



# MCCV News

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## SBS announces decision to cease funding for half of current four hours of Maltese radio programs



In a media release issued last Wednesday SBS announced that two hours of SBS Radio Maltese digital only programs, one at 12 pm Tuesdays and the other at 2 pm Thursdays on SBS Radio 3, will be discontinued from 6 August 2015. The Maltese programs on the analogue SBS Radio 2 schedule, one at 12 pm Fridays and the other at 2 pm on Saturdays, will continue as normal.

According to the SBS media release, this change will bring the SBS Radio Maltese program's broadcast hours into line with allocations for languages of a similar size and need in Australia, as determined by the 2013 SBS Radio Schedule Review and 2011 Census data.

The media release further states that "During the 2013 SBS Radio Schedule Review, and following extensive community consultation, the Maltese language was allocated two programs on the analogue schedule, on SBS Radio 2, plus two additional programs on the digital SBS Radio 3

schedule. At the time, SBS indicated it was able to commit to the additional programs on SBS Radio 3 for a period of two years."

In November 2012 SBS Radio revised its program schedule and decided to slash Maltese language programs from 9 hours per week to 2 hours per week without any prior consultation with the Maltese community.

After the publication of the revised SBS Radio schedule in November 2012, the Maltese community had come together in a show of unity to apply pressure on SBS to re-consider its decision. Representations to SBS came from all quarters and took the form of letters of support and emails from numerous members of federal and state parliaments, local councillors and Maltese associations, many posts left by unhappy Maltese community members on the SBS website and Facebook page, as well as letters and articles published in the Maltese newspaper in Australia, *The*

*Maltese Herald*. A petition with over 3,000 signatures, organised by the Maltese Community Council of Victoria and supported by the Maltese communities in Australia, was sent to the then Minister responsible for radio and communications, Senator Stephen Conroy, and to the SBS Board.

After three-and-a-half months of persistent canvassing and negotiations led by Maltese community leaders in Melbourne and Sydney as well as Malta's High Commissioner in Canberra at the time, H.E Mr Francis Tabone and the then Consul-General in Melbourne, Mr Charles Mifsud, SBS agreed by way of compromise that two one hour Maltese radio programs would be broadcast commencing on 29 April 2013 in addition to the two which were originally included under the new schedule, giving a total of 4 one-hour programs per week.

SBS had also advised the Maltese community leaders at a meeting before making its related announcement in early 2013 that the additional two hours would be funded from within the existing radio budget. SBS also indicated that funding of the additional two hours on SBS 3 digital would be guaranteed only for two years (until the end of the 2014/15 financial year) and that the funding situation would be reviewed at the end of the two years. 💧

[See also *SBS turns its back again on the Maltese community* on [page 4](#)].



## President's Perspective

# The Maltese Centre – the Hub of Community Activities

**A**s we come to the end of another financial year, it is appropriate to reflect on the extent of the work undertaken by Council in the refurbishment of the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville and community use of the premises.

Since the Official Opening of the centre on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1983 the community has extensively used the premises for its various activities. The Centre has become the hub of community activities in this state. It continues to house Council's administrative offices, as well as staff and volunteers providing welfare services to the community. It has ensured that community projects are efficiently and professionally delivered and attended to.

A number of affiliated associations make regular use of the premises, especially for members' meetings as well as cultural and educational events. The community hall has been transformed with the installation of a colourful mural running along the full length of the western wall.

The Library committee, under the direction of Professor Maurice Cauchi, has increased library services including a mobile library service for various aged care facilities where a substantial number of aged persons of a Maltese background are resident. A number of books in Maltese or about Maltese culture and history were recently purchased from Malta and these are presently being catalogued for shelving.

The publication of the Maltese Cultural and Resource Directory 2015 launched by the Hon Robin Scott MP, Minister of Finance and Minister of Multicultural Affairs on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2015 has been well received. The directory has been distributed to a number of aged care facilities, local councils, parishes and other organisations.

The Centre continues to offer a great facility for entertainment and socialization for community members. Regular Friday bingo sessions and catering services are well supported by the community. Affiliated members also organise dinner dances and other social activities for their members.

The recent introduction of Sunday Luncheons on the last Sunday of each month have provided an excellent venue for family get-togethers in a truly Maltese environment.

Special interest associations, such as, the Maltese Historical Association and the Maltese Literature Group, hold regular meetings for their members as well as special presentations at the Centre. The centre also provides a home for our Maltese Language Classes on Thursday evenings.

### Maltese Masterclass Sessions

Cooking demonstrations and related activities have become extremely popular within the community. Great interest has been shown by younger members who are keen to learn about the preparation of traditional Maltese meals and delicacies.

Council has only just recently, with the assistance of experienced cook Marija Cilia and Professor Maurice Cauchi, presented a highly informative session on the preparation

of a Mediterranean Diet dish and the benefit of healthy eating and its impact on one's health. Some 150 community members attended the session at the centre.

Nisġa, under the leadership of Sandra Mooney (née Caruana), will be holding a *Maltese Cook Off* competition in Melbourne for Maltese dishes with teams of experienced and aspiring cooks competing for the coveted prize in August. A team from Council's Executive Committee will also be competing.

Rita Catania, the driving force behind, and founder of, Generation AusMalts (GAM) has established a large following of young Maltese people and their friends who participate in various cooking activities that GAM organises from time to time. The latest cooking Masterclass relates to the making of Maltese delicacy *pastizzi* organised for several weekends in July and August 2015. We understand that these sessions have been fully subscribed.

Council is grateful to Sandra Mooney, Rita Catania and their helpers for organising these cooking sessions and encouraging Maltese youth to maintain and learn of the culinary delights of our traditions.

### Future Directions

Council is mindful of the increasing costs of maintaining its Parkville and Sunshine premises. Budget estimate for the next financial year indicates that greater efforts must be undertaken by Council and the Executive Committee to investigate other sources of income to ensure that all financial liabilities are regularly met. Council also calls on all its affiliated member associations to take up their responsibilities in this regard and support the MCCV in achieving its objectives in the interests of the Maltese community in Victoria.

*Victor Borg*  
**MCCV President**

# Useful information about Maltese passport applications and renewals

*Are you planning a trip? You may find this information of some help to ensure you are not disappointed.*

**Tips** .... For those who plan to travel. Without these essentials you may be risking to disappoint yourself.

**Make sure** that you are in possession of a valid passport with a minimum validity of 6 months from the date of your travel return in Australia.

**Never ever** make a travel booking without verifying the validity of your passport as indicated above. Acquiring a new Maltese passport may take longer than expected especially in those cases where applicants were born outside Malta or born in Malta and married overseas due to registration of certificates procedures, irrespective of whether an applicant is already in possession of a Maltese passport or not.

**If you hold only a valid Maltese passport** you need to ensure that you have a valid re-entry Australian visa issued from the Australian department of Immigration.

## Maltese Passport: changes for applicants

**2010:** the Maltese passport became biometric. An applicant does not need to produce a photo with the application form since the new system implies that the applicant's photo must be captured at the Consulate-General of Malta premises. Every applicant must present himself/herself in person at the premises of the nearest Consulate-General of Malta (Melbourne/Sydney or the High Commission of Malta in Canberra).

**2012:** the data appearing on the passport must be the same registered with the Public Registry of Malta, thereby some first names appearing in the old passports may defer upon submission for the renewal of an old passport. In order to avoid this discrepancy an applicant may request a translation of the name subject to the submission of documents (old Maltese passport or certificates issued by the Public Registry of Malta).

## Why it is important to know

Certificates issued by Births, Deaths and Marriages of Australia (or other institutions outside Malta) need to be registered with the Public Registry of Malta first prior to submit the application for a Maltese passport. This process could take a minimum of 8 weeks (subject to no complications due to variance in names or other discrepancies) before the launching of the application for the Maltese passport.

The delivery of a new passport from date of acceptance at the Consulate-General may vary depending on whether the registration of documents (birth/marriage/divorce certificates) is required. In the normal circumstances, a Maltese passport would be delivered within an average period of 5-6 weeks. Should there be the need to register certificates with the Public Registry, the delay to receive the passport would be of around 12 weeks.



Children under the age of 18 years applying for a passport need the consent of both parents who also need to sign in front of a recommender (a professional person who adds his/her rubber stamp or hand over the business card).

Maltese citizens who plan to travel to Malta and stay longer than 3 months must be in possession of a Maltese passport. No Schengen Visa is issued to Maltese/Australian citizens who are holders of the Australian passport only.

Australian citizens who have been married to Maltese citizens for more than 5 years are eligible to apply for Maltese citizens and may also apply for the Maltese passport once they have received

their Certificate of Maltese Citizenship.

A passport is a very serious and secure document. It is the property of the Government.

If it is loss/stolen or damage need to be reported to the local Police Station and the latter will issue a report to the holder for its presentation upon request for a new passport.

Emergency Maltese passports are not issued from Australia. However, in 'special circumstances' only, an Emergency Travel Document may be issued subject to the compliance of specific requirements, as directed by the Consulate-General.

Application Forms can be made available by email or by post by the Consulate-General.

An applicant has to make an appointment with the Consulate-General to submit the application form for the Maltese passport, preferably by calling on (03)96708427. For any other enquiries one may also send an email to [maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt](mailto:maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt)

For all Consular matters, the address of the Consulate-General of Malta in Melbourne is:

Suite 613, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, 343 Little Collins Street Melbourne Vic 3000. 💧

[The Editor thanks the Consul General of Malta for Victoria Mr Victor Grech for the information in this article.]

## MCCV News

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

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

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**Maltese Community Council of Victoria**  
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 PARKVILLE VIC 3052



## SBS turns its back again on Maltese community

Just as SBS had done when it originally slashed Maltese programs from 9 hours per week to just two in the revised schedule published in November 2012, SBS has again failed to consult with the Maltese community leaders before reviewing the continued funding of two hours of Maltese programs and making its decision to cease funding.

In a Media Release issued on 1 July 2015 SBS announced that two hours of Maltese language programs on SBS Radio Digital, one at 12.00 pm Tuesday and the other 2.00 pm Thursday on SBS Radio 3 will be discontinued from the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

The Maltese Community Councils of Victoria and New South Wales have prepared a joint submission which has been forwarded to the SBS with a request that it be referred to the SBS Board to review and reverse the decision.



Arrangements are currently being made for a meeting with SBS representatives at which Maltese community leaders will have an opportunity to verbally address the issue and hopefully convince these representatives that the Maltese have a special case and the current four hours of Maltese language program broadcasts should continue.

The Maltese Community Councils of Victoria and New South Wales are also sponsoring a petition ([click here to download a copy of the petition form](https://www.communityrun.org/petitions/save-the-maltese-language-program-on-sbs-radio)) which has been distributed among affiliated associations and members within the Maltese community for submission to the SBS Board and the Federal Minister for Communications, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull. An online petition is available at <https://www.communityrun.org/petitions/save-the-maltese-language-program-on-sbs-radio>.

The Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull and other Federal and State politicians are being approached for their assistance and support.

Hopefully the SBS representatives will be convinced that the threatened programs should continue to be broadcast in the interest of the Maltese community in Australia. 💧

## Feast of L-Imnarja celebrated at Rosary Home

The MCCV celebrated the feast of L-Imnarja at Rosary Home in Keilor Downs on 29 June 2015.

The traditional Maltese feast of St Peter and St Paul was held at the Rosary Home in Odessa Avenue Keilor Downs, starting with a mass which was celebrated by Fr Edwin Agius mssp assisted by Fr Mangion mssp, who is visiting Australia from Pakistan, and Fr Victor Shields, who is also visiting Australia from Malta.

The residents of Rosary House were joined in the celebrations by Consul General of Malta in Victoria Mr Victor Grech and representatives from the MCCV Executive Committee, led by the President Mr Victor Borg.

After Mass Freddie Cachia, Joe Camilleri and Joe Grech entertained those present with Maltese folk music followed by Nick Caruana who led the singing of some very well-known Maltese traditional songs, it did not take long for all present to join in the sing along.

MCCV President Mr Victor Borg made a presentation to Fr Agius who



had recently celebrated his 71st Birthday. MCCV Vice President Mr Joe Stafrace made a presentation to Mrs Marija Cilia for her participation in the recently held Mediterranean Diet earlier in the month at Parkville.



Sr Doris Falzon, Rosary Home Administrator, with MCCV President, Mr Victor Borg

A lunch was then served followed by some more music.

A big thank you to Sr Doris Falzon, Rosary Home Administrator and all that assisted in making this a very special day. (More photos on [page 5](#).) 💧

## Feast of *L-Imnarja* celebrated at Rosary Home—photos







## Hu Hsieb Sahhitek

Professur Maurice Cauchi



### Id-Dieta Mediterranea – Mediterranean Diet

**X**i tkun din id-dieta, u għaliex kulhadd jiftaħar biha?

Nistaqsu lilna nfusna x'konna nieklu wara l-aħħar Gwerra. Ma tantx kellna ħela. Ma tantx kellna abbondanza ta' ikel. Ma tantx konna nieklu laħam, jew kejkijiet. Ma tantx konna nixorbu Pepsi u Coca jew xorb ieħor mimlu kollu zokkor.

Konna nieklu ftit laħam – u mhux ta' kuljum; konna nieklu minestra, ħut, speċjalment meta jinqabdu ħafna lampuki, xi gbejniet. Kien ikollna aktar ħaxix fil-borma. U bħala diżerta konna nieklu xi frotta.

Irridu nqisu ukoll li kull dieta fiha zewg fatturi: il-**kwalità** ta' ikel, kif ukoll il-**kwantità**.

#### Dieta ta' kwalità tajba

Biex ikollna dieta ta' kwalità tajba jeħtieġ li ikun fiha biżżejjed karboidrati (ħobż, għaġin, xi ftit zokkor etc), proteini (bħal laħam u ħut), kif ukoll xahmiet (inkluż żejt). Irid ikollna biżżejjed minn dawn biex jipprovdulna l-enerġija. Nistgħu ngħidu, kif il-karozza trid il-petrol għal enerġija, hekk ukoll il-ġisem irid dawn is-sustanzi.

Għal dieta normali neħtieġu ukoll xi fatturi oħra, bħal ngħidu aħna, vitamini, ħadid, kalċju, 'magnesium', eċċ. M'hemmx bżonn però ta' kwantità kbira ta' dawn, u dieta mħalta, li fiha ftit minn kollox, normalment ikun fiha biżżejjed minn dawn.

#### Kwantità żejda

Minbarra il-kwalità, importanti ħafna li nqisu il-**kwantità** ta' ikel li nieklu. Nistgħu nieklu l-aħjar dieta, imma jekk nieklu iżżejjed dana



(image: <http://longevitycookbook.io>)

mhux tajjeb għalina. Daż-żmien, kulhadd qed jiekol aktar milli hemm bżonn.

L-Amerikani dan jgħidulu '*supersizing*', jiġifieri kulhadd qed jieħu porzjon akbar milli hemm bżonn: jekk hu laħam, kejk, xorb mimli zokkor eċċ.

Issa għaliex dieta bħal din, fejn sewwa il-kwalità u sewwa il-kwantità m'humix normali, hija ħażina għal-saħħitna?

L-ewwel nett, meta nieklu iktar milli hemm bżonn, dik l-enerġija żejda li fih l-ikel, kien x'kien, se jispiċċa f'xaham imxerred mal-ġisem kollu. Nispiċċaw b'piż aktar min-normali – din tissejjah obesità. Piż żejjed ifisser li il-ġogi ta' saqajna jiżviluppaw l-artrite; l-arterji tal-ġisem jimtlew bix-xaham u id-demmm ma jkunx jista jiccirkula liberament, u allura nispiċċaw bi pressjoni għolja. Pressjoni għolja ggħib problemi tal-qalb li tibda tgħejja bil-mod il-mod, u l-kliewi ukoll jibdwu ibattu. U anke jistgħu

jibblokkaw l-arterji tal-moħħ (li iggib puplesija). U fl-aħħarnett, ma ninsewx id-diajbete (imsejha Tip II), li hija tant komuni fil-Maltin, speċjalment dawk li għandhom piż żejjed.

Allura biex nevitaw dawn il-problemi kollha, jeħtieġ li nagħtu każ tal-kwantità u il-kwalità ta' ikel li nieklu. Innaqsu l-laħam u x-xahmijiet u minflok nieklu aktar frott u ħxejjex. Nużaw iż-żejt minflok xaham.

Hija ħasra li daż-żmien anke tfal ta' età zgħira ibgħatu bl-obesità. Qed jintqal li t-tfal ta' Malta huma min dawk li l-aktar li huma '*overweight*' fl-Ewropa. U dana kollu huwa ġej mill-fatt li qed jieklu u jixorbu '*soft drinks*' kollu zokkor, u jgħaddu ż-żmien liberu tagħhom bil-qegħda jikkomunikaw bl-internet ma' shabhom fuq il-midja soċjali bil-*mobiles* u jilgħabu logħob fuq il-kompjuter, minflok ma joħorgu jilgħabu kif konna nagħmlu aħna fi żmienna.

*Continued on page 7*



*Continued from page 6*

### Eżerċizzju kuljum

Nispiċċa biex infakkar li l-eżerċizzju huwa wiehed mill-aħjar mezzi biex jgħin biex jikkontrolla il-piż, u għalhekk huwa importanti li niehdu kull opportunità li ngħamlu ftit eżerċizzju kuljum. Mixja ta' kuljum tgħin hafna biex taħraq l-enerġija żejda. Hija speċjalment tajba għal dawk li jbatu bid-diabete, għaliex il-mixi jikkontrolla l-livell ta' zokkor fid-demm. ♦

*Dan l-artiklu huwa bbażat fuq it-taħdita li l-Professur Cauchi ghamel fl-avveniment edukattiv organizzat mill-Kunsill tal-Komunità Maltja ta' Victoria nhar il-Erbgħa 3 ta' Ġunju 2015.*

*Fl-istess avveniment is-sinjura Marija Cilia tat presentazzjoni dwar l-arti tat-tisjir faċli u tajjeb għas-saħħa bl-użu ta' ingredjenti sempliċi. Hija pproduċiet ikel bnin, tajjeb u mżewwaq sewwa.*

Ritratti:

Fuq lemin, il-Professur Cauchi jidher qed jindirizza l-udjenza.

Isfel lemin, is-sinjura Marija Cilia tidher qed tagħti l-presentazzjoni dwar it-tisjir u l-ingredjenti.



# Fourth Convention for Maltese Living Abroad 2015 – A Brief Report



By Maurice Cauchi

From time to time, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs organises a Convention for Maltese Living Abroad when persons of Maltese background can meet in Malta to discuss issues of relevance to the Maltese diaspora spread around the world. The last Convention was held in April and several representatives from Australia delivered papers on various topics.

It is not easy to summarise the work of three full days in a few words, and all we can do here is to give an idea of the topics covered.

The Convention opened on Monday 20 April with a welcome reception hosted by the President of Malta HE Marie Louise Coleiro Preca at San Anton Palace, H'Attard. In her welcome speech she emphasised the importance of such Conventions and the role the Maltese living abroad play as an integral part of the Maltese nation.

Afterwards, there was the inauguration of the Arts Exhibition by the Hon Minister Owen Bonnici. In this exhibition, several artists, mostly from Australia had an opportunity to display their work to interested persons in Malta.

The Conference proper started the next day with a session on *Maltese Community Abroad – Current and Future*, where several speakers gave papers relating to the current status of Maltese around the world. In a workshop held in the afternoon, on *Maltese Abroad – Regional Experiences*, various speakers discussed the situations in various countries where one can find

Maltese, namely Canada, UK, and North Africa. Specific papers dealt with ageing among the Maltese, issues faced upon retirement and other issues.

A concurrent workshop, dealt specifically with *Youth Issues*. This was introduced by a speaker from "Aġenzija Zghazagh", and was followed by papers given by several representatives of the Maltese youth community. The MCCV was represented by Mrs Edwina Mallia, who spoke on the need to engage youth to ensure continuity of their Maltese identity. Other speakers from NSW and London enlarged on these topics.

A separate session relating to the functions of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) was held with the aim of explaining the role of this Council, as well as the role of the Directorate for Maltese Living Abroad (DMLA).

Another important session related to *Communication with members of the Diaspora*. A paper co-authored by MCCV Vice President Dr Edwin Borg-Manché emphasised the need for 'digitally enabled engagement of the Maltese Diaspora'. Other papers dealt with the current situation in relation to availability of newsletters and websites published by various Maltese organisations. The need for a central, international website, which would be available for anyone all over the world, was also emphasized.

A Symposium of this kind would certainly not be complete without a workshop on Culture and Language maintenance. Everyone is aware that maintaining facility in Maltese language by persons of the second

and subsequent generations is becoming practically impossible. While every effort has to be made to maintain facilities for teaching Maltese, one cannot be over optimistic that this will succeed.

In a workshop on *The Writer Abroad*, several writers explained the problems they face as writers of English prose. One issue raised related to the problem of making their books available in Malta and overseas and the financial difficulties encountered in this process.

Finally, one special program organised for this Convention was a Literary Symposium held in conjunction with the University of Malta. This symposium was split into two parts, the first part being devoted to writers in Maltese, participants being primarily fairly recent expatriates living in Europe or close to Malta. The second part was devoted to prose writers in English, of whom Australia can boast of several. This symposium, which was held of an evening at the Old University building in St Paul's Street was very well attended and was quite informative.

As mentioned above, this Report is meant to give some idea of the scope of the Convention. An electronic copy of the full proceedings was provided to Convention participants on a USB stick. Anyone who wishes to obtain a copy can make arrangements by contacting the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville. 💧



## Memory Lane Café at Maltese Cultural Centre

**O**n the 18 June 2015 the MCCV hosted the Memory Lane Café at the Maltese Cultural Centre at 27 Talmage Street, Albion.

Communities from the Macedonian and Vietnamese attended the function alongside with the Maltese group.

Entertaining the 67 people from the various groups and the Alzheimer's management was done by Nicholas Caruana who performed many Maltese songs. It didn't take long before we saw a lot of the elderly getting up and dancing.

A meal of *Ross il-Forn*, *pastizzi* and Maltese *pudina tal-ħobż* was served, followed by another bracket of music by Nick ensured a good morning for all that attended this function. It was nice to see a smile on everyone's face.





## Reskeon mourns two great committee members

By Paul Vella

### Annie Gauci (1932-2015)

**E**arly Monday morning, 25th May, 2015, Mr Emmanuel Gauci, son of our member Annie Gauci, rang with the sad news that his Mum, our member Annie Gauci, passed away on Sunday, 24th May, aged 82.

Annie was a special member for us. She, in fact, was a founding member of Reskeon Maltese Association and served on the committee for a long number of years. Then she became member of Reskeon Seniors Group, once again serving on the committee for a long time.

To me, and to others, Annie was a 'silent' worker in both groups. She was always there when she was asked for help. Even in the last few years when her health was causing her problems, she still attended the Reskeon Seniors Group meetings and

helped in selling bingo tickets and calling out the bingo as well.

To us, Annie was a true friend.

She was the wife of the late John Gauci, the very first President of Reskeon Maltese Association who kept this position for a number of years.

Annie was survived by her four children, Emmanuel, Rita, Mario and Julie and their husbands and wives; her grandchildren Anastasia and Michael, Matthew, Simon, Benjamin and Noelle, Timothy, Thomas, Erin and Jacob and her great grandson, Noah.

On behalf of the President, committee and members of Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group Inc. we offer our condolences to all the family.

*May God grant her eternal rest.* 💧



### George Colvin (1935-2015)

**O**n Thursday, 14th May, 2015, with great sadness we learned of the passing away of our member, George Colvin.

George was a member of Reskeon Maltese Association for over 20 years. During this time he joined the committee as an ordinary member, then as Treasurer, Vice-President and was President for two years between 2002 and 2004. He also served as President for a few months before Reskeon Maltese Association joined the Reskeon Seniors at a Special General Meeting in May, 2014, by an unanimous vote by all members present.

In 1997 he joined the Reskeon Seniors Group. With this group he served as

ordinary committee member, Treasurer, Vice-Co-Ordinator and Coordinator.

George was a hard-worker and always had Reskeon close to his heart. He was always there when his help was needed and was always willing to lend a hand in whatever it was asked of him. He was always there when he was asked to call the Bingo. We are going to miss him, his wit and his willingness to help.

To his lovely wife, Tess, children Victoria and Michael, and grandchildren Melissa, Lee, Cassandra and Paul, we offer our sincere sympathy and pray God to give them the help they need during this sad time.

*May God grant him eternal rest.* 💧



## Newport Maltese Association Luncheon

By Lydia Cole

**T**his Newport event on 7th June was listed as a day out but because of the cold weather there were not many sheltered places we could go. After a few suggestions and ifs and buts, it was too late to book a hall so it was decided to have a luncheon at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville. Luckily the hall at the MCCV was available.

The three course meal supplied by Ferraro receptions was very tasty and we had many comments saying that it was more than enough. John the DJ kept the music coming and everybody dancing and although we did not have a big crowd it was friendly with a relaxed atmosphere and everyone had a good time. 💧





## Reskeon Weekend Trip to Albury

By Paul Vella

Early on Saturday morning of 16th May, a group of 44 members and friends boarded a coach in North Reservoir for a two-day trip to Albury. Weatherwise, Saturday and Sunday were two beautiful days, warm, with no clouds in the sky.

We travelled north through Chiltern and stopped in Euroa for free morning tea. From there we travelled and stopped at Howlong Country Golf Club for lunch and three-hour stay, then on to our accommodation, Elm Court Motor Inn, in Albury. The rooms were excellent and so was the hearty cooked breakfast on Sunday morning.

Saturday night we attended the Vigil Mass at St Patrick's Church, and then we visited the SS&A Club in Albury for dinner and another three-hour stay. The meals were excellent and the club has a lot of facilities.



On Sunday, after breakfast we travelled to Mulwala where we visited the Mulwala Services Club for lunch and another three-hour stay.

On our way back home we travelled through Shepparton where we did some shopping at SPC.

We arrived home at around 5.15 pm.

We would like to thank all the members and friends who travelled with us and they all enjoyed the weekend.

Our special thanks to our Coach Captain, Bill Mahar, for his patience and help during this trip. He was always willing to help to make our trip an enjoyable one. ♦

## **nisġa** The MALTESE Cook Off 2015

**nisġa** - (nis-jah) is a collective of Australian Maltese descendants who strive to preserve the culture of their ancestry. **nisġa** is a Maltese verb that translates "to weave".

*The Maltese Cook Off* has been a vehicle for celebrating and raising awareness of Maltese culture and food in Australia. Combining family and traditional Maltese cuisine *The Maltese Cook Off* is a competition between Maltese descendants, often incorporating several generations in a single team of three, the initiative attempts to share the rich cultural heritage of Maltese immigrants in Australia and pass down treasured family recipes from parent to child to grandchild.

**We have 8 teams ready to cook for you ... a degustation of Maltese food.**



**When:** Sunday 16th August 2015 at 12 noon

**Where:** William Angliss  
555 La Trobe Street, Melbourne  
(enter via 550 Little Lonsdale Street)

**Time:** Doors Open at 12.00 pm

**Beverages:** Soft drinks available for purchase. BYO wine.

### **Ticket Prices:**

- \$40 per person in the main room
- \$120 Family Ticket (main room) - 2 adults and 2 children under 12
- \$30 per person in the foyer
- \$100 family tickets (foyer) - 2 adults and 2 children under 12

**Order and pay for your tickets (via Credit Card) [HERE](http://www.markavellino.com.au)**

**BOOK LAUNCH****Malta and the ANZACS - The Nurse of the Mediterranean**

The official launch of the book by the Consul General of Malta for Victoria Mr Victor Grech will be held in Melbourne on 21 July 2015 at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville. This very informative book edited by Frank L Scicluna - Hon Consul for Malta in South Australia, is a hard cover publication and will be available for purchase on the night for \$35 a copy.

**The Hon. George Seitz**

Born 29/9/1941

Passed Away 5/6/2015

He was very well known in the Maltese Community and the MCCV.

**R.I.P**

**Study on adverse effects of Gambling in Suburban Australia**

Spending on poker machines varies significantly across Australia; areas of socioeconomic disadvantage tend to have higher rates of spending than less disadvantaged areas. The aim of this study is to understand why these differences occur and what the impacts of gambling are locally.

The Australian Gambling Research Centre (AGRC) is conducting a place-based study in the suburbs of Sunshine, North Sunshine, West Sunshine, Ardeer, Albion and Braybrook. Combined poker machine losses at eight venues in these suburbs were over \$55 million in 2014, or an average annual loss of \$1,358 per adult.

Residents of these suburbs 15 years and older are invited to take part in the study by completing a brief survey at [www.aifs.gov.au/gisa](http://www.aifs.gov.au/gisa). A \$100 supermarket voucher will be awarded to 10 randomly selected participants who complete this survey before 31 July 2015. Residents may also phone in on 1800 184 140 to do the survey on the phone and/or discuss participation in an interview or focus group. A \$50 voucher will be offered to all who are eligible and take part in an interview.

The AGRC is located at the Australian Institute of Family Studies, the Australian Government's key research body in the area of family wellbeing. The AGRC was established under the *National Gambling Reform Act 2012* to conduct research into the harm caused by gambling to gamblers, their families and communities of gamblers, and those at risk of experiencing harm; and measures that may be undertaken to reduce that harm; and recreational gambling.

Contact: Phone: 1800 184 140 Email: [gisa@aifs.gov.au](mailto:gisa@aifs.gov.au)

**Community Events Calendar**

For up-to-date and more detailed information, visit our website at [www.mccv.org.au/community-events](http://www.mccv.org.au/community-events)

**July**

Jul 1 @ 7:00 pm	MCCV Council Meeting	Maltese Community Centre, Parkville.
Jul 11 @ 6:00 pm	Christmas in July – Newport Seniors Group	Melrose Reception Centre, Parkville.
Jul 18	St Helena Maltese Australian SC	Albion Multicultural Centre Parkville.

**August**

Aug 7 @ 6:45 pm	Pre-feast Mass and celebration – St Gaetan's Society Inc.	St Martin De Porres Avondale Heights.
Aug 8 @ 6:00 pm	Newport Seniors Comedy Night	Maltese Community Centre Parkville.
Aug 16 @ 2:00 pm	AGM 2015 – Moreland Maltese Elderly Citizens	Maltese Community Centre Parkville.

**St Helena Half-Yearly Meeting**

St Helena Maltese Australian S.C held their half yearly meeting at Parkville on Sunday 24th May 2015.

President Victor Bartolo reported on the club's progress over the last 12 months and outlined the club's events planned for the next 12 months. A financial report was also tabled. Mr Bartolo thanked the committee and all members for their continued support.

