and wounded were brought to Malta for care, over 55,000 troops and 2,500 officers."

The Australian High Commission will be holding the Anzac Day ceremony in Malta on 25 April at the Pieta Military Cemetery. To mark the occasion of the 100th anniversary the High Commission has worked in collaboration with a range of Maltese cultural and heritage organisations to create over more than two weeks a range of ANZAC activities that look in particular at the impact on Malta and the Maltese people. While dates are not yet public Ms Lambert confirmed that there will also be visits by

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Australia Day celebrations in Malta

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the Young Endeavour Sailing ship, a replica of Captain Cook's ship that discovered Australia in 1788, and HMAS Anzac.

Ms Lambert encouraged the guests to visit the High Commission's webpage for details and updates, events will include exhibitions, ANZAC discovery trails, the program for the 25 April concert by the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, and much more. She also announced that the ANZAC Address this year will be given by New South Wales Justice Peter Zahra, the highest ranking Justice in Australia of Maltese Heritage.

The Australian High Commission is working with the Maltese government on its preparations for its hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be held in Malta in November this year – ten years since Malta last hosted CHOGM in 2005. "Australia strongly supports Malta's objectives for moving the Commonwealth forward and looks forward to being an active participant in the meetings," said Ms Lambert.

In conclusion, Ms Lambert thanked all those present for joining her and her colleagues from the Australian High Commission and members of the Australian community to help celebrate Australia's national day and proposed a toast to the health and well-being of the President and people of Malta and Gozo. ♦

Virgil Bugeja awarded Order of Australia Medal

Mr Virgil Bugeja of St Julians, Malta was among those who were awarded the Order of Australia Medal announced in the Australia Day Honours List on 26 January. His award was in recognition for service to international relations through the Friends of Australia Association in Malta.

Mr Bugeja is Secretary General of Friends of Australia Association (Malta), a position he has held since 2001. The Friends of Australia Association is devoted to fostering connections between

the Maltese in Australia and those living in Malta. It facilitates the High Commission's work in promoting Australian interests in Malta.

In 2004 Mr Bugeja was involved in the Social Security Agreement in Malta, 2004 and has worked closely with Centrelink regarding pensions and payments for Australian residents living in Malta. He acts as advisor for Australian pensioners living in Malta and assists with the preparation of documents for Australian senior citizens living in Malta. ♦

Below: Virgil Bugeja is second from left with the other Friends of Australia Association (Malta) FOAA committee members in 2012.



Piers Festival 2015

Minn Paul Vella

Nhar il-Hadd, 25 ta' Jannar 2015, il-Multicultural Arts Victoria organizzat ir-raba' Piers Festival 2015 fuq Princes Pier, Port Melbourne. Numru sabih ta' nies attendew għal dan il-festival. Jidher li forsi ma tantx kien hemm pubbliċità kbira, fost il-komunità Maltija għax f'it li xejn iltqajna ma' Maltin, filwaqt li persuni mill-komunitajiet oħrajn kienu numerużi.

Il-komunitajiet li attendew ipprovdew divertiment ta' muzika, kant u żfin bħala parti mill-kultura tagħhom. Għal darb'ohra l-Maltin kienu neqsin. Kien hemm esebizzjoni ta' stejjer ta' hafna emigranti minn pajjiżi differenti li kollha pprezentaw l-istorja tagħhom ta' kif hallew pajjiżhom u ġew biex jibdwu hajja għda fl-Awstralja.

Hawn almenu kellna partecipazzjoni Maltija bis-sahha tas-Sinjura Rosemary Attard, is-Segretarja tal-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria.

Il-kwadru bl-informazzjoni li Rosemary Attard ipprezentat fl-esebizzjoni.



Rosemary, tfajla ta' 18-il sena, flimkien mall-familja tagħha, halliet Malta fuq l-Arosa Kulm li halla Malta fit-8 ta' April, 1956 b'511 Maltin fuqu, hafna minnhom nisa u tfal. Rosemary esebixxiet kwadru kbir b'hafna informazzjoni nteressanti dwar il-vjaġġ tagħha lejn l-Awstralja.

Wara hafna problemi minhabba li meta l-"Arosa Kulm" wasal Freemantle fit-8 ta'

Mejju, il-vapur instab li d-dghajjes tas-salvataġġ kienu f'kundizzjoni hażina, il-passiġġieri kellhom jistennew xi hamest ijiem biex jissewvew qabel komplew il-vjaġġ tagħhom lejn Melbourne fejn waslu fis-16 ta' Mejju.

Grazzi lil Rosemary għall-inizjattiva tagħha li pprezentat l-istorja għal dan il-festival. ♦

Pope officially names Mgr Charles Scicluna as new Archbishop of Malta

On 27 February 2015 the new Archbishop-elect of Malta, Mgr Charles J. Scicluna, promised to be himself and to listen before speaking. The Archbishop-elect was speaking at a press conference during which Pope Francis' nomination for the Maltese Church's next leader was made official. Mgr Scicluna will be replacing Mgr Paul Cremona, who resigned on 14 October for health reasons.

He will be installed as the new head of the Church in Malta in a ceremony to be held at the Mdina Cathedral on Saturday 21 March, Apostolic Nuncio Aldo Cavalli confirmed. "He will have three roles on the day: sanctifying the people to God, helping them to learn the truths of our faith and leading them on the path towards God."

In his first words as the new leader of the Church in Malta, Mgr Scicluna said that he would like to be an example to everyone with his deeds and duties, in the hope that others will follow.

"I will need to listen to the diocese because if I do not I cannot expect to have the authority to speak. I cannot expect people to listen to me if I do not listen to them first." The Archbishop-elect said he would be meeting different categories of people before his instalment.

"My vocation is to lay my life for my flock. The Lord asked Peter for his love – he told him to be a shepherd and that means to lead and to love."

Mgr Scicluna said he will not be arrogant but a model for others to follow. "Comfort and forgiveness have to be the reality of our diocese. We should open our hearts to people who knock at our doors and come to our shores," he said. "I want to pass on a message of hope and courage; we should not destroy what we have with the poison of fear and hatred".

Mgr Scicluna then fielded questions from the press. Asked if he would be seeking a shake-up of the Curia administration, the new Archbishop said he does not exclude making changes to faces. "My sleep during the past few nights has not been so peaceful because I have been thinking hard about this. The Curia needs restructuring. This is part of



the listening programme that I have to submit myself to."

Mgr Scicluna said he will remain himself. "I am not alone in this and there were many people who approached me lately to express their concerns but also to show their support."

The new leader of the Church in Malta said he was only told last Sunday about his appointment. "I felt a great sense of peace when I was told by the Nuncio, even if the nights after that were less peaceful." The first to learn the news were his mother and father, with whom he lives and will continue to live after his appointment.

President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca was the first to congratulate Mgr Scicluna for his appointment.

The Labour Party also congratulated Mgr Scicluna who, it said, has before him an important task. The PL also stressed on the importance of the separation of Church and state.

PN Leader Simon Busuttil said Mgr Scicluna speaks clearly and is not afraid

to take a stand. He also understands the different methods of communication the Church needs to get its messages across. "Mgr Scicluna has an important task of making the Church relevant for today's society. On a personal basis he is an outgoing person who is capable of touching the hearts of everyone with intelligence, humility and sympathy."

Born in Toronto, Canada, Mgr Scicluna went to Malta with his family in 1960 and they resided in Qormi. He was educated at St Aloysius College and the University of Malta from where he graduated as a lawyer and in theology. He was ordained a priest in 1986. In 1991 he also obtained a doctorate in Canon Law in Rome.

On 6 October 2012, Pope Benedict XVI named Scicluna as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Malta and Titular Bishop of San Leone. He was consecrated bishop on 24 November 2012 by Archbishop Paul Cremona, OP and served as his deputy until Mgr Cremona resigned in October 2014.

[Source: *The Malta Independent*] ♦



Bishop CJ Scicluna @BishopScicluna · 36m

Please pray for me as I embark on my new mission as Archbishop of Malta. I greet all my fellow Maltese on the Islands and around the world.

4 8



Hu Hsieb Sahhitek

Professur Maurice Cauchi



Il-prevenzjoni ahjar mill-kura

Issa li hafna minna qed navanzaw fl-eta', jehtieg li nibdew niehdu aktar hsieb taghna nfasna.

Hafna drabi, il-mard serju, bhal l-artrite, id-dijabete, il-kanċer, il-mard tal-kliewi, ma jigix habta u sabta, imma jibda bil-mod il-mod u wara snin shah jibdew jidhru is-sintomi: nibdew imbaghtu bl-ugieh jew naraw xi kambjament iehor.

Nafu ukoll li l-ahjar mezz biex nilqghulu l-mard hija l-prevenzjoni: L-Inglizi jghidu: 'A stitch in time saves nine' (Punt fil-hin jiffrankalek disa' punti aktar 'l quddiem!)

Il-prevenzjoni gholja

Niehdu per eżempju l-prevenzjoni. Din hija kommuni hafna, u hafna minna ma ghandhom ebda idea ghaliex nizviluppaw pressjoni gholja, u x'inhuma l-konsegwenzi taghha. Din tibda bil-mod il-mod u ghal bosta snin dak li jkun ma jkollu ebda sintomi, u ma jhossx xejn.

Wara numru ta' snin wiehed jibda jhossu ma tantx jiflah, jew ihoss xi ftit ugieh ta' ras u sintomi ohra vagi bhal dawn. Aktar 'l quddiem jibdew il-problemi serji, li jinkludu mard tal-qalb u tal-kliewi, u anke tista tisviluppa puplesja, meta l-artrite fil-mohh ma jkunux jistghu jifilhu iktar ghall-prevenzjoni u jinqasmu u jgibu emorraġija fil-mohh. Problemi serji bhal dawn jistghu jigu evitati jekk niehdu l-prekawzjonijiet mehtiega.

Id-dijabete

Ma nistghux ma nsemmux ukoll marda li hija tant kommuni fost-il-Maltin: id-dijabete. Id-dijabete li tahkem fuq il-kbar (hekk imsejha Type 2 tirrizulta fl-livell gholi ta' zokkor fid-demmi li eventwalment jaghmel hsara fl-organi tal-gisem, bhal ma huma l-kliewi, l-ghajnejn, eċċ. Bhall-mard kroniku iehor, dan ma jigrix mill-lum ghal ghada, imma jiehu hafna snin sakemm tibda' tidher stampa ċara ta' x'qed jigri. Imma jekk ma naghtux kaz u nhallu l-mard jidhol il-ġewwa, allura hafna drabi jkun tard wisq biex nevitaw komplikazzjonijiet.

Il-kanċer

Niehdu ukoll l-eżempju tal-kanċer. Daż-żmien kullhadd impressjonat kemm 'irnexxiet' din il-marda li issa bdiet tahkem fuq proporzjon kbir tal-popolazzjoni.

X'inhu preċisament il-kanċer? Il-gisem normalment jipproduċi ċelluli li huma taht il-kontroll kontinwu: Ċellula tal-gilda hija differenti hafna minn dik tal-qalb, jew tal-fwied u ta' organi ohra tal-gisem. Naraw ukoll li ċ-ċelluli normali jafu fejn hu posthom u qatt ma jigru 'l hawn u 'l hemm madwar il-gisem.

Min-naħa l-ohra, ċellula tal-kanċer hija ċellula ribelluża, u ma tobdux l-ordnijiet tal-gisem. Tibda tikber, timmultiplika minghajr kontroll sakemm issir ghoqda, u mbagħad tibda tixtered mal-gisem kollu (dak li jissejjah 'metastasi').

L-importanti li wiehed jqis li dan il-proċess jiehu s-snin, anke ghaxra jew ghoxrin sena. Naraw eżempju ċar ta' dan fil-kanċer li jizviluppa f'dawk li kienu esposti għall-asbestos. Ċertu numru ta' dawn in-nies jizviluppaw kanċer snin wara li jkunu irtiraw mix-xogħol.

Il-punt important li wiehed irid jifhem huwa li tkun haga ferm aktar faċli tattakka kanċer u mard iehor meta taqdbu fil-bidu tiegħu u mhux meta dan ikun avanzat hafna.

Manteniment regolari ta' ġisimna

Hija haga naturali li ahna ma tantx naghtu kaz ta' ġisimna sakemm dan ma jinkwietaniex. Jekk sinna ma tuġghax ma tmurx għand dentist, u anke nistghu nitraskurawha. Pero' din hi l-problema: jekk tixtri karozza ma toqghodx tistenna sakemm din tiżviluppa xi haga serja, imma tehodha għand il-mekkanik regolament, kull sitt xhur jew sena. Fil-każ ta' din il-magna speċjali, il-gisem taghna, inhossu li ma hemmx bzonn ta' manteniment regolari, viżti għand tobbja, dentist jew servizzi ohra.

Dan hu żball. Min wasal għall-50 sena u qatt ma kellu viżta medika jista jkun li hu iffortunat. Pero' hemm aktar probabbilita' li dan il-bniedem huwa traskurat u ma jibżax għal ġismu.

Prekawzjonijiet

Jekk inharsu għal dawk il-problem li huma l-aktar kommuni f'dawk li issa

bdew dehlina fit-tieni nofs ta' hajjithom, naraw li jekk wiehed jiehu ċerti prekawzjonijiet, wiehed jkun jista' jevita hafna problemi. Fost dawn wiehed jista' jsemmi:

- **Viżta ġenerali ta' darba fis-sena**, anke jekk thossok kompletament normali;
 - **Eżami għal-prevenzjoni**: importanti li wiehed jifhem x'inhuma l-livelli normal tal-prevenzjoni u meta jehtieg li jittiehdu passi biex nirregolaw livelli għoljin;
 - **Eżami tal-awrina**: minn dan wiehed jista' jkollu idea ċara jekk il-kliewi hux qed jahdmu tajjeb, u anke ukoll jekk jkunx hemm il-bidu tad-dijabete;
 - **Eżami sempliċi tal-ippurgar** biex inkunu ċerti li ma hemmx demm: dan jindika li hemm kanċer tas-sistema digestiva (imsaren, stonku eċċ.) – kanċer mill-aktar kommuni fis-soċjeta'.
 - **Eżami tas-sider fin-nisa**: Il-kanċer tas-sider huwa l-aktar kanċer kommuni fin-nisa: eżami regolari tas-sider jista' jaqbad kanċer fil-bidu tiegħu meta huwa hafna aktar faċli li tikkontrollah.
 - **Eżami tal-prostata fl-irġiel**: Il-kanċer tal-prostata huwa kanċer kommuni fl-irġiel: eżami regolari tal-prostata jista' jaqbad kanċer fil-bidu tiegħu meta huwa hafna aktar faċli li tikkontrollah.
- Kulhadd jaf li 'Il-prevenzjoni hija ahjar mill-kura'. Importanti li ma nitraskurawx lil ġisimna, u li niehdu l-passi kollha mehtiega biex nilqghulu l-mard kemm jista' jkun minn kmieni. ♦

Dan hu l-ewwel artiklu f'serje ta' artikli interessanti dwar is-sahha. Fil-harġiet li gejjin nitkellmu fuq mard kommuni bhal dijabete, mard tal-qalb, artrite, eċċ. Jekk tixtieq tibghat il-mistoqsijiet tiegħek, inkunu nistghu nirrispondu għalihom f'harġiet ohra.

Għandkom tibghatu l-mistoqsijiet dwar is-sahha jew bl-imejl lill-editur fl-indirzz elettroniku pro@mccv.org.au jew bil-posta fl-indirzz postali L-Editur, MCCV News, 477 Royal Parade, Parkville VIC 3052.

Il-Festa tan-Nawfragju ta' San Pawl iċċelebrata b'Quddiesa f'Melbourne

Minn Paul Vella

Is-Socjetà Missjunarja ta' San Pawl flimkien mall-Kunsill Malti tal-Victoria organizzaw il-Festa tan-Nawfragju ta' San Pawl, fil-Kappella ta' San Pawl, Parkville, nhar it-Tnejn, 9 ta' Frar, jum qabel il-festa proprja minhabba li f'narha ssir festa f'post ieħor. Il-festa giet iċċelebrata b'Quddiesa mir-Rettur tas-Socjetà f'Parkville, Fr Edwin Agius, mssp.

Il-qari sar minn Paul Borg u George Saliba. Fr Agius ghamel l-Omelija fejn tkellem fuq il-vjaġġ ta' San Pawl lejn Ruma fejn fil-maltemp il-gifen li kien fuqu flimkien ma' 276 oħra inkalja Malta u permezz ta' dan il-Maltin irċevew il-Fidi ta' Kristu.

Fil-kappella issa hemm statwa mdaqqs artistika ta' San Pawl li għandha storja sabieħa. Fr Edwin Agius flimkien ma' Freddie Asciak tkellmu mieghi fuq kif l-istatwa waslet f'din il-kappella. Qaluli li l-istatwa originalment waslet f'Melbourne minn Malta u tpoġġiet fil-Knisja ta' St. Bernadette, North Sunshine. Bi tbissima qaluli kif il-Maltin kienu ħadu gost b'din l-istatwa ta' San Pawl, filwaqt li l-parruċċani Irlandiżi kienu jaħsbuħ San Patrizju fejn qatt ma' taw każ tas-sejgħ u l-lifa.



Aktar tard din l-istatwa ttiehdet fil-parroċċa ta' Norlane, fl-inhaw li ta' Geelong, fejn il-Kappillan ta' dak iż-żmien kien Fr Gambin. Meta sar Kappillan Fr Ray Zammit, mssp, ġieħ il-ħsieb li minhabba li l-parroċċa ta' Norlane ma kienetx tas-Socjetà, qal li jkun aħjar jekk din l-istatwa tittiehdet fil-kappella tal-mssp, f'Parkville.

Hawn, Freddie Asciak ha' ħsieb li jirrestawra din l-istatwa u jirranġa s-sejgħ u l-lifa li kellhom bżonn xi tiswijiet u żebagħ l-istatwa wkoll. Issa l-istatwa ta' San Pawl għandha postha fil-Kappella ta' San Pawl, f'Parkville.

Fr Edwin qalli wkoll li x-xemgħa li hemm quddiem l-istatwa kienet ingiebet Melbourne bħala rigal meta kien ingiebet f'Melbourne id-Driegħ ta' San Pawl wara ċ-Ċentinarju f'Malta tal-1960. 💧



Newport Seniors AGM 2015

The Newport Maltese Association Seniors Group held their Annual General Meeting on 25th February 2015 at the Maltese Community Centre, Parkville. Before the meeting, the 175 members who attended were served lunch. MCCV President Mr Victor Borg was the guest of honour.

In his report to the members, the co-ordinator of the group George Saliba said that the success of the group can only be attributed to (a) the members for spreading the word around of how much they are enjoying themselves with, what the group is offering and providing, what the group is organising in terms of the weekly gatherings, activities, outings, trips and the social aspects, the facilities of the Maltese Community Centre at Parkville and the kind of service available; and (b) to the members of the committee, who year after year they continue to devote their spare time and energy to the success of the group.

At the end of the meeting, George, on behalf of all the members of the group thanked the MCCV for the use of the centre, stating that during the 14 years since the group has been meeting there, not once has the council stipulated any restrictions which is why it is important that we safeguard the centre with all the energy we possess. Since the formation of the group in 2001, the number of financial members went from 35 to 305 at present and still rising. 💧

Reskeon Seniors First Mass in 2015

By Paul Vella



The first meeting of the Seniors, started with the celebration of Holy Mass celebrated by Canon Fr Emmanuel Bonello, Parish Priest of St. Joseph the Worker Parish Church, North Reservoir.

Around 120 people attended the first meeting and all were eager to start a new year of meetings and activities.

At the start of the Mass, Fr Bonello read a list of deceased members, which included the founder John Gauci and other committee members. The Mass was offered as well for the repose of the soul of member Saviour Bartolo who passed away only a few days before.

Members Mary Azzopardi and Miriam Mizzi acted as Special Ministers during Holy Communion while the music was in the hands of member Margaret Tanti.

Fr Bonello delivered a very interesting Homily encouraging the committee and members to keep going with the work of the Group. 💧

MHA Events 2015

450 years since the Great Siege of Malta in 1565

By Joseph Borg

Suleiman the Magnificent thought that he had finally broken the will of the Order of St John when he expelled them from Rhodes.

Within eight years they had settled on the Island of Malta (1530) where they quickly took up their naval mission, that being to control the trade routes along the north coast of Africa, even as far as the Eastern Mediterranean.

The Corsairs had always been a threat to Christian shipping. They also frequently raided various places in search of booty and slaves. Malta was frequently raided by these pirates. So in a way the presence of the Knights in Malta helped to diminish these raids.

In the process of protecting Christian shipping, the Knights also plundered muslim shipping and in 1564 they had also captured some important ships and personnel belonging to the Sultan and those close to him.

Dragut, one of the leading Corsairs, was approached by Suleiman to join him in the invasion of Malta to get rid of the knights from the island in preparation for an invasion of Sicily and Southern Italy. Joining him would be Mustapha Pasha and Piali Pasha, the first in charge of the Ottoman army and the latter its navy.



During this period, the knights had been rebuilding and reinforcing the fortifications of the area around the Grand harbour, and were led by the Grand master Jean Parisot de La Valette. His spies kept him informed of what was going through the mind of Suleiman.

The siege started on May 18th of 1565 and lasted till the 13th of September with the final departure of the Ottoman fleet, leaving an island that was devastated yet victorious.

The Maltese Historical Association will be presenting three lectures on the subject dealing with:

- **19 May:** the reasons and preparations for the siege
- **16 June:** the siege itself
- **21 July:** the aftermath of the siege.

Lectures are held every Third Tuesday of the Month at the Maltese Centre in Parkville starting at 7.30pm sharp. For more information contact the MHA at secretary@mha.org or ring 98028332. 💧

Community Events Calendar

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

MARCH

Wednesday 4 March @ 7.00 pm	MCCV Council Meeting	Maltese Community Centre, Parkville
Saturday 14 March @ 6.00 pm to 11.00 pm	Get Together – St Helena Maltese	Maltese Community Centre, Parkville
Saturday 21 March @ 7.30 pm & Sunday 22 March @ 4.30 pm	Ikun Li Trid Int – Musical Production by Musicworx [See details on page 10]	St Bernadette Community Centre 21 – 29 Cooke Ave, Sunshine North

APRIL

Wednesday 1 April @ 7.00 pm	MCCV Council Meeting	Maltese Community Centre, Parkville
Saturday 18 April @ 6.00 pm to 11.00 pm	Get Together at Parkville – St Helena Maltese Australian SC	Maltese Cultural Hall Albion
Saturday 18 April @ 6.45 pm to 11.00 pm	Exciting 4-hour Port Phillip Bay Cruise on <i>Victoria Star</i> - MCCV	Victoria Harbour, Docklands



Maltese Community Council of Victoria

Exciting Bay Cruise on *Victoria Star*

SATURDAY, 18 APRIL 2015



4-hour Port Phillip Bay Cruise – food, drinks, dancing and party all inclusive

Departure time: 7.00 pm from Victoria Harbour, Docklands (boarding at 6.45 pm). Returns to Victoria Harbour, Docklands at 11.00 pm

Cost: \$100 per person

Reserve your booking by contacting Joe Stafrace or Carmen Mamo on 9387 8922