



MCCV News

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Consul-on-the-Move project launched for mobile collection of biometric passport data

Before opening the two-day meeting of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad on Thursday 5 May 2016, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr George Vella, launched the *Consul-on-the-Move* project. Its objective is to facilitate through the use of mobile equipment the collection of biometric data and applications required for the issuing of Maltese passports.

The urgent need for such a service had been raised at several past meetings of the Council and it was highly pleasing to its members to attend the launch and see the long-awaited project come to fruition.

The project will also enable the Maltese communities abroad to avail themselves of all Consular services normally found at Embassies and Consular Offices, in localities nearer to them. The project conforms with the Government's vision to have governmental services nearer to the citizen.

Minister Vella said that five Consular Offices will be participating in this five-year pilot programme; Toronto, Washington, London, Rome and [Melbourne](#) (see also [page 13](#)).

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs saw the need to work on this programme after the introduction of biometric passports, for which the applicant has to personally visit an Embassy or a Consular Office for biometric data to be collected. This was resulting in an inconvenience for the Maltese living abroad, especially



Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr George Vella (centre) at the project launch

elderly applicants, as they had to travel long distances to submit their applications in one of the Maltese Consular Offices, with added costs for travel, lodging, and other expenses.

This project was launched after an agreement was reached with the Passport Office in Malta to enable this 'mobile service' to take off. All applications will carry an extra payment of €100.

Several visits by the participating Consular Offices have been scheduled, particularly in regions with a high concentration of Maltese. These visits will be advertised on all forms of media which are popular and used by the Maltese Communities abroad.

Consuls will also be visiting on Saturdays for more productive sessions and so that more applicants would be reached.

Minister Vella said that after a period of two years, the programme will be reviewed for its viability – which may lead to more Embassies and Consular Offices being added to the five already chosen.

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Vella said that this project will not only serve to gather passport applications, but applicants can also take the opportunity to avail themselves of all Consular services normally found at each and every Embassy and Consular Office. ♦



President's Perspective

Australia's refugee treatment is a national scandal

Australia's treatment of the refugees is nothing short of a national scandal. The nation's image on the international stage has reached its lowest ebb. In [an article](#) published on 23 May 2016 in *The New York Times* under the heading of *Australia's Offshore Cruelty*, Roger Cohen wrote: "The Australian treatment of refugees trying to reach this vast, thinly populated country by boat follows textbook rules for the administering of cruelty. It begins with the anodyne name for the procedures — 'offshore processing' — as if these desperate human beings were just an accumulation of data."

The author of the article builds a picture of the horrible state of affairs, referring to "the secrecy shrouding what goes on 'offshore' in the tiny Pacific island nation of Nauru and on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea, where a total of more than 1,350 people languish with no notion of how their limbo will end, where they will go or how to get answers to their predicament. Under the *Australian Border Force Act* of last year, disclosure by any current or former worker of 'protected information' is punishable by up to two years in prison."

He also writes about "the progressive dehumanization of people — dubbed 'illegals' without cause — who are caught in this Australian web under a policy now dating back almost four years. They are rarely visible. They are often nameless, merely given identification numbers. Women and children are vulnerable in squalid conditions where idleness and violence go hand in hand."

No doubt in time this poor image of Australia overseas will be reflected in a drop in tourist numbers and the level of hospitality extended to Australian citizens travelling overseas.

Millions of dollars are spent each year on publicity to attract tourism to our shores, these seem to be wasteful and of little value. Who would wish to visit a country which dehumanizes refugees and locks them up in circumstances and conditions that can only be described as torturous and extremely cruel?

How long would refugees have to wait in filthy conditions leading them to self-harm and ultimate suicide? Recently the Australian media reported cases of two refugees dying as a result of delays in providing them with appropriate medical treatment. Two refugees, one male and a pregnant female, could not be transferred to Australian hospitals because a failure and inappropriate delay in obtaining departmental consent for their air travel to appropriate hospitals.

What the government seems to ignore is the impact which the refugees' treatment is having on the Australian community. Our core Australian Christian values, which once won admiration internationally, is being eroded to the extent that many appear to believe that refugee treatment can be justified if this results in "stopping the boats".

Sadly, as we progress through a federal election campaign, one thing is very clear: the two major political parties are as one on this heartless approach to refugees and there will be no change in refugee policy, whatever the election outcome.

And what about the wasteful taxpayer resources, such as, the \$55 million paid to Cambodia to take in five refugees from Australia! Media reports indicate that four of them have decided to return to their country of origin to face the same dangers, which had forced them to leave in the first place.

Surely Australia should consider a change of policy at least to the extent that refugees should be released during the day to mingle and move about the community close to their place of detention. Perhaps they could also be engaged as farm help or in other activities in an endeavour for them to maintain a better physical and mental health. It seems a day release is being undertaken at Manus Island in light of the PNG Supreme Court decision declaring the detention centre illegal.

Australian politicians and department officers appear to be hypocritical raising issues of human rights with their counter-parts in other countries when overseas.

While members of the religious and many in the Australian community are doing their utmost to assist refugees, one could be comforted by the fact that very few boats appear to be arriving in Australia, assuming, of course, that the authorities are not intentionally hiding information about boat arrivals from the Australian public. One can never be so sure.

With difficulty, millions of refugees have found refuge in European countries. Yet Australia could only provide a home for 12,000 of them, simply a drop in the ocean.

Undoubtedly, history will judge us as a heartless and selfish community, choosing our own comfort and ignoring the plight of many helpless thousands pleading for compassion and assistance.

One can only wholeheartedly endorse the plea to the Australian government contained in the last paragraph of Cohen's article: "Bring those stranded in Nauru and on Manus Island, many of whose refugee claims have already been deemed legitimate, to Australia. Treat them with humanity as their demands for permanent settlement are assessed. Scrap a policy that shames a nation with its pointless cruelty."

New Premises for community radio station 3ZZZ

On Sunday 22 May 2016 Melbourne Community Radio 3ZZZ officially opened their new premises in Albert Street, Brunswick. The radio station represents a thoroughly multicultural community with members originating from some 45 countries.

The new building is a tribute of many visionaries, such as, George Zangalis, Walter Lippman and Tony Bonnici, who believed that overseas born Australian residents would benefit greatly from a radio station broadcasting in various languages, assisting them in early settlement and providing them with a sense of belonging. The ABC charter which required the provision of programmes for all Australian seem to ignore its responsibility in this regard.

Radio 3ZZZ currently broadcasts in 60 languages on a regular basis. A large number of volunteer broadcasters are the backbone of the station and maintain a meaningful relationship with community members. They play an important role in language and cultural maintenance.

The Maltese community thoroughly appreciates the Maltese language broadcasters for their constant work and efforts. The Maltese aged, particularly those residing in aged care facilities, look forward to the Maltese broadcasts provided with Maltese music regular news and topics of interest.

Victor Borg
MCCV President

Seventh Meeting of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad held in Malta

By Edwin Borg-Manché

The Council for Maltese Living Abroad held its seventh meeting in Malta over two days, 5th and 6th May. In his introductory speech the Council Chairman, Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr George Vella congratulated the members who were re-appointed to the Council and welcomed the new members.

Dr Vella said that the work of the Council and the Directorate for Maltese Living Abroad had intensified considerably during the past year. The Ministry worked closely with the Council on the organisation of the Convention for Maltese Living Abroad held in Malta in April 2015. From the Convention it clearly transpired that while the absolute majority of our diaspora remained mainly in the traditional countries, such as, Australia, Canada, United States and United Kingdom, the dynamics of the Maltese diaspora has changed and spread to new countries, such as, Belgium, Luxembourg and the United Arab Emirates among others.

Dr Vella said that another encouraging aspect was the notable participation of Maltese youth from Australia and United Kingdom at the Convention. The activities organised around the Convention continued to unite our people and increased the recognition here in Malta of the importance of the diaspora.

Dr Vella thanked Council members for their work among Maltese communities spread around the world. From the latest reports it appears that there are Maltese living in 154 countries around the world, a spread that is due to two different type of Maltese and Gozitans: the missionaries and the workers.

Dr Vella said that the government is conscious of the difficulties that Council members encounter in their respective countries and is committed not only to listen to them but also to consider proposals presented by the Council.

Minister Vella acknowledged the important work that had been carried out in recent years for the strengthening of the relations with Maltese living abroad. He said that the Government is committed to continue to build on it and to raise these relations to a higher level. Guided by the Guiding Principles of Malta's Foreign Policy 2013, the Government is committed to implement the electoral promises as expressed in the Electoral Manifesto.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs also identified other points in the Guiding Principles that directly or indirectly may affect the Maltese Diaspora. Among these are the improvement and strengthening of consular services, more contact with youth in the Diaspora and the promotion and other points of relevance which may impact indirectly, among the laws proposed before the Maltese Parliament, bye-laws and also European Directives.



The range of topics on the agenda discussed at the Council meeting included:

- Ways for improving the relations between the Council and associations of Maltese living abroad;
- The project relating to the digital platform for the online learning of the Maltese as a foreign language;
- Income tax rates applicable to non residents;
- The development of a road map for the relations between Malta and its Diaspora aspread round the world;
- The maintenance of Maltese culture among Maltese communities abroad;
- Setting up of a register of organisations of Maltese living abroad and a register of Maltese prominent persons living abroad;
- Distance voting at elections;
- The right of EU citizens to vote in elections of the European Parliament; and
- The impact of laws relating to the property development in Malta on Maltese living abroad. 💧

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:

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Reduced tax on Maltese property rental income

During the recent meeting of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad the topic of Maltese income tax rates applicable to non residents was discussed. The availability of a lower rate of tax on income from rental property located in Malta was raised.

The following information is reproduced from the Inland Revenue Department's website (https://ird.gov.mt/services/reduced_tax_on_rent.aspx):

The Government has launched a new withholding tax on rent, whereby the rate of tax on income from rented properties would be reduced from a maximum of 35% to 15%, tax evasion will be discouraged, and government revenue will increase.

The 15% tax rate would be applicable to rented properties for residential purposes, including garages. Both individuals and companies are eligible for this new reduced tax rate, which is applicable on rental income earned as from 1st January 2014.

Once an individual or company declares the annual income from such

rented property and gives the required details in respect of the property, on the prescribed form to be attached with the income tax return, the individual or company will pay a flat rate of 15% in tax on the total gross rental income received.

The scheme is a voluntary one, meaning that the Government is allowing rental earners to opt to retain the existing tax regime for rental income.

Should taxpayers, whether companies or individuals persist in not declaring income from rent, or declare only part of their undeclared rental income, they will be obliged to pay the full 35% tax rate, in addition to any penalties and interests, following an investigation carried out by tax authorities.

Procedure to pay the 15% tax on rental revenue:

1. One is to file Form [TA 24](#), which form can be downloaded from the website of the Inland Revenue Department
2. The person (individual or company) is to give the details of the rented

properties and garages, which properties and garages are being used for residential purposes. For each property and garage the gross rental revenue is to be given.

3. The person is to calculate 15% of the rental revenue received as the tax due to the Inland Revenue Department.
4. The duly filled and signed Form together with a cheque covering the amount of tax due is to be sent to the Inland Revenue Department by latest 30th June of the following year.

For more information call on (+356) 2599 8500, call the Inland Revenue Department Customer Care on (+356) 2296 2296, or email on taxpayerservice.ird@gov.mt.

Download the form TA 24 from <https://ird.gov.mt/downloads/other/ta24.zip>. ♦

Courtesy Visit to President of Malta

At the end of their two-day meeting, members of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad led by Council Chairman, Minister George Vella, paid a courtesy visit to the President of Malta, Her Excellency Mare-Louise Coleiro Preca, at her official residence in San Anton.



Australian sociology researcher runs training workshops on domestic violence in Malta

Associate professor of sociology, Dr Michael Flood, currently conducting research on the impact of programmes that engage men in preventing violence against women, visited Malta to lead training workshops for some 300 personal and social development teachers and social services officers on the subject.

One such programme in Australia is the White Ribbon campaign, which sees male ambassadors advocating not only against violence towards women, but also on how to be a good role model for children and how to challenge sexism within communities.

An activist and an educator, Dr Flood's visit to Malta was part of the Australian High Commission's Public Diplomacy programme, which includes the collaboration of the Men Against Violence NGO, the President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society and the University of Malta.

Interviewed by Times of Malta newspaper, Dr Flood said that there is no one better at convincing a man to end domestic violence than a fellow man. "Research shows that men listen much more to men than to women. That's unfortunate, as it could mean we don't always respect women's voices. However, it also means that men can be powerful advocates. When men speak out – at work, at church, in a community – other men are more ready to listen and give more authority to what they say. This means that men have a very important role to play," Michael Flood told the newspaper.

"It is important to involve men because men are part of the problem and part of the solution. To end domestic violence, we will have to change not only men's behaviour, but also their attitude. Most men do not use violence. However, they tolerate it or do not see anything wrong with a man taking advantage of a drunk woman, for example," Dr Flood added.

Dr Flood wanted to encourage Maltese men to take ownership of the issue and be ready to tell an abusive friend that domestic violence is not acceptable.



Dr Michael Flood

Photo: Chris Sant Fournier timesofmalta.com

He believes that to end violence there needs to be a change in mentality. One way of accomplishing this is to stop school-age children from adopting the mentality that domestic or sexual violence is OK.

Children, he said, could have classes on healthy relationships along with mathematics and English lessons.

Schools in Australia teach students how to have healthy and respectful relationships by resolving conflicts peacefully and refraining from pressuring someone into having sex, for example.

Men Against Violence aims to engage boys and men of all ages to stand up and end all forms of violence, particularly that against women and girls, whether it is domestic violence, dating violence, sexual abuse, harassment, stalking or rape.

Violence against women affects everyone, and that is why the association focuses on preventing it – for the benefit of all men, women and children. ♦

Obtain more information from menagainstviolence13@gmail.com or look for the Men Against Violence Facebook page.

[Article based on report by Sarah Carabott, [Men best at talking men out of domestic violence](http://timesofmalta.com) timesofmalta.com, 13.04.16]

Benefits for men of ending inequality and violence against women

- Gender stereotypes limit men. Men are taught that they need to restrain emotions and show that they are tough, hindering relationships and even stopping some from consulting the doctor about health issues.
- Men's lives would improve greatly if the lives of the many women around them – including their daughters, sisters, wives and partners – improved and became safer.
- If there were less violence against women, communities would spend less money on victims and abusers, and instead invest the funds in hospitals and schools.

Aussie Rules football 'AusKick' program officially launched in Malta



[Photo: www.tvm.com.mt]

On Sunday 22 May 2016 *AusKick* was officially launched in Malta during the Sports Carnival held at the Marsa Sports Ground. Sport Malta in conjunction with the Australian High Commission in Malta and The Australian Football League announced the new initiative with which it continues to broaden its sports programs.

AusKick is a program aimed to promote Australian football among children from a young age. Through this program, children learn the basic rules of this sport and also serves as an opportunity for the parents to

practise the sport with their children by joining in some of the sessions.

Sport Malta CEO Mark Cutajar said that *AusKick* will also be introduced as a pilot project in the next Skola Sport from coming October.

Mr Cutajar said that this initiative is a continuation of the very good relationship that exists with Australia with athletes like Diane Desira in Squash and Kevin Moore in Athletics, who, although based in that continent, regularly represent Malta. Kevin Moor is expected to be among Maltese athletes at the Rio Olympics in Brazil in August.

Australian High Commissioner, Her Excellency Ms Jane Lambert, explained that this initiative has as its aim the further improvement of the good relations that exist between the two countries.

While explaining that Malta was always keen to assist everyone to feel a part of society, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth and Sport Chris Agius said that Sport Malta is working to create equal opportunities for every citizen in sport. ♦

[Based on a news report published in Maltese on www.tvm.com.mt]

Argotti Gardens Art Exhibition and renovation works

On Friday 20 May 2016 the Australian High Commission supported the Argotti Gardens Art Exhibition, in cooperation with the Argotti Botanical Gardens and the Malta Watercolour Society, holding a reception at Argotti Gardens to mark the opening of the two-week long exhibition. Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change, Dr José Herrera, opened the exhibition.

On Saturday 4 June 2016 the Maltese government announced that it would be funding the restoration and development of the outer Argotti Gardens, which includes the Anzac Memorial and the

Australian Plant Collection, which the Australian High Commission donated to the Argotti Gardens a few years ago. The plant collection is currently in the inner Argotti Gardens, which is not generally accessible to the general public.

The botanical gardens and surrounding gardens will be converted into a centre of excellence on trees and unique plants as well as a recreation centre, as announced in the budget, the minister said. The first phase of the project will cost some €4 million and is envisaged to be completed by December 2017.

There will be extensive renovation works at the Argotti Gardens, which will

be connected to the nearby St Philip Garden, Milorda Garden and Pinetum Garden.

A bridge will connect Argotti to St Philip's. The latter will be cleaned up and its bastions and fountains will be restored.

Dr Herrera said the University of Malta would, through an agreement, take care of the botanical aspect.

The main aim of the project was to rehabilitate abandoned gardens for the enjoyment of families and the public in general. ♦

Compiled by **Rev. Charles Borg-Manché**
from various Vatican Radio reports

Pope Francis speaks out

On refugees

His address to Civil Authorities and the people of Lesbos, Greece on 16.04.16

"Today, I renew my heartfelt plea for responsibility and solidarity in the face of this tragic situation. Many migrants, who have come to this island and other places in Greece, are living in trying conditions, in an atmosphere of anxiety and fear, at times even of despair, due to material hardship and uncertainty for the future. The worries expressed by institutions and people, both in Greece and in other European countries, are understandable and legitimate. We must never forget, however, that migrants, rather than simply being a statistic, are first of all persons who have faces, names and individual stories. Europe is the homeland of human rights, and whoever sets foot on European soil ought to sense this, and thus become more aware of the duty to respect and defend those rights. Unfortunately, some, including many infants, could not even make it to these shores: they died at sea, victims of unsafe and inhumane means of transport, prey to unscrupulous thugs...

To be truly united with those forced to flee their homelands, we need to eliminate the causes of this dramatic situation: it is not enough to limit ourselves to responding to emergencies as they arise. Instead, we need to encourage political efforts that are broader in scope and multilateral. It is necessary, above all, to build peace where war has brought destruction and death, and to stop this scourge from spreading. To do this, resolute efforts must be made to counter the arms trade and arms trafficking, and the often hidden machinations associated with them; those who carry out acts of hatred and violence must be denied all means of support. Cooperation among nations, international organizations and humanitarian agencies must be tirelessly promoted, and those on the frontlines must be assisted, not kept at a distance."

His greeting to the refugees in Lesbos

"Dear Friends, I have wanted to be with you today. I want to tell you that you are not alone. In these weeks and months, you have endured much suffering in your search for a better life. Many of you felt forced to flee situations of conflict and persecution for the sake, above all, of your children, your little ones. You have made great sacrifices for your families. You know the pain of having left behind everything that is dear to you and – what is perhaps most difficult – not knowing what the future will bring. Many others like you are also in camps or towns, waiting, hoping to build a new life on this continent.

I have come here with my brothers, Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Ieronymos, simply to be with you and to hear your stories. We have come to call the attention of the world to this grave humanitarian crisis and to plead for its resolution. As people of faith, we wish to join our voices to speak out on your behalf. We hope that the world will heed these scenes of tragic and indeed desperate need, and respond in a way worthy of our common humanity."

On exploiting the poor

The rich who exploit the poor are bloodsuckers!

Exploiting the working people to enrich oneself is like sucking blood; it's a mortal sin. This was the message of Pope Francis during the morning Mass at the Casa Santa Marta on 19 May.

The rich who suck the blood of the poor

"When riches are created by exploiting the people, by those rich people who exploit [others], they take advantage of the work of the people, and those poor people become slaves. We think of the here and now, the same thing happens all over the world. 'I want to work.' 'Good, they'll give you a contract from September to June.' Without a pension, without health care... Then they suspend it, and in July and August they have to eat air. And in September, they laugh at you about it. Those who do that are true bloodsuckers, and they live by spilling the blood of the people who they make slaves of labour."

The exploitation of labour is a mortal sin

Pope Francis recalled how a young girl once told him about having found a job, working 11 hours a day for 650 euro a month, under the table. And they told her, "If that's ok with you, take it; if not, get lost. There's nothing else! There's a line of people waiting to take the job." "The exploitation of the people," the Pope said, "today is truly a form of slavery." We might think, he continued, "that slaves no longer exist: they exist. It's true, people no longer go to Africa to capture them in order to sell them in America, no. But it is in our cities. And there are these traffickers, these people who treat the working people without justice... This is starving the people with their work for my own profit! Living on the blood of the people. This is a mortal sin. And this demands a great deal of penance, a great deal of restitution, in order to be converted from this sin."



Pope Francis visiting the refugees on the Greek island of Lesbos in April 2016

On the removal of bishops

In an Apostolic Letter, issued *motu proprio*, Pope Francis has established new norms providing for the removal of Bishops from their offices in cases where they have "through negligence, committed or omitted acts that have caused grave harm to others, either with regard to physical persons, or with regard to the community itself."

The Apostolic Letter "**Come una madre amorevole**" (As a Loving Mother) also clarifies that, with regard "to abuse of minors or vulnerable adults, it is sufficient that the lack of diligence be grave."

Explaining the new procedures which come into effect on 5 September 2016, the Director of the Holy See Press Office, Father Federico Lombardi, SJ, said: "*The Apostolic Letter insists on the importance of vigilant care for the protection of minors and vulnerable adults, calling for a 'particular diligence.'*" Therefore, he continued, "*it clarifies that negligence regarding cases of sexual abuse committed against children or vulnerable adults are among the 'grave causes' that justify removal from ecclesiastical Offices, even of Bishops.*"

The Letter, according to Father Lombardi, establishes a procedure for carrying out a Canon already present in both the Code of Canon Law and the Code of Canons of Eastern Churches. It is not a penal procedure, he said, because it concerns cases of negligence, rather than with a crime that has been committed. For the same reason, the Dicasteries charged with following through on the procedures include the Congregations for Bishops, for the Evangelization of Peoples, for Oriental Churches, and for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, instead of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Father Lombardi drew attention especially to two points in the Apostolic Letter. First, the "lack of diligence" necessary for removal from office can exist even be "without grave moral fault" on the part of the Bishop.

Second, in cases concerning the abuse of minors "it is sufficient that the lack of diligence be 'grave,' while in other cases it is required that the lack of diligence be 'very grave.'" This effectively lowers the standard necessary for a Bishop to be removed from office when there is negligence in cases of sexual abuse.

In cases involving important decisions regarding Bishops, including those foreseen in the Apostolic Letter, the specific approval of the Holy Father is necessary. Father Lombardi noted that this is not a new disposition.

However, the Apostolic Letter does introduce a new "dedicated College of jurists" to assist the Pope before making a definitive decision. Father Lombardi said the College would be expected to be composed of Cardinals and Bishops.

Finally, Father Lombardi noted that because the Apostolic Letter concerns new procedural norms, the question of retroactivity does not apply, as law on the possibility of removal from office "for grave cause" already exists. The Letter simply establishes procedures for the application of the already existing law. ♦

Maltese Historical Association—April 2016 Event

Grandmaster Hompesch: Villian or Victim?*By Charles Gatt - MHA Secretary*

In his lecture delivered at the April event of the Maltese Historical Association at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville, Mr George Portelli spoke on the topic: *Grandmaster Ferdinand von Hompesch: Villain or Victim?* He began by giving the background to Ferdinand von Hompesch (pictured above), who was born in 1744 into an ancient noble family from Germany. In Malta, the Hompesch Gate as well as a monument that bears his name can be found in Zabbar (Città Hompesch).

Siggiewi (Città Ferdinando) recalls his name, and Żejtun (Città Beland) was named after his mother, who was a Bylandt.



Hompesch Gate in Zabbar, Malta



Although he disliked Malta's isolation and climate, Hompesch ingratiated himself with the Maltese by learning the language and distributing money. These actions alienated the knights.

The three French Langues occupied many of the top positions of the Order and supported Napoleon, as did some 4,000 Maltese, including intellectuals and dispossessed nobility. The French knights were reluctant to fight their compatriots and, besides, the Knights' charter did not allow them to fight other Christians.

At the time, the Order's strength was reduced to some 15 antiquated ships and 13,000 men; 200 men in the Grand Master's bodyguard, and 332 Knights, 50 of whom were old or sick. Hompesch asked for help from Britain, Spain, Vienna, and Russia but none was forthcoming.

On the morning of Saturday 9 June 1798, Napoleon's armada of warships flying the tricolor dotted the horizon from Gozo to Marsaxlokk Bay. In the afternoon, they requested permission for the fleet to enter harbour to take water. Hompesch pointed out that there was a treaty that allowed only a few ships at a time to enter harbour. Napoleon then ordered the disembarkation of some 40,000 men.

By 12 June Napoleon had taken over Malta. The Knights only offered token resistance and their ammunition and powder had been tampered with. Vastly

outnumbered and without support, von Hompesch capitulated on 17 June 1798.

Hompesch left for Trieste with three ancient artefacts of the Order, stripped of their jewels. On 6 July 1799, he abdicated as Head of the Order. Disgraced by his opponents, he died of asthma in Montpellier in 1805 aged 61.

Following the lecture, a heated discussion took place on issues of bravery, cowardice and diplomacy. Some of the points made during the discussions were that Hompesch was considered more of a diplomat than a soldier; the consequences of resistance to Napoleon would have been bloody and futile; he was outnumbered and his men could not be relied upon.

Ultimately, Hompesch had no choice. His main shortcoming was his failure to engender loyalty amongst his own men. Napoleon himself said in later years, "The Knights did nothing shameful; no one is obliged to perform impossibilities". ♦

[George Portelli's PowerPoint and lecture recording may be downloaded from [this link](#). A detailed article on Hompesch by Joseph Borg of the MHA is also available at [this link](#)]

Maltese Historical Association—May 2016 Event

Where to for Maltese Archaeology?*By Joseph Borg - MHA President*

On this occasion, the MHA was honoured in being asked to launch the latest publication of Claudia Sagona MOM, PhD, who is Honorary Principal Fellow in Archaeology, School of Historical and Philosophical Studies at The University of Melbourne. Her new book is titled *The Archaeology of Malta, from the Neolithic Times through the Roman Period* and published by Cambridge University Press.

The audience was composed of members and friends of the MHA together with friends and colleagues of Dr Sagona, making a sizable group of some 55 to 60 people in attendance.

After being introduced, Dr Sagona delivered a presentation about the future of Maltese Archaeology. During the presentation she frequently referred to her new publication, introducing some new concepts in the way the archaeology of Malta is being re-interpreted to include more recent findings. Notions of collapse of the various civilisations in Malta have been shown to not necessarily be true, since the existing populations were gradually assumed and assimilated by the later arrivals. This can be clearly seen when one studies sites such as 'Tas-Silg', where there was a continuum in the use of the place over a long span of time. She also described that various ceramic and other remains suggest that there was constant trading between the Maltese and neighbouring states, such as Sicily. New concepts also arrived by the quiet invasion of the Maltese Islands by the Phoenicians, bringing with them new forms of worship and other goods from foreign shores.

However, Dr Sagona stated that there were concerns in the maintenance of newly discovered sites because of the pressure of urban growth. One hopes that the Maltese Authorities will make sure that the vast archaeological heritage that is the patrimony of the Maltese will be looked after for future generations.

Following the presentation, Mr Joseph Borg, MHA President, officially launched her book. Dr Sagona then presented a copy of her book to Mr Victor Borg, MCCV President, to be retained in the Council's Library (pictured top right).

After the meeting, light refreshments were served, including pastizzi which were thoroughly enjoyed by our visitors from the University. Thanks to the MCCV for their support. ♦

**About the book**

The Maltese archipelago is a unique barometer for understanding cultural change in the central Mediterranean. Prehistoric people helped reshape the islands' economy and when Mediterranean maritime highways were being established, the islands became a significant lure to Phoenician colonists venturing from their Levantine homeland.

Punic Malta also sat at the frontline of regional hostilities until it fell to Rome. Preserved in this island setting are signs of people's endurance and adaptation to each new challenge. This book is the first systematic and up-to-date survey of the islands' archaeological evidence from the initial settlers to the archipelago's inclusion into the Roman world (c. 5000 BC–400 AD).

Claudia Sagona draws upon old and new discoveries and her analysis covers well-known sites such as the megalithic structures, as well as less familiar locations and discoveries. She interprets the archaeological record to explain changing social and political structures, intriguing ritual practices and cultural contact through several millennia.

- There is no comprehensive and detailed book such as this that covers the period from human colonization to the Roman period in the Maltese archipelago
- Contains an up-to-date synthesis of archaeological finds recorded in excavation reports and sources that are not readily available
- Includes new illustrations, updated maps, and plans and finds pertaining to all periods, as well as an extensive and exhaustive bibliography on ancient Malta and related fields
- Offers fresh ways of interpreting the archaeological data, challenging how we view cultural change, land use and people's adaptability in an island environment.



Community Radio 3ZZZ inaugurates new studios

By Paul Vella

Community Radio 3ZZZ (Melbourne) recently moved to new studios at 309 Albert Street, Brunswick, from their old premises in George Street, Fitzroy. The new premises boast five new state-of-the-art studios with the latest technology that will meet the needs of broadcasters to present their programs.

On Sunday 22nd May, the celebrations of the official opening took place, with more than 250 people attending.

Among the guests from the Maltese community was Mr Victor Borg, President of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria and Mrs Rosemary Attard, Welfare Director of the same Council.

Master of Ceremonies was Mrs Rajdeep Kang, who introduced the 3ZZZ President, Mr George Salloum.

Mr Salloum welcomed the special guests and spoke of the work of Radio 3ZZZ over the years. He thanked the untiring, creative and selfless work by the 400 volunteer broadcasters, their 60 communities, and the wider multicultural community. He said that for over 25 years, the 3ZZZ story has been one of tremendous success. From the humble beginnings in the basement of the Victorian Trades Hall in 1988 broadcasting in 30 languages to the modern premises in George Street, Fitzroy, from 1992 to 2016, and now broadcasting in over 60 languages in this magnificent new building, Radio 3ZZZ is aiming to do better and more.

Representing the Premier of Victoria, Ms Jan Garrett, Minister for Emergency Services and Member for Brunswick, made a speech for the occasion and expressed her best wishes to the station in their new premises. She then unveiled the commemorative plaque.

Other speakers were Mrs Inga Peulich, MP, Shadow Minister of Multicultural Affairs representing the Leader of the Opposition; Senator Mitch Fifield, Minister for Communication; Senator Kim Carr, Shadow Minister Higher Education, Research and Industry representing the Leader of the Opposition; Hon. Jason Clare, Shadow Minister for Communications; Cr Lita Gillies, Deputy Mayor, City of Moreland; Mr Eddie Micallef, Chair ECCV and Deputy Chair FECCA; Mr Russell Anderson, Executive



Hon. Jane Garrett, Minister for Emergency Services, representing the Premier of Victoria addressing the audience before unveiling the commemorative plaque

Officer Nation Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters Council; Mr Peter Batchelor, President Community Broadcasting Foundation; Ms Lew Wheeler, Deputy Chair, Fair Go for Pensioners Coalition; Mr Jim Remedio, Manager 3KND Indigenous Broadcasting Station; and the Secretary of 3ZZZ, Mr George Zangalis.

About Radio 3ZZZ

Radio 3ZZZ broadcasts in over 60 different languages, with 5,000 members and 400,000 listeners each week.

The Maltese community enjoys three one-hour programs every week, Mondays and Fridays 5-6 pm and another program on Saturdays, 10-11 am. Apart from this, there is another Maltese program every last Wednesday of the month, 1-2 pm.

The programs include news from Malta, a reading of the Gospel of the following Sunday, Maltese music and literature and other items of interest to the community in general. Every second Saturday, the program *Inservik* plays requests from the listeners celebrating a birthday or special occasions.

At the moment there are four Maltese broadcasters, namely, Convenor Lewis Stafrace, Mario Sammut, Paul Vella and Emmanuel Brincat.

With live streaming over the internet, our Maltese language programmes are followed by listeners all over Australia, the UK, USA, Canada, Malta, Italy and France, thanks to the hard work and promotion by broadcaster Paul Vella. ♦



[Photo: Radio 3ZZZ]

Reskeon Seniors' Mother's Day Luncheon

By Paul Vella

A number of Maltese associations in Melbourne, especially, senior groups, organise special lunches for Mother's Day every year. One of the largest and most active seniors groups, Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group, organised their Mother's Day Luncheon on Thursday 5th May for their members, at the Firenze Receptions in Fawkner. Around 148 members and friends attended.

Group Secretary Paul Vella, MC for the day, welcomed guests and members and invited them to stand for the Maltese and Australian National Anthems. Male members were then asked to stand to offer a toast for all the mothers on the occasion of Mother's Day.

The entrée consisted of fish and rice and salad followed by a pasta plate of lasagne and a main course of chicken involtini and roast beef. For dessert members and guests were served a fruit platter and a selection of cassata and tartufo ice-cream. This was followed by coffee and continental cakes.

Music was provided by DJ King Charlie who kept all those present dancing on the floor most of the day.

Distinguished guests present were the Honorary Life Members, Dr Clemente Zammit and Mrs Mary Zammit; Life Member and Ex-Co-Ordinator of the Reskeon Seniors Group, Mr Caesar Vella and Mrs Phyllis Vella; Honorary Treasurer of the MCCV and our Hon. Auditor, Mr Paul Borg and Mrs Pauline Borg.

Also present were family members of Joe and Grace Castillo, who were then on holidays in Melbourne, together with family members of Gae Messina and her mother, Mary Zammit, ex-members of the Group who also organised a table.

Later in the day, President Salvina Vella delivered her message for the occasion, wishing a good day to all mums with their families and asked those present to remember and pray for all those mothers who were no longer with us. She wished all members to enjoy the day with their mothers and all mothers present to enjoy the day with their families.

The MC then read out a list of members who were celebrating their birthdays around this time, as well those celebrating their wedding anniversaries. We had a special Wedding Anniversary of members Mary and Vince Abdilla, who were celebrating their Gold (50th) Anniversary.

Then there was the presentation of trophies to the winner and runners-up of the Ladies' Bocce Competition, which finished two weeks before this event. President Salvina Vella presented the trophies to this



[Photo: Paul Vella]

Above: 50th wedding anniversary flower presentation, from left: Madeleine Vella, President Salvina Vella, Mary Abdilla, Vince Abdilla



[Photo: Paul Vella]

year's winner Carmen Grech; first runner-up, Toni Hili; second runner-up, Cathy Gatt. All participants in the competition were asked to join them for a group photo. Salvina Vella thanked Cathy Gatt for her role in organising this competition. ♦

Above: Trophy presentations, from left: President, Salvina Vella, Toni Hili (1st runner-up), Carmen Grech (winner), Cathy Gatt (2nd runner-up)

Human Rights Commission report calls for national strategy to address age discrimination in the workplace

On Monday 2 May the Australian Human Rights Commission published its inquiry report into workforce discrimination against older people and those with a disability, commissioned by Federal Attorney-General George Brandis.

The report urges the Australian government to develop a national strategy and action plans to address employment discrimination faced by older Australian workers, and set up a Ministry for Longevity to manage and address the economic effect on an ageing population.

The report, *Willing to Work*, is based on research and consultations with more than 1,100 people. It concluded that stereotypes and assumptions about older people's abilities often had an adverse impact on career and job opportunities, often leading to individual distress, poor health and poverty.

The report builds on [the commission's 2015 survey](#) that found over a quarter of people over 50 experienced age discrimination at work, and a third of who experienced discrimination while looking for a job gave up searching.

While the over 55s constituted about 25% of the Australian population, the report found that they made up only 16% of the paid workforce, and that their workforce participation rate fell sharply as people reached their 60s.

Age Discrimination Commissioner, Ms Susan Ryan, said that a person who lost their job in mid to later life may often not work again. "Without the changes we recommend, people who lose their jobs in their 50s may live up to another forty years without paid employment," she said at the report launch.

The report found discrimination had significant impact on national productivity, with economic modelling showing 7% increase in mature-age workforce participation would raise GDP by approximately \$25 billion in 2022.

Key recommendations for government in the report include:

- Establishing a Minister for Longevity to address employment discrimination for older people, and the economic dimensions of an ageing population.
- Developing national action plans to address employment discrimination and lift labour force participation
- Developing national education campaigns to dispel myths and stereotypes



The full report is available [here](#).

- Expanding the role of the Workplace Gender Equality Agency to become the Workplace Gender Equality and Diversity Agency

Age discrimination meant businesses were missing out on the range of skills and abilities older people had to offer, said Ms Ryan. "In an economy with serious skills shortages, this does not make sense," she said. "Organisations that are inclusive and diverse report tangible benefits in terms of productivity, performance and innovation."

The report identified a "damaging gap" in access to skills training for workers approaching mid-life. It urged government to help support older workers from declining sectors, like manufacturing, to retrain to work in growth sectors.

The report also highlighted strategies for businesses to address discrimination and support the workplace needs of older people, and showcased many businesses, such as the Accor Group and aged care provider Catholic Homes, who were successfully engaging older workers.

Council of the Ageing (COTA) welcomed the report and the recommendation for a Minister for Longevity, as it said the implications of an ageing society were critical for the economy as a whole. ♦

[Based on an article by Jackie Keast published online on Thursday 5 May 2016 on the website:

www.australianageingagenda.com.au]



Social Outings Guide: Don't Gamble with your Group

The North East Primary Care Partnership (NEPCP) in partnership with Gamblers Help Northern Services, Multi-cultural Gamblers Help Program, Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre and Northern Federation of Ethnic Senior Citizens Clubs have produced an exciting new resource *Social Outings: Don't Gamble with your Group*.

This resource has been developed for social, senior and ethnic groups in Melbourne's inner and northern suburbs. The aim of the resource is to provide groups that go on outings with appropriate non-gambling related options that can be undertaken at low to moderate cost.

A Social Outings Guide Summary is also available in several languages, including Maltese. A copy of the Guide in Maltese and English is attached to this newsletter.

The North East Primary Care Partnership (NEPCP) is a voluntary alliance of service providers in north east metropolitan Melbourne, specifically the local government areas of Banyule, Darebin and Nillumbik.

The Primary Care Partnership Strategy is a Victorian Government initiative that provides funding across the state for PCPs to strengthen relationships, improve service coordination, integrate health promotion activities and reduce the preventable use of hospital services.

The main motivation for service providers to become NEPCP members is to improve relationships, reduce duplication of services, address gaps in service provision and achieve better health and wellbeing outcomes for the community. ♦



Hu Hsieb Saħħtek

Professur Maurice Cauchi



Il-mard tal-kliewi

Waħda mill-problemi li niltaqghu magħhom hija l-mard tal-kliewi. Il-kliewi huma neċessarji biex inaddfu d-demmm, u allura meta ma jkunux jaħdmu sewwa, daww is-sustanzi li suppost nehilsu minnhom jingemghu fid-demmm u jgħibu l-problemi.

Sintomi li jindikaw mard tal-kliewi

Kif tkun taf jekk il-kliewi qed jaħdmu tajjeb jew le? L-ewwelnett meta il-kliewi ma jkunux jaħdmu kif meħtieġ, nibdew inhossu ċerti sintomi. Anemia hija komuni u għalhekk thossok bla saħħa u tibda taqta n-nifs ma kull eżerċizzju. Il-gilda issir bla kulur, sew minhabba l-anemija, kif ukoll għaliex jingemghu s-sustanzi li suppost nehilsu minnhom. Il-pressjoni tibda tiela 'l fuq u dan igħib problemi miegħu ukoll. Jista' ikkollok nuqqas ta' vitamini (speċjalment Vitamina D) u nuqqas ta' kalcju. Min- naha l-oħra, jista' jibda jakkumula sustanzi fid-demmm bħal potassju, u urea, liema sustanzi suppost jkun ikkontrollati mill-kliewi. Fi kliem ieħor, il-gisem ma jibqax jaħdem kif suppost u jibda jnin bil-mod il-mod.

X'għandek tagħmel?

Issa x'għandek tagħmel biex tara jekk il-kliewi qed jaħdmu tajjeb jew le, jew inkella jekk hemmx xi mard li qed jaffetwa l-kliewi?

Dawn huma xi testijiet komuni li wieħed jista' jagħmel biex jivverifika jekk għandux problemi fil-kliewi:

- Eżami sempliċi ta' l-awrina: dan hu test sempliċi hafna. Jekk issib proteina (albumina) fl-awrina dan x'aktarx ifisser li l-kliewi mhux qed jaħdmu sew, u jkun



Image: <https://www.sharecare.com/health>

jeħtieġu aktar testijiet u investigazzjonijiet oħra.

- L-iċċekkjar tal-pressjoni: pressjoni għolja hija komuni hafna f'dawk il-persuni li għandhom mard tal-kliewi.
- Test tad-demmm biex wieħed jara jekk dan hux qed jiġi ippruifikat sew. Dawk li jbatu bil-mard tal-kliewi ikkollhom bidliet kif semmejna hawn fuq, jiġifieri insibu anemia fid-demmm, u bidliet oħra li juru li l-kliewi mhux qed jaħdmu sew.

Naturalment hemm hafna aktar testijiet aktar sofistikati li jistgħu isiru biex insiru nafa x'inhi d-dijanjozi preċiża u x'inhi l-kawża tal-mard tal-kliewi.

Minn fejn jiġi dan il-mard tal-kliewi?

Xi drabi jista' jkunemm xi infezzjoni, forsi li kellna snin qabel u li qatt ma tajna każ tagħha, u li din l-infezzjoni affettwat il-kliewi. Xi drabi jista' jkun hemm xi problem oħra li jaffettwaw il-kliewi. Per eżempju, pressjoni għolja wara hafna snin tagħmel hsara lil-kliewi (hekk imsejha 'glomerulonefrite'). Id-diabete ukoll tagħmel hsara lill-

kliewi u allura daww li ibgħatu bid-diabete għandhom bżonn li jiċċekkjaw jekk din hix qed taffetwa lil-kliewi. Xi drabi jista' jitrabba għebel li jagħmel hsara fil-kliewi.

Kif nistgħu nevitaw mard tal-kliewi?

L-ewwel nett jeħtieġ li kull infezzjoni tiġi ttrattata sewwa u ma nittraskawhiex. Jekk naraw xi sintomi ta' mard kif semmejt hawn fuq (speċjalment id-diabete u l-pressjoni), allura għandna naraw niehdy hsiebhom halli dawn ma jidhlux aktar 'l għewwa.

Naturalment wieħed għandu jiekol dieta tajba mingħajr hafna laham. It-tipjip m'hu tajjeb għall-ebda organu fil-gisem, inklużi l-kliewi. Speċjalment daww li jaħdmu xogħol iebes jew li jergħu hafna, hemm bżonn li jixorbu ilma halli l-gisem ma jiġix nieqes mill-ilma (dehydration).

Fl-ahharnett, tkun haġa tajba li nagħmlu vizta regolari għand it-tabib biex niċċekkjaw għall-pressjoni, l-awrina, u mard ieħor, għaliex meta l-mard taqdbu kmieni, għandek hafna aktar ċans li tikkontrollah. 💧

Consul-on-the-Move arrangements for Australia and New Zealand

Following the launch of the Consul-on-the Move project (see [report](#) on page 1), the Malta High Commission in Canberra has made arrangements for the Consul to travel to other locations in Australia and New Zealand in order to provide Maltese nationals in those places with consular services including the processing of applications for a Maltese biometric passport.

Participation in the Consul-on-the-Move programme is strictly by appointment only. To avail oneself of this service in the respective locations, one must seek an appointment and/or further information by sending an email to consul.canberra@gov.mt.

Date / Time	Location & Venue
Saturday 8 July 2016 9.00 am to 4.00 pm	The Community Centre, Progressive Hall, 47 LeHunte Street, Kilburn, South Australia
Sunday 9 July 2016 9.00 am to 4.00 pm	The Maltese Cultural Centre, 6 Jeanes Street, Beverly, South Australia
Fri 5 & Sat 6 Aug 2016 9.00 am to 4.00 pm	Europe House, Level 16, WO Building, 56 Wakefield Street, Auckland, New Zealand
Sunday 7 Aug 2016 11.00 am to 3.00 pm	Honorary Consulate of Malta, 20 Tanera Crescent, Brooklyn, Wellington, New Zealand

- Appointments for South Australia will be accepted until 6th July 2016 and for New Zealand until 2nd August 2016. *Requests after these dates cannot be entertained.*
- Should there be interest for Consular Services to visit Tasmania the date will be Monday 1st August 2016 (Venue to be determined)
- There are also plans to visit Brisbane, Mackay and Cairns (7th to 12th November 2016). Venues need to be determined.

The Maltese of Woolloomooloo Wharf

Dr Barry York uses Maltese oral history accounts to discover what life was like in Woolloomooloo's wharf community a century ago.

A few years ago, I was approached by the producers of the popular SBS TV series, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, to appear in an episode about one of Australia's leading entertainers, Adam Hills. I was surprised to learn that Hills had a Maltese great grandfather who migrated to Woolloomooloo, Sydney, in 1912. My oral history work over many years had focused on Maltese migrants and someone from the production company asked if I knew anything about the Maltese community in Woolloomooloo back then. Immediately, my mind turned to a collection of oral histories I had recorded in the 1980s on cassettes that were carefully stored in shoeboxes in a cupboard at home.

I had written books on the larger question of Maltese migration to Australia and had an understanding of the context for the Woolloomooloo community. I also knew of print sources that would provide factual information. But what oral history could provide went to a different, deeper, level entirely. In my cassette collection were interviews with two women who migrated from Malta to Woolloomooloo with their mothers in 1913 and 1914. Both had grown up there, as part of the wharf community. I recorded Christina Couch (nee Farrugia) and Jean Barrett (nee Rizzo) in Sydney in 1984 when they were aged in their 70s. As I located the cassettes and dusted them off, it suddenly struck me: the two interviews represent voices of migration a hundred years ago!

The subjective accounts of daily life in Woolloomooloo, in the rectangle of streets pushing 500 metres back from the bay, is unique and priceless. Had the recordings not been made, the individual memories would have been lost; though I wish to point out that my friend and fellow historian, Mark Caruana, had interviewed both women before me, and it was through him that my own opportunity arose.

Woolloomooloo today is highly sought after real estate, with a largely gentrified population. The Finger Wharf is a heritage site, with up-market apartments developed above it and posh restaurants around it. In 1912, it was a tough working class community with many migrants. Back then, the wharves were booming, employing hundreds of labourers, sometimes running three shifts per day. The houses were gas lit but comfortable and, in some ways, similar to those in Malta: double-storeyed, bedrooms upstairs, dining area downstairs, no front yard, steps leading to the pavement. As in Malta, this allowed individuals to sit out the front after work and chat with passers-by.



Above: Christina Couch (nee Farrugia) 1984. Right: Jean Barrett (nee Rizzo) c. 1912. Both photographs courtesy Dr Barry York

Jean Rizzo and Christina Farrugia both hailed from dock towns in Malta's Grand Harbour. Jean's father, Joseph, was a dockyard worker while Christina's was a deep-sea diver. It is likely that Christina's father had worked on the construction of Malta's Breakwater—a major project lasting from 1903 to 1909—and his skills were in demand in Sydney when the huge wharf was being built at Woolloomooloo from 1911 to 1915. Christina recalls him later working on the pylons of the Sydney Harbour Bridge when it was being built. The 'pull' of Australia was its reputation as 'l-art tal-futur' (the Land of the Future), where hard work was rewarded with good wages.

Malta was a British colony and migration within the Empire was seen as offering a better future than migration to traditional destinations along the north African coast. Australia at this time was developing rapidly, expanding its trade with Europe. There was abundant work in quarries, factories, road and rail construction, and on the wharves. The Maltese who settled in Woolloomooloo were pioneers of urban migration.

There are patterns in history, but within the patterns are multitudes of individual stories. The fathers of both women made the voyage to Australia on their own, with a view to testing the conditions and bringing out their families later on. John Farrugia made the move in 1911 and did well as a diver on the wharf project. When he sent for



his family two years later, he had ready for them a rented house in Plunkett Street, a few minutes' walk from the wharves.

Jean's father, Joseph, obtained a 'working passage' on a boat in 1912 and initially laboured on road construction around Mount Lyell, Tasmania, before moving to Woolloomooloo, where he worked on the wharves and arranged passage for his wife and two-year-old Jean in 1914. A few hundred Maltese worked at Mount Lyell when he was there but many gradually headed north, in part because the wet, cold conditions on Tasmania's north-west coast were so different to the Mediterranean climate. When Jean and her mother disembarked at Sydney, Joe took them straight to the house he was renting in Nicholson Street, in the heart of the wharf community. Prior to that, he had boarded at the Farrugias' place with a dozen or so other Maltese wharf workers.

The Farrugias' house attracted many new arrivals. As Christina recalled:

Any new people who came to Australia, friends would bring them to our place, and they were always made welcome ... They'd bring their mandolins and we'd have real good old sing-song ... and they'd talk about home and different ones would ask my mother to write a letter home because some of them couldn't read or write.

The Maltese language was spoken and Maltese cuisine prepared. In the absence of refrigeration, rabbits and chooks were

Continued on Page 15

The Maltese of Woolloomooloo Wharf

Continued from Page 14



slaughtered fresh. One can imagine the streets of this quarter filled with the scent of baked macaroni and ‘*stuffat tal-fenek*’ (rabbit stew) and, in the evening, the sound of a mandolin or guitar being played by a Maltese wharf labourer, sitting on his doorstep. There would also have been a strong scent of horses, as there were ‘hundreds of them’, with some carriages drawn by eight horses. And of course, on a warm breezy night, there was the saline scent from the bay.

Sometimes migrants suffer homesickness but, according to Jean, her parents were very satisfied at Woolloomooloo. Her mother, Katarina, had been a seamstress, sewing clothes for the Royal Navy in Malta. Her mother told her that life was very hard in Malta. Neither parent had any desire to return, and they never did. The family felt ‘comfortable’, especially with extra income earned when Katarina started a sewing business from home.

The community was a tight-knit one and Jean and Christina recalled at least four other Maltese families among their neighbours—the Carabotts, Cassars, Vassallos and Zahras. “We went to [St Mary’s Cathedral] school with their children and we all grew up together’. There were also many single Maltese men who had to wait until after the War to bring out their families. Jean Barrett recalled:

(The Maltese) always used to stick together. You know what I mean? Go on picnics together. Down in Woolloomooloo there’d be no radio or television then so after ten, the men would go and sit out on a step or in the gutter and just talk there, and the women, when they had finished their tea business, they’d go out too but mostly you’d find all the men out there talking ... it was always in Maltese!

There appears to have been a high level of class solidarity with

‘foreigners’ permitted to join the Wharf Labourers Union. The community was ethnically diverse: Maltese wharfies lived alongside the Australian-born, English migrants and Italian fishermen. Neither woman felt they were ever discriminated against while growing up in Woolloomooloo. On the contrary, both speak highly of their Australian neighbours. According to Jean:

we had no trouble with them at all, the Australians. My mother mixed up well with them. My father did too, with the men on the wharf. And I did at work too. But I will say there were some people who used to complain.

Both women married Maltese men in Sydney. In 1927, Jean married a Maltese by the name of Harry Barrett from her hometown, Senglea, and Christina married Charles Cauchi from Sliema in 1930.

Christina’s husband changed his surname from Cauchi (pronounced ‘Cow-key’) to Couch in order to avoid discrimination in employment. Her brothers in Sydney also changed their surnames: from Farrugia to Ferguson. The practice of changing Maltese surnames to English or Scottish ones interests me because in 1947 my Maltese father, Loreto, changed his surname from Meilak (pronounced ‘May-lak’) to York for similar assimilationist reasons.

The interviews capture some of the Maltese culture of that era. As a small island with a few dozen common surnames, nicknames developed as a way of differentiating people with the same names. Christina recalled her father’s nickname was ‘Ganni l-Bughaddas’, which means ‘Johnny the deep sea diver’. Thus her dad could be distinguished from any other John Farrugia by reference to his occupation.

Both women sound very Australian and Christina self-identified as Australian. Jean regarded herself as Maltese but added ‘I’ve been here a long time’. She still spoke Maltese at the local club where she liked to play bingo with other Maltese women.

The Library has digitised the two interviews and they are scheduled to go online. When that happens, people anywhere in the world with access to the internet will be able to experience this particular aspect of history, of century-old migration to Australia, through listening to the individual voices of those who lived it. ♦

DR BARRY YORK is a historian at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House. He began recording oral history interviews for the Library in 1988 and was a Harold White Fellow in 1997. His email address is Barry.York@moadoph.gov.au.

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BEGINNER ADULT CLASSES STARTING

• 14th July, 2016

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WHERE: MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL VIC Inc.
477 ROYAL PARADE - PARKVILLE VICTORIA
WHEN: THURSDAY AT 6.00 PM

Tel: 03 9387 8922 or 0412 115 919 after hours
<http://www.mccv.org.au/language-classes/>
Email: admin@mccv.org.au



Community Events Calendar

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

June 2016

Thu 16 June @ 6.00 pm	Pizza Night – Maltese Assoc. Northern Suburbs, Inc.	-
Sat 18 June @ 6.30 pm	BYO Family Get Together – St Helena Maltese Australian SC	Holy Eucharist Hall Oleander Str, St Albans
Sun 19 June @ 8.00 am	Day Trip – Maltese Assoc. Northern Suburbs, Inc.	-

July 2016

Sun 10 July @ 6.00 pm	Midyear Dinner Dance – Maltese Assoc. Northern Suburbs, Inc.	Hadfield Hall
Sun 17 July @ 6.00 pm	'Christmas in July' Dinner—Newport Seniors Group	-
Sat 23 July @ 6.30 pm	The Malta Community Chest Fund – Maltese Charity Dinner Dance	Grand Star Receptions Altona North

August 2016

Sun 14 August @ 6.00 pm	Day Trip – Maltese Assoc. Northern Suburbs, Inc.	-
Thu 18 August @ 6.00 pm	Pizza Night – Maltese Assoc. Northern Suburbs, Inc.	-
Sun 21 August @ 12.00 pm	Fathers' Day Luncheon—Newport Seniors	-
Fri 26 August @ 7.30 pm	St Helena Feast Mass at Ardeer – St Helena Maltese Australian SC	Croatian Catholic Church Ardeer
Sat 27 August @ 6.00 pm	St Helena Dinner Dance— St Helena Maltese Australian SC	Melrose Receptions, Tullamarine
Sun 28 August @ 3.00 pm	St Helena Feast Mass and Concert at Ardeer – St Helena Maltese	Croatian Catholic Church Ardeer

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as well as on demand via

www.c31.org.au/series/1313

www.facebook.com/MalteseDownUnder

maltesetv@gmail.com



Australian Federal Election 2016

Notice from the Australian High Commission on voting in Malta

The Australian Federal Election will be held on Saturday 2 July 2016. Online applications for a postal vote (for those already registered to vote) are available on the AEC website at www.aec.gov.au. Your application for a postal vote must be received by the AEC by 29 June 2016.

The Australian High Commission in Malta will be open for in person pre-poll voting on weekdays from 8.30am to 4pm commencing **Monday 20 June until Friday 1 July 2016**.

Please note the High Commission will not be open for voting on election day (2 July).

In the meantime, you can find information relating to being overseas at election time on the Australian Electoral Commission's website www.aec.gov.au.



Ħarġiet Soċjali : tilgħabx logħob tal-ażżard mal-grupp tiegħek

Din il-gwida “Ħarġiet Soċjali: tilgħabx logħob tal-ażżard mal-grupp tiegħek” kienet żviluppata minn aġenziji fi sħab li kienu mħassbin dwar it-telf finanzjarju li kienu qed iġarbu gruppi li kienu jmorru ħarġiet sal-postijiet tal-logħob tal-ażżard, speċjalment il-Casino.

Din is-sħubija ilha mis-sena 2009 'l hawn, tqajjem kuxjenza fost il-gruppi komunitarji dwar ir-riskji potenzjali ta' meta gruppi jittieħdu il-Casino. Huma qed jinvestigaw l-ispiza attwali ta' dawn il-ħarġiet u jiddokumentaw il-ħsara li tiġri mħabba fihom. Is-sħubija sabet li numru ta' gruppi kienu qed jieħdu sehem f'ħarġiet bil-bus sal-Casino mingħajr ma kienu jifhemu sewwa l-ispejjeż u r-riskji potenzjali.

Xi gruppi jqisu li dawn il-ħarġiet sal-Casino kienu valur tajjeb tal-flus li tħallas. Ir-riċerka li saret uriet li dawk il-gruppi kienu tipikament jonfqu bejn \$1,000 u \$3,500 fuq dawn il-ħarġiet. Il-biċċa l-kbira tal-ispiza kienet tikkonsisti minn telf fuq logħob tal-ażżard. Fost 200 parteċipant, wieħed biss rebaħ xi flus (\$80). Kien hemm oħra li serqulha il-portmoni li kien fih \$300. Barra minn dan xi membri tal-grupp irrappurtaw imġieba li indikat li kienu esposti għar-riskju sinifikanti tal-logħob tal-ażżard bħal ngħidu aħna kienu beħsiebhom imorru lura fil-Casino biex jirbħu dak li tilfu.

Bħala riżultat ta' dan ix-xogħol gruppi komunitarji bdew jitolbu tagħrif dwar l-attivitajiet u l-avvenimenti li

jistgħu jiġu offruti bħala alternattiva għall-postijiet tal-logħob tal-ażżard. Il-gwida Ħarġiet Soċjali: Tilgħabx logħob tal-ażżard mal-grupp tiegħek fiha d-dettalji kollha meħtieġa biex tippjana ħarġiet pjaċevoli li huma valur tajjeb għall-flus li tħallas. Aħna nisperaw li din il-gwida ser tgħin lill-grupp tiegħek biex jagħżel ħarġiet li ma jinvolvox logħob tal-ażżard.

Il-ħarġiet f'dan il-Ktejjeb ser jqumu lill-grupp tiegħek inqas minn ġurnata fil-Casino! U ma jirrapprezentawx l-istess riskji!

Ħafna gruppi qalulna li l-akbar ostaklu biex imorru ħarġiet f'postijiet fejn m'hemm logħob tal-ażżard hu n-nuqqas ta' trasport mhux għali. Aħna nissuggerixxu li l-grupp tiegħek iqis l-użu ta' trasport pubbliku biex tmorru ħarġiet fi grupp. It-trasport pubbliku huwa relativament irħis, faċli biex tużah minn ħafna postijiet u joffri l-opportunità biex tiegħu pjaċir waqt li tevita l-ispiza tal-kiri ta' bus kbira. Għalhekk, l-aħħar paġni tal-gwida Ħarġiet Soċjali fihom mapep u tagħrif ieħor dwar it-teħid tat-trasport pubbliku. Il-ħarġiet kollha fil-gwida jistgħu jintlaħqu permezz tal-karrozzi jew il-buses jekk il-grupp jippreferi dan.

Jekk tixtieq tkellem ħaddiem bil-Malti dwar l-ippjanar tal-ħarġiet li ma jinvolvox logħob tal-ażżard, jew biex issib fejn int jew xi ħadd li taf jista' jikseb l-għajnuna dwar il-logħob tal-ażżard ikkuntattja lil

Kunsill tal-Komunità Maltija ta' Victoria
(03) 9387 8922 jew admin@mccv.org.au



Dwar il-gwida ta' **Ħarġiet Soċjali**:

Il-gwida dwar il-ħarġiet soċjali fiha ħafna attivitajiet differenti li l-grupp tiegħek jista' jagħmel. L-ewwel 12-il attività huma ħarġiet ta' ġurnata li int tista' tagħmel. Dawn il-ħarġiet joffru 3 kategoriji:

B'Xejn



CERES Environmental park
National Gallery of Victoria
Royal Botanic Gardens
St Kilda Foreshore
Williamstown

Ħlas baxx



Abbotsford Convent
Collingwood Children's Farm
Darebin City Lawn Bowls Club
Immigration Museum
Jewish Museum
Melbourne Museum

Ħlas Medju



Heidi Museum of Modern Art
Melbourne Zoo

Dawn l-ispejjeż ikopru l-ispiza bażika tad-dhul jew l-attivitajiet. F'xi każi, hemm ukoll attivitajiet oħra bi ħlas ekstra u dan hu spjegat fuq fuq fil-Ktejjeb. L-ispiza tat-trasport u tal-ikel mhumiex inklużi fl-ispiza u ser jiddependu fuq l-għażliet li grupp tiegħek jagħzel.

Il-grupp tiegħek jista' jiddiskuti kemm tridu tonfqu u tiegħu deċiżjonijiet skont dan. Jekk tridu tonfqu inqas, morru bit-trasport publiku jew aqsmu bejnietkom il-karrozzi u morru picnic. Jekk tridu tonfqu aktar araw tridux tikru bus, u forsi tipprovaw xi wħud mill-aħjar restoranti ta' Melbourne.

Barra minn dawn il-ħarġiet, il-gwida fiha ħafna attivitajiet lokali li tistgħu tiegħu sehem fihom inklużi:

- **Pubs li ma fihomx magni tal-logħob tal-ażżard**
– issapportjaw post li mhux qed jissussidja l-ikel permezz tat-telf mill-logħob tal-ażżard ta' nies vulnerabbli!
- **Kelliema Mistiedna għall-klabb tiegħek**
– ħafna organizzazzjonijiet għandhom kelliema li jistgħu jikkellmu fuq problemi importanti dwar is-saħħa u l-komunità
- **Ħarġiet għal Op Shop**
– ġawdu ħarġa ta' valur tajjeb għall-flus li tonfqu u araw li fluskom iservukom aktar!
- **Parks u Żoni tal-Piknik**
– aħna xxurtjati li qed ngħixu f'Melbourne b'tant varjetà ta' postijiet fil-beraħ, siru afuħom aħjar
- **Swieq**
– Melbourne għandha xi swieq ġewwa u barra
- **Avvenimenti u festivals staġġonali f'Melbourne**

Biex nagħmluha eħfef biex tuża il-gwida, xi simboli intużaw fiha.

Dan is-simbolu jgħidlek...



...l-indirizz



...kemm għandek tistenna li tħallas għall-ħarġa



...meta tiftaħ l-attrazzjoni



...kif tmur biex tasal fil-post tal-ħarġa



...fejn tista' tiekol, inklużi postijiet tal-picnic



...attrazzjonijiet oħra



...kif tikseb aktar tagħrif

Ftakar, zomm ruħek b'saħħtek u evita l-periklu - tilgħabx logħob tal-ażżard mal-grupp tiegħek!





Social Outings: don't gamble with your group

The guide "Social Outings: don't gamble with your group" was developed by a partnership of agencies who were concerned at the financial losses being experienced by groups which were going on outings to gambling venues, particularly the Casino.

Since 2009, this partnership has been raising awareness amongst community groups of the potential risks of taking groups to the Casino. They have investigated the actual cost of these outings and documented the harms that occur from them. The partnership found that a number of groups were participating in bus trips to the Casino without fully understanding the costs and potential risks.

Some groups considered that trips to the Casino represented good value. Research undertaken has demonstrated that groups typically spend between \$1,000 and \$3,500 on these trips. Most of the cost is made up of gambling losses. In 200 participants, only one person won any money (\$80). Another had a purse stolen containing \$300. In addition, some group members reported behaviours which indicated that they were exposed to significant risks from gambling such as planning to return to the Casino to win back their losses.

As a result of this work community groups began requesting

information about activities and events that could be offered as an alternative to gaming venues. The guide *Social Outings: Don't gamble with your group* contains all the details needed to plan enjoyable outings that are value for money. We hope this guide will assist your group to choose non gambling outings.

The outings in this Booklet will cost your group less than a day at the Casino! And they do not present the same risks!

Many groups have told us that the biggest obstacle to undertaking non gambling outings is the lack of affordable transport. We suggest that your group considers using public transport to go on group outings. Public transport is relatively cheap, easy to access from most locations and offers the opportunity to have fun as a group whilst avoiding the cost of hiring a large bus. For this reason, the final pages of the Social Outings guide contain maps and other information about taking public transport. All of the outings in the guide can also be accessed using cars or buses if your group prefers.

If you would like speak to a worker about planning non gambling related outings, or finding out where you or someone you know can get help with gambling contact:

Kate Little, Community Education Worker
Banyule Community Health Service
(03) 9450 2080 or kate.little@bchs.org.au

You can download the whole guide on-line at www.nepcp.org.au



About the Social Outings guide:

The social outings guide has lots of different activities your group can do. The first 12 activities are day trips that you can go on. These outings are presented in 3 categories:

No cost



CERES Environmental park
National Gallery of Victoria
Royal Botanic Gardens
St Kilda Foreshore
Williamstown

Low cost



Abbotsford Convent
Collingwood Children's Farm
Darebin City Lawn Bowls Club
Immigration Museum
Jewish Museum
Melbourne Museum

Medium cost



Heidi Museum of Modern Art
Melbourne Zoo

These costs refer to basic entrance fees or activities. In some cases, additional activities are available at extra cost and this is outlined in the Booklet. Transport and food costs are not included in the costing and will depend on the options that your group selects.

Your group can discuss how much you want to spend and make decisions accordingly. If you want to spend less, take public transport or car pool and have a picnic. If you have more to spend, consider bus hire and maybe try out some of Melbourne's fine restaurants.

As well as these outings, the guide contains lots of local things to do including:

- **Pubs without pokies**
 - support a venue that is not subsidising meals with gaming losses from vulnerable people!
- **Guest speakers for your club**
 - many organisations have speakers who can talk to your group about important health and community issues
- **Op Shop tours**
 - enjoy a great value outing and make you money go further!
- **Parks & Picnic Areas**
 - we are lucky to live in Melbourne with such a fabulous variety of outdoor areas, get to know them better
- **Markets**
 - Melbourne has some great indoor and outdoor markets
- **Seasonal events and festivals in Melbourne.**

To make it easy to use the guide, some symbols have been used throughout.

This symbol tells you...



...the address



...how much you can expect to pay for the outing



...when the attraction is open



...how to get to the outing



...where you can eat, including picnic locations



...other attractions



...how to get more information

Remember, stay healthy and safe – don't gamble with your group!

