



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

IN THIS ISSUE

• President's Perspective	2	• FECCA Report: Older People in our community	14
• MCCV Council News	3	• Hu Hsieh Sahhtek: Il-pressjoni gholja	15
• MCCV helps raise awareness of gambling adverse effects in the community	3	• Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship 2015	16
• Victorian Minister for Multi-culturalism launches Maltese Cultural & Resource Directory	6	• Vince Calleja retires after 42 years of service to Newport Maltese Association	16
• Controversial new Parliament building in Malta inaugurated	7	• Maltese Salesian Past Pupils Assn of Victoria disbanded	17
• Fourth Convention of Maltese Living Abroad held in Malta	8	• Maltese Participation in Cultural Diversity Week	18
• ANZAC Centenary commemorated in Malta	10	• MHA Event March 2015: Malta through its monuments	20
• Long friendship with Malta recognised	13	• Community Calendar	20

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

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

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

The vibrancy and flow of the mural scene immediately transformed the hall into an apparently larger space of natural light and colour. The mural is part of a larger program of refurbishment of the Maltese Centre that the MCCV has been undertaking.

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

After the singing of the Maltese and Australian national anthems, Mr George Saliba, MC for the afternoon, welcomed the distinguished guests, which included Minister Robin Scott; Mr Victor Grech, the Consul General of Malta in Victoria; Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, Honorary Consul of Malta in Victoria; Mr Mario Sammut, Vice-Consul of Malta in the La Trobe Valley; Mr Eddie Micallef, Chairman of the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria; Fr Edwin Agius mssp, Rector at Parkville; and Sr Doris Falzon OP, Superior of the Dominican Sisters of Malta in Melbourne.

MCCV President Mr Victor Borg warmly welcomed Minister Scott on his first visit to the Maltese Centre since becoming Minister



Photo: George Brimmer

From left: MCCV Vice President Mr Joe Stafrace, mural artist Mr Peter Toyne, MCCV President Mr Victor Borg, Minister Robin Scott, Consul General Mr Victor Grech and Fr Edwin Agius mssp.

after last year's State election. Mr Borg spoke about the program of refurbishment of the Centre undertaken by the MCCV to give a much needed facelift to the building after more than 30 years of daily use by the community.

Mr Borg said that the MCCV had to dig deep to find the necessary funds for the refurbishment program. The works consisted of a complete renovation of the toilet block, ceiling tiles replacement in the hall, repairs to the roof and the double glazing of the large windows in the hall which provide the location for the mural.

The MCCV President said that the Centre was built as a result of a great community effort and thanks to the great working relationships that existed with the priests of the Missionary Society of St Paul.

Mr Borg said that unfortunately at the time it was built in the early 80s there were no federal or state grants for community capital projects and all the funds had to be raised by the Maltese community through many raffles, fêtes, and so on. This taught us that working together as a small community we can achieve great things and gave us a deep sense of pride that together we were able to establish premises, which has been of such great benefit to the community.

Mr Borg then spoke about the extensive welfare programs that the MCCV runs from the Centre. Many elderly Maltese regularly come to the Centre in Parkville and the other MCCV premises in Sunshine to participate in Planned Activity Groups activities.

Continued on page 4



President's Perspective

The Human Tragedy

News of the latest drowning of some 700 refugees a short distance from the Libyan coast is a great tragedy. As the Maltese Prime Minister Dr Joseph Muscat in a recorded interview broadcast in Australia on 19 April 2015 stated, this is a global issue and an indictment of European countries which seek to ignore the tragedy and loss of life of human beings seeking to obtain refugee and shelter.

It is difficult to understand how refugees could be dehumanised and their pleas for help and assistance fall on deaf ears. Through modern means of communication tragedies and disasters are transmitted into our homes within hours of these occurring. There are many politicians worldwide, who seek to secure community support by boasting that they have succeeded in preventing refugees reaching their shores. Quite often refugees are subjected to inhuman conditions to the extent that many take their own lives or are psychologically damaged beyond repair.

I often wonder whether community members care more for animals than their fellow human beings. Despite claims that refugees constitute a threat to a country, evidence in fact points to the contrary. Given the opportunity, many of them settle successfully and make a substantial contribution to their adopted country which gave them the gift of a new beginning.

It is high time that decent people make a public stand and demand a change in the treatment and housing of refugees. Silence can be implied as acceptance of the shocking treatment being meted out to them.

Refurbishment completed

All refurbishments works at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville have been completed. These works included the complete refitting of the toilet block, repairs to roof, replacement of ceiling tiles and double glazing of windows in the hall. A grant from the Victorian Multicultural Commission of \$32,000 went a long way to assist us in meeting the expensive building refurbishments costs.

The modernized building has been very well received by Maltese Community members who have appreciated the transformation of the building. A mural depicting a silhouette of a landscape of Malta created by Artist, Peter Toyne and mounted within the double glazing is a highlight and focal point of the community hall.

It was a wonderful and historical occasion to see so many members of our community witness and delight in the mural's unveiling by our special guest, the Victorian Minister for Finance and Multicultural Affairs the Hon Robin Scott at the special community event held last Sunday.

The mural has been named "The Fr Stanley Tomlin Memorial Mural" in memory of the late Fr Tomlin mssp (Superior General between 1970 and 1982) and in gratitude for his great support and inspiration for the important community project of the Maltese Community Centre at Parkville.

Maltese Interpreters

The MCCV recently took on the task with the assistance of a number of contributors to update its Maltese Cultural and Resource Directory. As a practicing Solicitor in the past, I often had great difficulty engaging professional Maltese interpreters. Following enquiries with the office of NAATI, the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters, I was alarmed to learn that there are currently only three accredited Maltese Interpreters throughout Australia: one in Sydney, one in Canberra and a para professional in the state of Victoria.

Unfortunately many previously accredited Maltese interpreters have either retired or passed away. The MCCV must make every effort to encourage retired or young community members who are fluent in the Maltese language to obtain accreditation and possibly a change of career. With our ever aging community there are many who are disadvantaged as a result of their inability to obtain an interpreter when attending medical appointments, court hearings or other services. In these situations, accuracy of interpretation into the Maltese language of information being verbally communicated is essential for proper representation and understanding. The MCCV would welcome enquiries from any person who is able to assist.

Interpreting services are handsomely rewarded and demands by public and private hospitals, medical practitioners, lawyers, courts and police are constantly on the increase.

Victor Borg
MCCV President



MCCV Council News

Transfer of HACC Packages to Bapcare. As mentioned in a previous edition of this newsletter, the MCCV had entered into negotiations with a suitable community services organisation to transfer its Home and Community Care (HACC) Packages. Earlier this year the MCCV reached an agreement with a larger and professional reputable provider, Bapcare, for the transfer of aged care packages. This required the reassessment of a number of clients over the past few weeks and the provision of high level service delivery. The transfer of these services became effective on 1 May 2015. transferred.

Maltese Diabetes Group. The MCCV is organising a Maltese Diabetes Group to provide education, assistance and support to those suffering from Diabetes. The MCCV has recently embarked on the establishment of a Maltese Diabetes Group to operate from its premises at 14 Watt Street Sunshine. It is anticipated that the project will commence later this year. The project is intended to focus on education, healthy living and eating, and the need to exercise regularly.

Assistance with placements in Aged Care facilities. The MCCV is regularly requested to assist people who wish to consider placing aged parents or friend in an aged care facility especially at a time when they can no longer be managed by family members. Contact has been made with a number of aged care facilities which have indicated their willingness to take part in the project. Arrangements will be made for people considering admission to an aged care facility to be taken to visit a number of facilities to familiarise themselves with living conditions and the environment. MCCV has prepared a list of aged care facilities which can be contacted directly or through the MCCV Welfare Director.

Home and Aged Care Facility Visitation Scheme. MCCV wishes to extend its Home & Aged Care Facility Visitation Scheme. This involves regular visits to private homes and aged care facilities as requested. A number of Maltese books, cassettes and DVDs are available for loan to clients as part of the MCCV Library service. All volunteers are subject to police checks prior to their engagement.

Australia Hall in Malta. The MCCV noted with interest the request by the Australian High Commissioner in Malta, HE Ms Jane Lambert, for conservation and refurbishment of the premises known as Australia Hall at Pembroke in Malta. The MCCV is of the view that the Malta Government should be requested to protect the structure. The MCCV will be making enquiries regarding current status of The Australia Hall and may call on the Malta and Australian governments to reach agreement in respect to the costs of the works to be undertaken.

Maltese biometric passport applications. The passport application saga still remains unsolved. Maltese citizens living in cities other than Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra (Australian Capital Territory) are still having to travel long distances with family members to attend at the Maltese consulates Melbourne and Sydney or the High Commission in Canberra to have their photographs and fingerprints taken and other requirements attended to in support of an application for a Maltese passport. Many intending applicants are unable to afford the costs of travel and accommodation and as a result forego their right and entitlement to a Maltese passport. Urgent attention to this matter by the Malta government is required. ♦

MCCV helps raise awareness of gambling adverse effects in the community

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria along with other ethnic community organisations in Victoria were invited to participate in a project led by HealthWest looking at ways to assist our communities in reducing gambling frequency.

The concern arises from statistical data showing a constant yearly increase in the amount of money being spent on gambling in particular by multicultural groups.

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

The key objectives of the project are to:

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

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

MCCV 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

Mural unveiling transforms Community Centre hall

Continued from page 1

Mr Borg said that the Maltese community is “going through a difficult period as a community because we are a rapidly ageing community.” He recalled that he was 13 years old when he arrived with his family in Australia, but 60 years later it will not be much longer before he joins the ageing generation of Maltese who would need to be looked after.

Mr Borg said that the MCCV “gives a sense of security to the ageing members of the community knowing that we mean to help them as much as possible.” He thanked the many volunteers who continue to give their time even though they themselves are getting to a fine and ripe age.

The MCCV President then spoke about the close relationship that Malta has for a long time had with Australia. “Some of Malta’s history is as good as the Australian history because it is fairly common knowledge that Malta also contributed to the convicts who were sentenced to life imprisonment in the State of New South Wales following desertion from the services,” he said.

Mr Borg said that multiculturalism is not a political policy and did not come about because of politicians or governments of the day. “Multiculturalism in Australia is, and has been, a fact of life. It is the way people live and contribute and the way we respect the others’ backgrounds, cultures and languages,” he said.

Mr Borg then spoke about the centenary of ANZAC and the Gallipoli invasion that was recently commemorated. He said that Malta had made a significant contribution in that effort and, as a result, became known as the “Nurse of the Mediterranean” because it looked after and took in hundreds of wounded Australian, New Zealanders and even Turkish soldiers. Unfortunately many of the soldiers succumbed to their wounds and are buried in the war graves in Malta, which are well looked after by the Maltese community.

Mr Borg then referred to the ANZAC monument in Malta. With generous contributions from the Maltese living in Victoria and other states in Australia, a monument to fallen ANZACs was erected in the Argotti Gardens in Floriana, Malta which was inaugurated in 2013. ANZAC Day is commemorated in Malta every year.

Mr Borg said that the mural aptly reminds us of our country of origin. He recognised the considerable contribution of Mr Tony Stafrace and Mr Hank Bos, directors of Axess Glass, and the artist Mr Peter Toyne. He thanked them for their great efforts in the execution of the mural project.



Photo: Edwin Borg-Manché

Mr Borg said that the MCCV felt it would be appropriate to name the mural in memory of the late Fr Stanley Tomlin mssp, who passed away in 2010 and had served as Superior General of the MSSP between 1970 and 1982, and in recognition of his strong support for, and contribution to, the construction of the Centre.

Mr Borg recalled speaking with him many years ago during a visit to Australia and with Fr George Scerri, who unfortunately was murdered in 1982 in MSSP premises not far from the Centre. “Fr Tomlin was a saintly man and a very wise man,” he said.

The MSSP was specifically set up to look after migrants in Australia and other parts of the world. The priests of the MSSP worked tirelessly with the community to raise the funds for the Centre. Negotiations between the MCCV and the MSSP was constantly amicable. Fr Tomlin wanted the MCCV to work together with the MSSP for the welfare of the Maltese community.

Finally Mr Borg thanked the Victorian Multicultural Commission for making a grant of \$32,000 to the MCCV towards the costs of about \$200,000 spent on the refurbishments.

In his reply, Minister Robin Scott thanked the MCCV President for the invitation and for the warm welcome that he received. Mr Scott said that, through his friendship with former federal MP, Mr Christian Zahra, whose parents he had met, he had gained some insight into Maltese culture. He said that the Maltese community played an important role in multiculturalism and has a deep link to Australia.

Speaking about the mural before it was unveiled, Mr Scott said that he believed that the mural was inspired by the breathtaking coastline and architecture of Malta. He said that there was one other thing about Malta that he knew: “Malta has an old and proud history going back centuries right back to

the Phoenicians. However, it is a place not just of culture and history but also a place of natural beauty. The mural pays tribute to those aspects,” he said. He expressed his wish to visit Malta one day.

Mr Scott thanked the MCCV for the opportunity to launch the Directory and unveil the mural. He said it would certainly not be the last time that he would be visiting the Maltese Centre.

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

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

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

MCCV Vice President Mr Joseph Stafrace, who was the driving force being the mural project, thanked those people without whom the project would not have been possible. He thanked directors Mr Tony Stafrace and Mr Hank Bos, Mr Ben Stafrace, all of Axess Glass, and the artist Mr Peter Toyne. He said that he was grateful for his contribution at no cost to the community. Mr Stafrace then presented Mr Toyne with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Continued on page 5

Mural unveiling transforms Community Centre hall

Continued from page 4

In his reply Mr Toyne said that his brief for the mural was to produce something that was not just evocative of Malta, but it also had to be colourful and have lots of movement.

Mr Toyne spoke about the three story lines that inspired the mural design. The central story of the mural represents his artistic view of Valletta as a magical, romantic place and he hoped that it captured the feeling of Valletta. The second story is of the Mediterranean Sea that surrounds the island of Malta, which has a strong and ongoing relationship with the sea. The third story relates to emigration and, if migrants left by sea, they would have passed by the point of Fort St Elmo depicted in the mural at the entrance to the Grand Harbour.

Finally Mr Toyne thanked those who worked with him on the project, particularly the Axess Glass directors and staff who produced the vibrant colours and the final product.

The Consul General of Malta, Mr Victor Grech, congratulated the MCCV on the completion of the mural project. He said that it was a great achievement. He reminded those present that in 2018 Valletta will be the cultural capital of Europe. ♦

Report by Edwin Borg-Manché

Right: MCCV President Victor Borg presenting a memento to Minister Robin Scott.



Photo: Paul Vella

About the artist and the mural



Photo: Nino Xerri

PETER TOYNE, the MCCV mural's artist, has followed many careers before taking up his art and design practice. These included scientific research, teaching, community development work in the Northern Territory, and a 10-year stint as a Member of the NT Parliament. Throughout his earlier working life his interest and involvement in art was always there to resurface after he left Parliament.

Peter considered the commission to design the mural in the Maltese Community Centre hall for the MCCV as both a great honour and, equally, a great responsibility. The latter because the design was to express Maltese culture and identity.

Three story lines

After talking to the MCCV project committee and reviewing lots of photographs and stories of Malta, he felt that a panorama of Valletta could provide a powerful reminder of the home country. The resulting design carries three story lines.

The *first* is the city itself, drawn as a romantic dream, to present its rich history and sense of place. Peter was thrilled by the obvious connection made the audience to the landmarks which were included in the panorama. Many people pointed to where they lived or worked in the city before coming to Australia.

The *second* story is the story of the sea. Malta has a rich history of sea faring and this is symbolised by the traditional fishing boats. The water itself is used to reflect the colour and form of the city, lending vibrant colour and movement to the design.

The *last*, but perhaps the most important story line, is that of emigration. The mural includes the point at Fort St Elmo, the last place in Malta that migrants passed as they left to resettle in their new chosen countries. This place witnessed the flow of people with talent, energy and ambition as they were gifted to countries such as Australia. Many would have contributed tears to the waters of the harbour in memory of those they were leaving behind.

Peter hopes that the mural provides pleasure and context to those using the Community Centre in the years to come. ♦



Photo: Nino Xerri

MCCV Vice President Joseph Stafrace after the presentation of the Certificate of Appreciation to Peter Toyne

Victorian Minister for Multiculturalism launches Maltese Cultural and Resource Directory

At the cocktail reception held on 3 May at the Maltese Centre in Parkville the Victorian Minister for Finance and Multicultural Affairs the Hon Robin Scott launched the Maltese Cultural and Resource Directory.

In his address, the MCCV President Mr Victor Borg said that the Directory is a particularly good resource for the ageing members of our community residing in aged care facilities. He said that when people advance in years, they tend to revert back to their language of birth. The directory also contains common phrases in Maltese that are useful in situations arising in aged care facilities. He thanked the team of volunteers, led by former MCCV President Mr Joseph Borg, who compiled and developed the Directory.

In his address, Minister Scott said that when the Maltese community came to Australia in the post Second World War period, you could not find a more family orientated community. Very often they were blue collar workers who worked hard to care for their families and create opportunities in Australian society. They gave back to the community, whether through community groups like the MCCV, the church or other forms of social engagement. People who dedicated themselves and helped so much to build the community in which we live.

Mr Scott said that it is important that, as people age, people are respected. He said that he was really pleased to be launching the Maltese Cultural and Resource Directory, which is intended to all aged facilities and other community services to have an understanding and a sensitivity to the needs of Maltese people who are ageing and getting support and to ensure that those that care are able to meet the needs of those Maltese. Going back to one's original language is a very commonplace.

Minister Scott paid tribute to the MCCV for undertaking the work to allow that resource to be developed and publishing such a useful resource, which will help Maltese people get the respect and dignity that they deserve and should have. As they have done many times, the Maltese are providing a model to other communities about how their people should be cared for. The Maltese community is a strong community who believe and care for each other.

MCCV President Mr Victor Borg then presented Minister Scott with a copy of the Maltese Cultural and Resource Directory. 💧



Photo: Paul Vella

Emmanuel Spiteri's long service to Maltese community recognised



Photo: Nino Xerri

Above: Consul General Mr Victor Grech presenting the Certificate of Appreciation to Mr Emmanuel Spiteri awarded by the MCCV for his longtime service to the Maltese Ex-Services Association of Victoria and his Presidency of the Association over the last 15 years. At 91 years, Mr Spiteri has given great service to the community and well deserves to have his contribution recognised.



Photo: Nino Xerri

From Left: Mrs Sammut, Mr Mario Sammut, Mr Paul Borg, Mrs Pauline Borg, Mr Peter Toyne, Mr Joseph Borg, Mr Andrew Gatt, Mrs Rita Pulicino, Mr Victor Borg, Minister Robin Scott, Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, Mrs Edwina Mallia, Mr Victor Grech, Ms Edwidge Borg, Mr Eddie Micallef, Mrs Antonia Camilleri and Mr Joseph Stafrace.

Controversial new Parliament building in Malta inaugurated

Malta's first ever purpose-built Parliament House located at the entrance to Valletta was inaugurated by Malta's President Mrs Marie-Louise Coleiro-Precia on Monday May 4, after lengthy delays in its construction and commissioning. Speaker Anglu Farrugia hailed the event as an important step forward for parliament to be truly autonomous of every institution.

The design of the building by renowned architect Renzo Piano had led to years of controversy. Mr Piano did not attend and was never mentioned in the ceremony.

Former Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi, who commissioned the project, was among former MPs present for the ceremony. Also present was former President and Prime Minister Eddie Fenech Adami, members of the judiciary and members of the diplomatic corps.

In an address just outside the building, Speaker Dr Anglu Farrugia said the building of Parliament House was a step in the right direction, and a timely one. It was a reflection of how Parliament should be autonomous of any other institution.

He said Parliament had a glorious history and he looked forward to more legislation to uphold the dignity of parliament, including the law on standards in public life.

Dr Farrugia said Parliament was becoming more open and transparent, as also evidenced by the fact that video streaming of parliamentary proceedings would start from today. This was a quantum leap in parliamentary life and should be followed-up by a free to air parliamentary TV channel.

Dr Farrugia said today's ceremony showed a strong belief in democratic life. He wished all present more hard work in the interests of the nation.

Democracy for all

President Coleiro-Precia said today was a milestone in the country's parliamentary history. This new building was an opportunity for reflection on democracy and the benefits that came with it. A strong democracy was one which reflected the will of the majority and respected also the interests of the minorities including those who were socially deprived. She regretted that women's representation in Malta's parliament was just 13 per cent and said this needed to increase if parliament was to be truly representative of society.

In the House, she insisted, it should be the arguments which counted, not insults, and MPs should respect each other, and therefore the people who elected them. MPs should be examples of tolerance of each other's views.

*Right: The new building.
Below: The parliamentary chamber.*

Bottom: President Coleiro-Precia addressing MPs and guests at the inauguration ceremony in Valletta.



Parliament should adopt the best ideas from whatever side they came, because that reflected maturity.

President Coleiro-Precia said she looked forward to an updating of the Constitution to reflect the people's current needs.

She urged MPs to also hear pockets of society who have no voice, including migrants. MPs, she said, should also continue to work hard in Europe for an international solution to the migration problem.

MPs should show courage and discuss the introduction of a social pay. They should also feel it their duty to safeguard the environment.

Parliament should not have a monopoly in the democratic process but should rather promote its dissemination to all strata of society. Democracy was built every day and needed to be cared for every day, she said.

At the end of the President's speech a police detachment marched towards the building and the Police Commissioner handed the keys of the new Parliament House to the Speaker.

The President then unveiled a commemorative plaque and the building was blessed by Archbishop Charles J Scicluna. The Archbishop then presented a painting of St Thomas More, patron saint of politicians. The painting was made by artist Manuel Farrugia.

The guests then moved in to the new Chamber, with MPs having the opportunity to try out their new seats.

The ceremony ended shortly after 5 p.m. and the first sitting in the new parliament started an hour later. ♦

Fourth Convention of Maltese Living Abroad held in Malta



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

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

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

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

She insisted that Malta and the Maltese



diaspora could contribute to each other's benefit, and pledged that the Presidency would remain close to Maltese people living overseas.

"You are a part of us, and we want to help you foster your Maltese identity. Malta still needs you," she said.

The President said that any Maltese people living overseas who may wish to contribute to Malta could do so in various ways, including through the President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society and the Malta Community Chest Fund, which will itself be transformed into a foundation in the near future.

She concluded by stating that she was proud to be the President of every Maltese person, including those living overseas, and encouraged the diaspora to continue to give visibility to their country of origin.

Mrs Coleiro Preca also augured that the

Maltese living abroad would continue visiting Malta, stating that they will always find people ready to welcome them on their arrival.

Arts Exhibition

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

This exhibition presented works in varied styles and art forms which describe the broad connections between Malta and Maltese artists living abroad. Whilst some continue to be inspired by Maltese heritage,

Continued on page 9



Convention participants and special guests at the welcome reception hosted by President Coleiro-Preca on Monday 20 April at the President's Palace in San Anton

Fourth Convention of Maltese Living Abroad held in Malta

Continued from page 8

society and traditions, others choose not to. Some were chosen from a selection of works proposed by the artist. Others were proposed by the artist directly.

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

Official Opening

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

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

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

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

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

Mr Vella said that the government is doing its utmost to ensure that capabilities of those living abroad are used to the fullest.

Maltese living abroad can serve as a powerful advert for Malta, triggering tourism and investment, he said.

He added that one can't forget the 700 Maltese missionaries spread across the world, who are putting their lives in danger for the safety of others.

Leader of the Opposition Simon Busuttil said that every Maltese family living abroad serves as an embassy for all that is Maltese.

He said authorities should assist elderly citizens living abroad to communicate using their national language.

For the past ten years, the Council for the Maltese Language has strived to protect the national language, and citizens living abroad do their utmost to promote the language.

Dr Busuttil said that the acquiring of Maltese passport has today become highly liberal who have the best interest for their country of origin. There are still however



difficulties that some face, and these need to be sorted out.

He noted that between 2004 and 2020, Malta would have benefitted €2.5 billion of funds from the European Union and these allow for infrastructural as well as cultural projects. Maltese living abroad should also benefit from such funds, he said.

Secondary school students also took part in the convention.

Migrants who died at sea remembered

A minute of silence was held in memory of those who lost their lives at sea in the past few days.

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

"It is quite ironic that we are celebrating Maltese migration history at the same time of such tragedies. We should not only engage in humanitarian projects to save lives, but we need to attack the criminal

racket, which is allowing traffickers to make anything between €1 and €5 million for one trip," Dr Muscat said.

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

Writers' Symposium

A literary symposium for Maltese writers living abroad was held in the evening on 22 April at the Valletta Campus of the University of Malta. The symposium consisted of three parts: Translocated Writing, Diasporic Writing and a round-table discussion.

The writers who participated included Karl Schembri, Mark Vella, Alex Vella Gera, Josephine Burden, Lou Drogenik, Aline P'nine Tayar and Annamaria Weldon.

ANZAC Centenary commemorated in Malta

Wreaths were laid at the Pieta Military Cemetery in Malta on Saturday April 25 in a commemorative ceremony marking 100 years since the Anzac landings in Gallipoli.

Apart from some 800 Maltese volunteers who supported the Gallipoli campaign, numerous sick and wounded men were evacuated to Malta for medical treatment during the campaign.

By the end of war, some 55,000 Australian and New Zealand soldiers had been treated in Malta and 237 remain buried here.

In her welcome address the Australian High Commissioner Ms Jane Lambert said that "Anzac Day has become over the years the day on which Australians and New Zealanders, where ever they may be, pause and reflect on the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have served our nations in wars, conflicts and peace-operations since the Gallipoli campaign of 1915."

"It is the day on which we acknowledge the fallen, the wounded and the survivors, and their families, for their courage and determination on our behalf to strive for a better society and world. This year, the centenary, is the occasion to mark a century of service and sacrifice," she said.

Ms Lambert referred to Anzac Day this year being the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign. "There is a particular focus on that campaign, on the stories of brave deeds and acts of compassion, of the deprivations experienced by all soldiers who found themselves in that terrible conflict, and of the volunteers and medical staff that supported them," she said.

Speaking at the ceremony, President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca said: "Every year, we gather to commemorate ANZAC Day, as we show our respect to the men and women who lost their lives on the shores of Gallipoli.

"The 100th anniversary of the arrival of the Australian soldiers in Gallipoli, is a reminder to us all, of the suffering that is brought about by wars, injustices and persecutions of people around the world.

"Malta, then, also played an important role, as the nurse of the Mediterranean, caring for the hurt and wounded, and as the burial place of so many men and women who lost their lives.

"Malta now has a new role, that of being a centre for peace and dialogue among peoples, so that its strategic position in the Mediterranean, can serve as a beacon for World Peace.

"In remembering the horrors of war, let us all strive to work for peace for all nations, be compassionate towards all people, understand each other and celebrate our differences, so that we may all live together in harmony."

The main address for the occasion was delivered by Maltese-Australian Judge Peter Zahra SC of the District Court of New South Wales (see page 11). ♦



During the playing of the last post at the ANZAC commemoration ceremony.



The President of Malta Mrs Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca during the laying of the wreaths.



Unveiling of information panel by Commonwealth War Graves Area Director Mr David Symons and the President of Malta

[Photos supplied by Australian High Commission]

ANZAC Centenary commemorated in Malta

Address delivered by Judge Peter Zahra SC

District Court of New South Wales, Australia

About five hours ago, and a hundred years before, Australian and New Zealand soldiers, comprising the leading party, set off from the safety of their ship moored in the Dardanelle Straits and made their way in four boats towards the Gallipoli shore. It was past dawn on the 25 April 1915 and the dim light of the early morning was broken by the flashes of shells and rifle fire. Approaching the shore they could see shells bursting over the boats. Ahead they could see rifle and machine gun fire cutting up the water. As the lead boat entered the field of fire, five of the six rowers were shot, but others took their oars, and they pushed on. As that first boat scraped the sand beneath it the soldiers threw themselves into the water and made their way ashore. Those who were not shot scrambled to take cover behind grass tufts on the beach.

Of the one hundred and forty soldiers in those first four boats only three officers and thirty five men, many wounded, made the safety of those grass tufts. The rest lay dead or dying behind them.

This account by Australian war correspondent Charles Bean and the description of the sacrifice of those first soldiers captures the essence of the courage of the men who we commemorate today. By the end of that first day, 2000 of the Australian and New Zealand troops, the ANZAC's, were killed in action.

The acts of those first few were repeated many times in the coming hours, days, weeks and months thereafter within this theatre of war at Gallipoli. In the following years of the First World War many thousands more Australian and New Zealand soldiers would serve and fall in other theatres of war on the Western Front. Many thousands of predominantly young men were killed. Many more were wounded.

Many young men did not return to their mothers and their families. They did not return to live and grow in their home. They lay buried in the sands of Gallipoli, the valleys in the Dardanelles, and other foreign lands including the hills of Palestine; in the fields of France and here in the lands of Malta.

We today think of every man who, in those crucial hours, fought beside each other on the first ANZAC day. Whilst it is important to not lose sight of the fact of the futility of war and the decisions, at times flawed, to send many to their untimely deaths, today, the focus must be on the courage of these men and the honour in which they are held.

To understand the courage of these men one might for a moment close ones eyes and place oneself alongside one of the Anzacs in one of the lead boats. To imagine; to hear; to see; to feel the shells and machine gun fire exploding close by. To see an oarsmen shot and killed and, moving that man to one side, taking up that man's position at the oars. To then landing on an unprotected beach where so many of

your fellow soldiers, who a moment before were beside you, now lay dead or mortally wounded. To then, without regard for one's own life, heed the call to move on up the beach in the face of inevitable death.

This call to lay down one's life was unselfishly heeded by so many young men in the period following that first Anzac Day. To accept the order to leave the trenches without question in the face of heavy machine gun fire when soldiers who mounted the trench a moment before them lay dead or dying is an extraordinary act of courage and heroism.

It is that that we focus on today because they did that for us. They must not be forgotten.

They died so that the light of freedom and humanity might continue to shine. Their sacrifice was with the intention to preserve liberty and peace to all.

They did so without question.

One might ask why these men did so; why were the Anzac forces involved in a conflict in lands so distant from their home.

Within days of the outbreak of war, Australia agreed to place the new Australian Navy under the control of the Royal British Navy. Australia agreed also to supply expeditionary forces, initially of 20,000 and then 30,000 men. Tens of thousands rushed to enlist in a swell of patriotic fervour. Ultimately hundreds of thousands of Australian men served during the First World War.

In early 1915, in the months before the first Anzac Day, it was determined to control the Straits of the Dardanelles through a naval attack to prevent enemy ships entering the Mediterranean, thereby shutting out enemy forces from the east. Malta played a significant role in this early stage. It provided a base for allied submarines and ships. Both British and French fleets were based in Malta.

A large number of Maltese naval personnel served on British vessels. Many hundreds of Maltese on board allied ships were killed at sea when the fleet was met with heavy fire from enemy ships and land artillery. The subsequent heavy losses at sea to the allied naval fleet led to the ground invasion.

The Anzacs were to be involved at the forefront of that land invasion. It was intended for Australian troops to land at Gaba Tepe on the Aegean coastline. French and British troops were to land at other points on the Gallipoli Peninsula. With delays in preparations, enemy forces were able to fortify and reinforce their defences and men. Upon being landed at a point some distance from that planned, the Anzacs found the beach and the terrain open to fire. Beyond was a steep escarpment also open to fire. Under enemy fire, wave after wave of Anzac troops gallantly gained territory, some breaching enemy fortifications. The gains were however momentary and the fire from enemy fortifications prevailed.

The loss of life on that first day was enor-

mous. On the first day, the 25th April, of the 16,000 Anzac troops that landed 2,900 were killed or wounded.

Further high loss of life followed as the Anzacs dug into trenches and attempted to overrun the defences. They obeyed call after call to breach the trenches even though they could see those before them killed and wounded. In less than two weeks from the first landing, the First Division at Anzac Cove lost in the order of half its strength with 5000 men killed or wounded.

The battle at Cape Helles on the 5th May, 10 days after the first landing, involved an attack by the second brigade on heavily fortified and entrenched machine gun and artillery battlements. The first wave of attack, under what was described as a "screaming hurricane of bullets", saw almost every man killed or wounded. In over a little more than an hour in that battle 1056 were killed or wounded.

In the battle at Krithia on the 8th May, 13 days after the landing, Australian forces lost a third of their strength with in the order of one thousand dead and wounded.

At Lone Pine between 6th and 10th August, in an intense battle, 2,277 were killed and wounded, almost half of the contingent of 4,600. Such was the gallantry of Australian forces that seven soldiers were awarded the Victoria Cross in that battle alone. To my left, on the first terrace, lay the bodies of a number of Anzac's who died within two weeks of this horrific battle. They include Private Stephenson; Lance Corporal Hodge; Second Lieutenant Mc Dougall; Corporal Shaw; Corporal McIntosh and Light Horseman Maclean aged 18.

In the period between that first day on the 25th April and December 1915, when allied forces ultimately withdrew, 11,419 Anzacs were killed and 24,291 were wounded. (8709 Australian soldiers were killed and 19,441 were wounded. 2710 New Zealand soldiers died and 4850 wounded).

Despite the heavy casualties on the Gallipoli Peninsula Anzac troops were further committed to the conflict of the First World War beyond Gallipoli.

After stalemate on the Gallipoli Peninsula, in December 1915 Australian troops were deployed to the Western Front and then the Middle East. There they were at the forefront of the defences. They again suffered great loss of life. The loss from the battle of Fromelles in July 1916 saw 5,533 Anzac casualties in twenty four hours. By the end of that year about 40,000 Australians had been killed or wounded on the Western Front. In 1917 a further 76,836 Australians became casualties in battles in France and Belgium.

The contribution of Australia to the First World War was significant. With a population at the time of just five million people, 416,809 men had enlisted. Overall, over the period of the war, 61,000 were killed and 156,000 were wounded.

What these casualty figures however do not sufficiently reveal is the horror and

Continued on page 12

ANZAC Centenary commemorated in Malta

Address by Judge Peter Zahra

Continued from page 11

carnage of these young men. The descriptions that appear in the accounts of correspondents and in the letters of these men to their families relate the agony and suffering of the dying in the fields and the suffering of the wounded. Whilst the accounts graphically describe the horror, they remain to us unimaginable. Human emotion at times operates to protect and shut down the capacity to fully comprehend the enormity of this human loss and suffering. Many photos of ANZAC troops in trenches and in the battlefields can be accessed through modern media and provide some insight. The faces and eyes of these young men provide an unmistakable window into their burdened souls.

It is difficult to fathom the loss and grief of their families to whom they did not return. They were left with the thought that their son or brother lay in such a distant place that could not be bridged. Many of the men were in their teens, some as young as sixteen.

There is much discussion these days whether Anzac Day defines the identity of the Australian people.

Over the period of the First World War the Anzacs gained a reputation amongst allied forces as a formidable army in their own right. Those sentiments were at later times repeated by enemy forces. Ataturk, the commander of the Turkish Army at the time of the Gallipoli landing, and later to become the first President of the Republic of Turkey, later described the Anzacs as heroes. Importantly, the accounts of the battles reveal, at the same time, in the aftermath of battle, the humanity of the Anzacs towards their fallen enemy. There are many accounts of their aid and comfort to their wounded enemy.

It is considered that the Gallipoli campaign marked the birth of national consciousness. It is said that Australia's sense of itself as a nation was moulded by the experiences of its men under fire; that they went to war for the British Empire and returned home with a new sense of Australian identity and distinct national pride in what they had done on the battlefield.

The character of the Anzacs that transcended into the nations people reflected qualities which included the sharing of burden- the willingness to come to the aid of those who need help; the quality of loyalty, manifest in the bond between its people- the notion of "mateship"; in social equality- the sense of the "fair go" and the quality of self-reliance.

It is said that when the Anzacs first sailed the nation did not know itself. It is said that it is in disaster that human character is most clearly exhibited. Whilst in its history the country experienced hardships of the land, fire, drought and flood, it was their character born at Gallipoli which saw the country rise in the esteem of the world's oldest and greatest nations. Australians also came to know themselves.

The qualities and spirit of the Anzacs have been manifest in the country's history since. Australia has continued to commit itself in the many theatres of war in modern history; during the Second World War in Europe and the Pacific; Korea, Vietnam and, in recent times, in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It is necessary to recognise at this time the substantial role and contribution of Malta in coming to the aid of wounded Anzacs. Malta gained the reputation as the "Nurse of the Mediterranean" and provided aid to the dying and wounded in their hospitals. The genesis of this role no doubt lay in the middle ages with the Knights Hospitallers; the Knights of St John.

Malta was declared a military hospital base in early 1915. Hospitals were first established in Cottonera and Valetta and, over time, 27 hospitals were established. By the end of the war almost 55,000 Anzacs from the Gallipoli campaign were treated in Malta. 4000 alone in May 1915 after the first week of the landings. Accounts indicate the majority of cases involved the seriously wounded. By their care, an immense load of human suffering was obviated. A large number of lives were saved.

On 15th April 1916 the first Anzac Day was commemorated here in the Pieta Military Cemetery. 274 Anzac troops remain buried in Malta.

The men buried here in Malta did not return to their homes to follow their dreams. They are however home here in this peaceful place of Malta. Malta showed them kindness. In the same way as Ataturk noted to the mothers of those Anzacs buried at Gallipoli, those who died here and are buried in Malta have become Malta's sons as well.

The Maltese people know the horrors of war and the courage of those who served throughout their history. As I have already noted, many Maltese naval personnel were also killed in action during the First World War. Among them is my namesake Peter Galea, my father's cousin, who, at 21 was killed in action when his ship, the HMS Princess Irene, exploded on the Medway River England on the 27th of May 1915, four weeks after the Gallipoli landing. I have the death plaque given to his mother, my great aunt, with me here today. That same death plaque was also given to each of the families of Anzac and allied soldiers who lost a family member during what was then said to be "The Great War for Civilisation". The plaque reads "He Died for Freedom and Honour".

The horror of war and the suffering of the people of Malta in the Second World War were described to me by my parents. My father, a soldier in the British army was deployed in observation towers along the Grand Harbour waterfront. My mother huddled and frightened in a shelter under the house she was born in Paola which is better known now as the Hypogeum. My father related many times the skies blackened with enemy aircraft during relentless bombing raids. The emotion of my father was most evident however when he recollected the loss of life of those allied naval personnel, who like the Anzacs, gave their lives for the freedom of others. Many allied naval personnel died when their ships were bombed when coming to

the aid of the Maltese; to release them from the siege of war. My father was unable to relate what he saw which I suspect, from the context, was unspeakable carnage.

The spirit of the Maltese People is also carved by the affliction of war. The gallantry and heroism of the Maltese ultimately acknowledged by the awarding of the George Cross.

Lest we Forget

In a broken and divided world the message of the Anzacs is more relevant today, one hundred years later. They sacrificed their lives in service of their country and will not be forgotten. They gave their lives to uphold values of democracy, peace and freedom. Generation after generation have and will continue to uphold the values and principles for which they fought and died.

These men did not falter. It was said that they had done everything mortal man could do. Those who had fallen did not grow old in their homeland with their families. Their lives however were not given in vain. As one correspondent noted (C.E.W Bean *'The Story of Anzac': The Official History of Australia in the War 1914-1918*):

"They gave their shining youth, and raised thereby valour's own monument which cannot die."

Lest we forget.

Judge Peter Zahra SC

ANZAC Day, 25 April 2015

'ANZAC Experience in Malta' Tours

The 'ANZAC Experience in Malta' is a series of four self-guided tours to the principal sites associated with ANZAC personnel; mainly during the First World War. The tours detail where wounded ANZACs convalesced, were entertained and hospitalised, and the various final resting places of those service personnel who lost their lives. Also detailed are various other points of interest; places where both recovering and off duty service personnel may have visited.

The tours differ in length with certain tours requiring a vehicle. The tours vary in how they can be followed: either circularly – ending where they began; or in a linear fashion. A map for each specific tour is provided within the guide.

The tours can be downloaded in PDF format by clicking on the below links.

Tour 1: Arrival <files/mlta/one ANZAC experience - Arrival.pdf>

Tour 2: Healing <files/mlta/02 ANZAC experience - Healing.pdf>

Tour 3: Recovery <files/mlta/03 ANZAC experience - Recovery.pdf>

Tour 4: Departure <files/mlta/04 ANZAC experience - Departure.pdf>

The tours are also available by clicking on the following link: www.travelmalta.com/anzacs.html.

Long friendship with Malta recognised

President of Victoria's Legislative Council, Bruce Atkinson, has met with the Speaker of Malta's Parliament, Anglu Farrugia, paying tribute to the strong friendship between Australia and Malta. The 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two countries was celebrated recently.

The meeting at Malta's Parliament recognised that important milestone and reinforced the close ties between two Commonwealth legislatures. During the meeting, Maltese parliamentarians highlighted several issues of current interest in Malta's relationship with Australia.

They discussed migration; the use of technology and the media to enhance links between our two countries; collaboration in sport; and the impact of a recent Australian law on Australian pensioners residing in Malta who return to their country of origin for an extended period.

They also raised the potential of Malta as a platform for Australian companies seeking to enter the European Union market.

Upcoming Commonwealth meetings were also discussed, including a Commonwealth workshop on public accounts committees in June and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in November. Both events are being held in Malta.

A few days before the meeting, the sacrifice of Australian soldiers was recognised at a Gallipoli Centenary ceremony held on 25 April at the Tal-Pietà Cemetery in Malta, where Anzac soldiers are buried.

On Anzac Day, Mr Atkinson and Ms Lovell attended the ceremony at Villers-Bretonneux in France, where the President of the Legislative Council laid a wreath on behalf of the Victorian Government and people. ♦

[Source: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/about/news/2594-long-friendship-with-malta-recognised>]



Bruce Atkinson signs visitors book at Malta's Parliament with Speaker Anglu Farrugia and Victorian Legislative Council member Wendy Lovell



Meeting with the Speaker and members of Malta's Parliament

WUNDERLICH ASBESTOS CEMENT?

CAN YOU HELP?

Did you use Wunderlich asbestos cement sheet in the construction of your home in the mid 1970's? Is it still in your home?

If so, please contact Sally Weir at Maurice Blackburn Lawyers on 9605 2601.

9605 2601 | mauriceblackburn.com.au

**Maurice
Blackburn**
Lawyers
Since 1972

Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia Report

Older People in our community

By Prof. Maurice Cauchi

The Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA) has just published a report¹ relating to needs of older persons from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. The following highlights some aspects from this report as they relate to the Maltese community in Australia.

There are now just under 20,000 Maltese persons aged 65 and over. In view of the fact that the total number of Malta-born persons is around 43,000, this means that about half of Maltese have reached this age bracket. Of these, nearly a fifth are aged 80 years and over.

Table 1: Number of Maltese aged 65 years and over

65-79	15,643
80+	3,553
Total:	19,196

Such reports are important to help determine the needs of the community. A fifth of Maltese live alone, and it is not surprising to see that 21% of Maltese have indicated that they needed assistance.

Compared to other ethnic groups, the proportion of Maltese who do not speak English reasonably well is relatively low (at 10%).

It is interesting to note also that home ownership is one of the highest (at nearly 78%)

Table 2: Maltese 65+ in Australia

Needed assistance:	21.1%
Not speak English well or at all	10.1%
Live alone:	20.16%
Own home outright	77.9%

As expected, the majority of elderly Maltese are to be found in Victoria (46%), and NSW (40%), with the remaining 14% scattered in the other states. When compared with other nationalities aged Maltese in Victoria rank 5th largest group and NSW 7th largest. Perhaps more worrying is the absence of Maltese in the top 10 ranks for persons below the age of 65, indicating that there is a relatively smaller proportion of persons of a younger age.

**Table 3: Top 10 NESB aged 65+**

State	No	% of CALD	Rank
NSW	7,732	3.5	7 th
Vic	8,910	4.3	5 th

The report reminds us that "many older CALD Australians have higher levels of disadvantage and other risk factors than older Anglo-Australians, and that these factors may affect their ageing experience in Australia."

To note also that elderly Maltese have not kept up with internet developments: More than half (53%) of Maltese aged 65+ have no internet connection, compared to the Anglo-Australian (37.5%). In this respect they resemble other south Mediterranean groups (Italy, Greece and Croatia) that show similar proportions of persons with no internet connection. This contrasts with persons from Asia (China, India, and Vietnam) where the proportion who do not have internet connections is in the region of 30% or less. In an age when so much information is transmitted through the internet, this puts an extra strain on communications with ageing Maltese.

On the positive side, home ownership among Maltese is one of the highest, being second only to that of Italy and Greece

The Report concludes that:— "in general older people from CALD backgrounds have poorer socioeconomic status

compared to the older Anglo-Australian population. However, indicators of socioeconomic differences vary across groups.'

Moreover, the Report discusses the 'multiple vulnerabilities' which affect people from CALD background. We are reminded that they:

- are more likely to be smokers;
- have an increased risk of poverty;
- have less superannuation savings;
- are less likely to be in paid work;
- have lower rates of volunteering;
- have lower levels of education;
- have lower rates of access to services; and
- have lower rates of use of information technology.

Other important key findings of the Report:

- Older people from CALD backgrounds have a higher risk of mental health issues than those born in Australia.
- There is an underuse of mental health services by older people from CALD backgrounds.
- Older people from CALD backgrounds tend to present at later stages of illness compared to other older people in Australia.
- In general, older people from CALD backgrounds have lower rates of use of care and carers support services compared to older Anglo-Australians.

Studies such as these emphasise the need for ethno-specific services for these people who, even after having spent a lifetime in their new environment, still have issues which are different from the native-born population that need to be tackled. 💧

¹ *Review of Australian Research on Older People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds*. March 2015 (www.fecca.org.au)



Hu Hsieb Sahhitek

Professur Maurice Cauchi



Il-Pressjoni Gholja

Il-pressjoni gholja hija haġa komuni hafna fost il-Maltin, sewwa irġiel kif ukoll nisa.

X'inhi preċisament il-pressjoni gholja? Il-qalb tippompja id-demm li jiġri fil-arterji u l-vini tal-gisem. L-arterji jiehdu id-demm mill-qalb u minn hemm jixtered mal-gisem kollu. Il-vini igibu d-demm lura lejn il-qalb. Meta l-arterji jidjieu, il-pressjoni toghla.

Meta tiċċekkja għall-pressjoni issib li normalment din tkun madwar 120. Jekk tkun aktar minn 140, dan ifisser li għandek il-bidu tal-pressjoni gholja.

Għal-hafna snin, wiehed jista' jkollu pressjoni gholja u ma jkollu ebda ideja ta' dan, għaliex fil-bidu ma jkun ebda sinjali ta' mard, jew sintomi, jew xi ħjiel li xi haġa mhix sewwa.

Però wara hafna snin, jibdwu il-kumplikazzjonijiet. Nibdwu bl-uġieħ ta' ras, jew għejja, jew sinjali oħra. Imbagħad, meta l-marda tidhol aktar l-ġewwa, naraw problemi oħra aktar serji. Il-qalb tibda tgħejja u fl-aħħar tibda tfalli ('heart failure'). Il-kliewi jibdwu ibattu. Jista' ukoll tirriżulta puplesija ('stroke'), għaliex l-arterji fil-mohħ ma jkunx jifilħu aktar għall-pressjoni u jistgħu jibdwu jinqas u jgħibu emorragija.

Issa dawn huma komplikazzjonijiet li jistgħu jiġru wara hafna snin li dak li jkun ikollu l-pressjoni u ma jkunx jaf biha.

Għalhekk huwa importanti li niehdu hsieb li nilqgħulha minn kmieni. Tant hija haġa sempliċi li tkun taf jekk għandek pressjoni jew le: daqxejn ta' eżami li jiehu żewġ minuti, eżami li jista' jgħin biex inti tevita il-kumplikazzjonijiet li ggħib magħha l-pressjoni gholja.

Nafu ukoll li hemm hafna mezz u mediċini biex wiehed inizzel il-pressjoni, u għalhekk hadd ma għandu ikun suġġett għall-kumplikazzjonijiet li ggħib magħha il-pressjoni gholja.

Issa forsi wiehed jistaqsi: din il-pressjoni minn fejn tiġi? Għaliex xi uħud ibatu bil-pressjoni u oħrajn le? X'jista' wiehed jaġġmel biex inaqqas iċ-ċans li tizviluppa pressjoni gholja?

Hafna mill-mard ikun ġej mill-fatt li jkun hemm tendenza ereditarja: jiġifieri li nirtu minn għand il-ġenituri tagħna din it-tendenza. U għalhekk, jekk fil-familja għandek min jbat bil-pressjoni gholja, allura hemm aktar ċans li membri oħra tal-familja jistgħu jiżviluppaw il-pressjoni huma ukoll.

Jista' jkun ukoll li daww li għandhom hafna inkwiet u problemi oħra tista' titfaċċalhom il-pressjoni. U għalhekk tkun haġa tajba jekk wiehed jidra jiehu l-hajja filosofikament u ma jiehu l-affarijiet bi kbar aktar milli hemm bżonn.

Huwa ċar ukoll li l-hxuna u l-pressjoni hafna drabi insibuhom mexjin id-f'id. U għalhekk, min jbgħati bi hxuna zejda, jaġġmel sew jekk jibda inaqqas fil-piż. Dana jiġri għaliex meta ikun hemm hafna xaham fil-gisem, dan jingemgħa fl-arterji li jsiru dojoq, u li allura jikkawzaw pressjoni gholja.



Allura nistgħu nġidru li din il-marda, li tant hija komuni, nistgħu nevitawha billi ma nitraskurawx ruħna. Jehtieg li meta nkunu resqin għal madwar 50 sena, għandna naghmlu eżami mediku għand It-tabib, anke jekk ma qed inkunu inhossu ebda sinjali ta' mard.

Il-pressjoni gholja hija marda komuni hafna. Tista' ukoll tkun serja u tikkaguna komplikazzjonijiet serji. Però, hija sempliċi biex tagħrafha, u jeżistu hafna rimedji għaliha.

La titraskurax: hu hsieb sahitek qabel l-mard jidhol il-ġewwa.♦

Defibrillator use training at Maltese Community Centre in Parkville

The MCCV with assistance from Newport Maltese Association has purchased a defibrillator for use at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville. On March 30 a full day's training session was provided by a Victorian accredited health organization at the Centre.

MCCV members led by President Victor Borg, members of the support team in Parkville and Sunshine and members of the Newport Maltese Association spent the day going over the basic requirements relating to First Aid, Resuscitation and defibrillation in the case of medical emergencies that may arise and ways to approach and treat these situations.

The presentation was based on the DRSABCD principles as illustrated on the pamphlets placed next to the Defibrillator equipment which had been placed in the passageway at the Parkville centre for use in cases of emergency. In the afternoon a demonstration was held showing to all present the correct way in using the Defibrillator.

It was a very enjoyable and informative day and would highly recommend to all to participate in any health and emergency training that may become available as it can save lives.



From left: Health Care instructor with Arthur Galea and George Saliba of Newport Maltese Association.

Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship 2015

Applications close 30 June 2015

Residents of Victoria of Maltese descent between 18 and 40 years of age who are interested in applying for the Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship 2015 should prepare by developing their understanding of Maltese history and culture.

They are encouraged to attend activities of the Maltese community in Victoria, particularly those organised by MCCV-affiliated organisations, such as, the Maltese Historical Association of Australia, which holds a monthly lecture where a guest speaker addresses its members on a topic relating to Maltese history and culture. These lectures are free and open to the public.

Scholarship Eligibility

To be eligible, candidates must:

- Be a resident of the State of Victoria,
- Be of Maltese descent and between 18 and 40 years of age,
- Show an interest in Maltese history and culture,
- Complete the prescribed application form,
- Agree to complete their travel to Malta within 12 months from the date of the Scholarship being awarded,
- Agree to provide an electronic report of their cultural experiences in Malta and make it available for publication on the MCCV website within two months of returning from Malta, and
- Agree to ensure that all necessary permission forms for oral interviews, digital images and use of any third party content used in their report are available.



Selection Process

Shortlisted candidates will be required to attend an interview at the Maltese Community Centre located at 477 Royal Parade, Parkville.

The selection panel will be composed of representatives of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, the Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Fund and the Maltese-Australian community. The decision of the selection panel is final.

Applications

Scholarship application forms maybe downloaded from the MCCV website ([click here](#) to download a copy) or obtained from the Maltese Community Centre.

Completed applications should be posted to: The Secretary, Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Fund, c/- The Maltese Community Council of Victoria, 477 Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria 3052, or scanned and sent electronically by email to: admin@mccv.org.au with "Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Scholarship Application" in the subject line.

Applications close on Tuesday 30 June 2015. ♦

Vince Calleja retires after 42 years of service to Newport Maltese Association

By George Saliba

Over the last 42 years Vince Calleja OAM loved nothing better than doing everything he possibly could to help establish one of the most successful Maltese associations in the state of Victoria, if not in Australia.

For Vince, it started way back in 1973, when together with other members of the Maltese community living in Newport he accepted an invitation to be part of a new organisation, namely, the Newport Maltese Association.

Vince accepted without any hesitation at all because he understood and could see all the social benefits for members of the Maltese community living around Newport at the time.

His involvement with the association has been unique. He served the association at the highest levels—26 years as vice president and 16 years as president. That's quite an achievement in anyone's language.

He is so proud of being a member of the association, proud of the fact that he belongs



to an organisation that has been highly successful in fundraising, especially funds raised towards the building of the Maltese community centre at Parkville.

In the 42 years of its existence, the association has seen committee members come and go, but not Vince. Come hail, rain or shine, Vince stood firm in his beliefs and for all those years he dedicated all his spare time and energy to help make a better world for our community.

Vince is regarded as one of the pillars on which the Newport Maltese Association is built. His dedication to our community did not just stop with our Association.

In 1978 Vince was elected to the Social Secretary position on the Executive Committee of the MCCV, thus doing his share with the establishment of the Maltese community centre at Parkville.

Never losing any of the love and respect he possessed for the Council, in 1994 he was elected MCCV Vice President.

For 25 years Vince was an organising committee member of the very successful Maltese Cultural Festival. While it was running the Festival helped in promoting Maltese culture, traditions and history among other communities and made other communities take notice of what the Maltese community stood for.

Vince's valuable contribution to our community did not go unnoticed. In 2009 the Australian government bestowed on him the Order of Australia Medal in recognition of his outstanding contribution to our community. ♦

Maltese Salesian Past Pupils Association of Victoria disbanded

After five and a half decades the Maltese Salesian Past Pupils Association of Victoria has had to be disbanded. As the years went by and as migration from Malta dried up, there were no younger past pupils that could take over the running of the Association. A final Thanksgiving Mass and Get Together was held on 15 March 2015 at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville.

Sincere thanks go to Father Joe Pulis SDB, who has been the Association's Spiritual Director for the past 26 years and to all Presidents and their Committees for a wonderful job done. The Association also thanks its Sponsors for their generosity and support over the years.

Association's History

The origin of the Association goes back to 1954 when a few Maltese immigrants, who were past pupils of the Salesians in Malta, joined the Don Bosco Salesian Foundation in Brunswick Victoria, then led by His Honour Judge Frank Walsh QC. This was a mixed group of Australians and immigrants.

In 1958 Judge Frank Walsh suggested to the Maltese members to form their own Maltese Association, as there were more Maltese in the Federation than any other nationality.

In 1959, after some organizing by Frank Azzopardi and Dominic Bonello, it was decided to form a new Association and call it the *Salesian Old Boys*. Frank Azzopardi was elected as its first President.

The Association's membership soon grew to eighty-two members and their families. They organized picnics, get-together dinner dances in Hadfield and film nights, and gave out toys to the members' children event at Christmas. Members continued to meet every month at the old Maltese Community Centre building in Parkville to hold meetings and keep the Association alive.

From the seventies onwards, the Association went dormant for a while. Dominic Bonello could not continue to be active on the committee but John Portelli then President, backed by Paul Borg as Treasurer, tried their best to keep it going and keep the name of the Salesian Old Boys alive but no functions were held.

During the years that the Association was dormant, there was always someone from the Salesians to represent our Association and be involved with the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, particularly their Treasurer, Paul Borg, and the late John Portelli and the late Manuel Bugeja, representing the Association as organisers, and Alfred Asciak helping with the decoration of the Maltese Community Hall.



The Chaplains involved with the Association were the late Fr Joseph Ciantar SDB, Fr Joe Curmi SDB, Fr Joe Pulis SDB, Fr Frank Klep SDB and Br Joe Ellul SDB.

Fr Joseph Ciantar SDB, helped Fr Claudio Borg, the first MSSP priest in Victoria, to establish the first chapel and residence for the MSSP in Victoria at Parkville where the Maltese Community Centre is now located.

In 1988, John Portelli and the Committee decided to revive the Association under a new name and they called it *Maltese Salesian Past Pupils Association of Victoria*.

Since then meetings were held every month either at the MCCV in Parkville or at Don Bosco in Brunswick. A full committee was formed and John Portelli was elected President.

In 1991 the Association was registered with the Office of Fair Trading and Co-operate Affairs and became affiliated under the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc. The Association continued to prosper and its membership grew to close to four hundred.

Since 1988 John Portelli, Tony Zarb, Victor Privitera, Arthur Cutajar and Joseph Darmanin served in the role of President.

In 1992 Fr Victor Mangion SDB visited the Association and presented the Association with a medallion in recognition of its

work and appreciation for its donations to the Salesians in Malta.

The Association raised funds for the Salesian Missions and other needy institutions, for the homeless and the poor in the third world countries by running many functions every year and raising an average \$15,000 to \$18,000 a year from dinner dances, the Annual Charity Ball, raffles, get togethers, weekend trips and sponsorships. The Association's donations went to South Africa, South America, Samoa, Philippines, Sri Lanka, East Timor, Malta, and other countries.

The Association enjoyed a very good relationship with the Salesian Past Pupils of Don Bosco in New South Wales. In 2004 the President and Vice President were invited to sit on the Board of Directors of Don Bosco Foundation, representing the Association.

Association members were very supportive with very generous always donating raffle prizes. Some always helped in organising functions and most members always attended Association functions.

In 2009 the Association celebrated a significant milestone – the 50th Anniversary since its foundation in 1959. 💧

Viva Victoria Multicultural Festival 2015

Maltese participation in Cultural Diversity Week

By Paul Vella

The Victorian Multicultural Commission this year once again organized the *Viva Multicultural Festival* which was held on Sunday, 22nd March in Federation Square, Melbourne. This festival was part of the celebrations of Cultural Diversity Week held between 14 and 22 March.

We are most happy to live in this land of great harmony among a large number of people from different nations. Almost a quarter of the population of Victoria were born outside Australia and that the State has become the new home for residents from 180 different countries, speaking more than 233 languages and dialects and practicing 116 different religions. And until now we boast that we live in peace.

Many people attended this festival. It happened to be a nice, warm day. The festival was very well organized and there were many things to do and see. For children there were balloons, toys, face painting, and many other items. There was music, food of all kinds from many different countries, arts and craft, dance, activities for children, sports clinics, language workshops and more.

Regarding the music there was Jason Heerah from X-Factor and the Chosen ones, Melbourne Bahrangra Regiment and Maltese singer, Nicky Bomba and Bustamento.



Photo: Paul Vella

Presenting the program "Inservik" on Melbourne 3ZZZ Community Radio (92.3 FM) with my colleague, Mario Sammut, the day before, we mentioned that Maltese singer Nicky Bomba (pictured above in the checked shirt) would be participating in this festival. I was glad to see so many of our listeners attending and grateful for mentioning on radio the participation of Nicky Bomba as otherwise they would not have known.

I always say that I regret that in such events we see many nations participate, but never see participation by the Maltese community.

But this time we were glad to see the singer Nicky Bomba and not only participate with his music, but he included the traditional Maltese song "*Dghajsa Ġejja u Ohra Sejra*".

During the song, he told the audience that the song was in Maltese and then sang the English version and received great applause.

I spoke to Nicky after the show and told him that he made us very proud by taking part in the festival and more so by singing the song in Maltese as well. And, as they say in Malta "the show was a *Bomba*".

We were very glad to see people of different nations having fun and dancing to his music and there were many who bought the CDs on sale after the show.

Nicky Bomba, born Nicholas Caruana of Maltese parents: his father, Nikol Caruana is also a singer and some time ago he issued a CD of Maltese songs which we play a lot on our programs on 3ZZZ. ♡

nisgo

2015 Maltese Cook Off
Team Registration now open

What: A degustation of Maltese Food. Make a 2 course Maltese meal with your family and friends!

When: Sunday 16th August 2015

Where: William Angliss, 555 La Trobe Street (enter via rear of building at Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne)

Why? To preserve the tastes and aromas of Maltese cuisine across our generations.

Time: Cooking starts at 9am ready for lunch at 1.30 pm

Cost: \$100 security deposit per team of 3 (amount refunded upon completion of the event). Please note - each team must consist of 3 members who are all over 15 years of age.

To register [click here](#) or go to <http://mymail.ezmsgs.com/ch/37973/177z9/1737715/4f3ce10h1z.html>



© www.markavellino.com.au

EUROvision
SONG CONTEST
VIENNA 2015

BUILDING BRIDGES

SEMI-FINALS 19 & 21 MAY 2015
GRAND FINAL 23 MAY 2015
21:00-23:00 CEST 21:00-00:35 CEST

Australian votes count: help Malta do better in Eurovision 2015

Maltese living in Australia have an excellent opportunity to do their bit to help Malta do better in this year's Eurovision Song Contest to be held in Vienna between 19 and 23 May. This is because Australia will participate at the Eurovision Song Contest for the first time. Australia's participation will be a one-off event, but if Australia wins, it will be able to return for the 2016 contest, which would then be co-organized by SBS in a European host city.

Malta will be represented by singer Amber who will sing [Warrior](#) in the second semi-final on 21 May. Maltese in Australia will be able to vote for Malta by means of **televoting**. To find out more how it works, go to <http://www.infeaustalia.com/uncategorized/yes-your-eurovision-votes-count/>. Viewers are not allowed to vote for the country in which they reside. They can vote by text message, by phone or by using the official phone app. The Australian telephone and SMS numbers will be announced 24 hours before the first Semi Final (Tuesday May 19).

In March 2015, SBS announced that it had selected Guy Sebastian to represent Australia; he will perform the song [Tonight Again](#) in the Grand Final Night on 23 May. The country will, along with Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom, be given an automatic berth into the finals. ♡

Good Friday Pageant held in Melbourne

By Paul Vella

The Good Friday Pageant and Liturgy were again planned, organised and conducted by Bacchus Marsh Good Friday Association (previously known as the St. Albans Good Friday Association) ably led by Mr Lewis Stafrace. This was achieved once again with the great co-operation and guidance of Monsignor Benedict Camilleri, and Josette Solomon, from Our Lady Ta' Pinu Shrine.

This was the 31st year these Easter Celebrations were conducted and the fourth year we have had the pleasure of holding these Easter Festivities at Ta' Pinu.

This year we were blessed with a magnificent day with bright sunshine, mild temperatures and no wind. This was not what we normally expect on Good Friday.

The Communities responded with great numbers. There was a large Maltese crowd, along with Vietnamese, Philippines, Samoans, Indians and many others. The pageant was well supported by people of many nationalities. Most of them took part as Biblical charac-



ters, with many young children carrying ornaments and a good number as Roman soldiers

The main celebrant for the Liturgy was Bishop Hilton F. Deakin, with Monsignor Benedict Camilleri and Father Karm Borg as co-celebrants. The Chapel was packed. This chapel was recently extended to hold around 600 and the crowd outside the doors was at least twelve deep.

The Association could not continue with all the carting of equipment, and moving around various parishes. For this reason, the association approached the management of Our Lady Ta' Pinu Shrine All Nations Marian Centre, which also have 13 other shrines from different nationalities, to move to this very religious place. A



store room of around 16m by 16m was built, at a cost of around \$110,000 resulting in all the equipment, statues and clothes being all housed there and all ready for use. This year the association built carriages with wheels so that statues can be carried on them and pulled in the event that there are not enough statue bearers.

This will ensure that all statues take part in the process, although the association prefers the traditional way. With the ageing community sometimes this is not possible.

Congratulations to all those who made this event so successful. 💧

11 year old Monique Grima raises \$1,600 for Good Friday Appeal



Young **Monique Grima**, aged 11, is a bright young girl who worked hard to raise money for the Good Friday Appeal.

Monique created artistic greeting cards for all occasions and the profit from the sale of these cards go towards to Good Friday Appeal.

We've seen some of her cards and actually ordered for some cards to make for members of our family and the result was very artistic.

The cards cost \$3 each and from the sales of these cards, Monique raised \$1,600 for this year's Appeal.

In fact, Monique and her mum were interviewed on national TV during the Good Friday Appeal telecast.

Monique is the granddaughter of Reskeon Seniors Group member Rose Sacco. 💧

Paul Vella lura fuq Radio 3ZZZ



Wara waqfien ta' kważi sena, ix-xandar **Paul Vella** reġa' beda jxandar programmi bil-Malti fuq ir-radju komunitarju f'Melbourne 3ZZZ 92.3 FM. Bhalissa qed jipprezenta l-programm ta' nhar ta' Gimgha, fil-5 pm u kif ukoll tas-Sibt, fl-10 am, darba fix-xahar.

Matul il-waqfien mill-programmi kienu hafna s-semmiegha li hassew in-nuqqas ta' wiehed mis-segmenti fil-programm tal-Gimgha li hu l-qari u t-tifsir tal-Vangelju tal-Hadd li jkun geġ minhabba li hafna mis-semmiegha ma jistghux johorġu biex imorru l-Knisja.

Fil-programm tiegħu, Paul jipprova jdahħal hafna affarijiet differenti biex hafna mis-semmiegha jsibu xi haġa li toġġobhom. Fil-programm ikollu marċ minn banda Maltija, muzika Maltija, għana Malti, u minhabba li hu mdahħal sew fil-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria, huwa jdahħal hafna qari ta' proża u poeziji Maltin għax, bħal shabu fil-Grupp, jemmen li hemm bżonn li niehdu hsieb l-Ilsien Malti u l-Kultura Maltija. 💧

MHA Event—March 2015

Malta through its monuments

There are many ways at which to look at Maltese history, whether through its political involvement, through its social history, the arts, etc. In the past, talks to the MHA have included topics relating to history through stamps, coins, buses etc.

In the March talk, the guest speaker, Professor Maurich Cauchi approached the history of Malta from the perspective of its monuments, which highlight the various epochs of life in Malta.

Prof Cauchi emphasized that monuments consist not only of bronze statues, but any artefact that serve to highlight some aspect of Maltese history. From this point of view, even the prehistoric temples constitute important monuments to a way of life that has long disappeared.

This was followed by a fallow period, with a dearth of artefacts which lasted until the Phoenician and later on the Roman period. Some outstanding examples of these were illustrated in this talk.

Again this was followed by a period where monuments are not very common. In particular, the Arab period is represented by very few artefacts which remind us of this period. However, it was stressed that perhaps the greatest 'monument' bequeathed to us from this period is the Maltese language itself. It is arguable whether our unique language would have persisted but for the presence of the Arab domination.



When we come to the period of the Knights of Malta, there is such a plethora of riches that it is difficult to summarise in a few words. This period has been covered already, and will be covered in talks to come.

The talk itself dealt with various other aspects of history. Firstly, recent political history, starting with the British domination. Monuments about this period can be found all over the island. Then the history of Malta's first step to self-government and future independence.

Other aspects of the talk dealt with the history of literature and the arts in Malta, an area which is often neglected when we talk about Maltese history.

Important also is the history of migration, which was such a hallmark of Maltese history. Several monuments now remind us of this history.

Finally, it was emphasized that the history of the nation is not the history of wars or even politicians, but that of the people, including the social aspects of those factors which mould such a history. Among these were included several philanthropists who have been a boon to the people of Malta. ♦

Community Events Calendar

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

MAY

Thursday 14 May @ 12.00 pm	Luncheon—Newport Maltese Seniors Group	TBA
Saturday 16 May	Get Together – St Helena Maltese Australian SC	Maltese Cultural Hall Albion
Wednesday 19 May @ 7.30 pm	Free Lecture on Great Siege of Malta 1565 – Maltese Historical Assn	Maltese Community Centre, Parkville
Wednesday 20 May @ 6.30 pm	MCCV Executive Committee Meeting	Maltese Community Centre, Parkville
Saturday 23 May @ 2.00 pm	Half Yearly Meeting – St Helena Maltese Australian SC	Maltese Community Centre, Parkville

JUNE

Wednesday 3 June @ 7.00 pm	MCCV Council Meeting	Maltese Community Centre, Parkville
Saturday 13 June @ 5.00 pm	Fun Night – Newport Maltese Seniors Group	Maltese Community Centre, Parkville
Wednesday 17 June @ 6.30 pm	MCCV Executive Committee Meeting	Maltese Community Centre, Parkville
Saturday 20 June	Get Together – St Helena Maltese Australian SC	Maltese Cultural Hall, Albion
Sunday 21 June @ 12.00 pm	Members Meeting & Luncheon – St Gaetan's Society Inc.	St Martin De Porres Avondale Heights