



# MCCV News

**Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.**

**477 Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria 3052, AUSTRALIA**

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

Email: [admin@mccv.org.au](mailto:admin@mccv.org.au) | Website: [www.mccv.org.au](http://www.mccv.org.au)

Editor: Dr Edwin Borg-Manché | Sub-Editor: Andrew Gatt

## IN THIS ISSUE

• <a href="#">President's Perspective - SBS priorities are different from community expectations</a>	2	• <a href="#">Consul-on-the-Move programme</a>	9
• <a href="#">MCCV holds its Annual General Meeting 2016</a>	3	• <a href="#">MHA Event October 2016: Sir Alexander Ball and the part of Malta that almost was</a>	10
• <a href="#">SBS Radio Services Review launched</a>	5	• <a href="#">Newport considering proposal to merge committees</a>	12
• <a href="#">Maltese Cultural Festival 2016: - Maltese in Melbourne celebrate Malta's Independence Day - Entertaining Maltese ghana and music evening</a>	6	• <a href="#">Canon Fr Eddie Zammit visits Melbourne</a>	
• <a href="#">Il-Grupp Letteratura Maltija jipprezenta Programm Muziko-Letterarju</a>	7	• <a href="#">Reskeon Seniors enjoy trip across the bay</a>	
• <a href="#">Another successful Nisqa Maltese Cook-off</a>	8	• <a href="#">St Helena Maltese Australian S.C. holds its AGM</a>	13
• <a href="#">ECCV strongly opposes changes to Section 18C</a>	9	• <a href="#">Reskeon Seniors Group conducts its 2016 AGM</a>	
		• <a href="#">Pope Francis Speaks Out</a>	14
		• <a href="#">Hu Hsieb Sahhtek: Xi tkun din l-Anemija?</a>	15
		• <a href="#">Postcodes and delivery of mail to Malta</a>	16

## Community concerns about SBS Radio program cuts raised at Senate Committee hearing

During a hearing of the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee held on 18 October 2016 Labour Senator Sam Dastyari voiced concerns about potential future cuts to language programs on SBS Radio. CEO and Managing Director of SBS Mr Michael Ebeid appeared before the Senate Committee to answer questions about SBS.

In one of his questions to Mr Ebeid, Senator Dastyari referred to the story published in *The Voice of the Maltese* on 11th October 2016, which raised concerns regarding the possibility of SBS "cutting 20 different language programs as part of the funding cuts."

In his reply, Mr Ebeid dismissed the article as "mere speculation". He said that "at the moment there are no plans to do that but ... there is an outstanding problem with our funding that the government is looking at later this year. I think that was mentioned earlier today, but there is no plan at the moment."

Earlier during the same Senate Committee hearing, Mr Ebeid had, however, reported that SBS has "ended [its] financial year in a very strong position."

As regards the SBS review process of the broadcasting languages and number of programs in each language, Mr Ebeid said that "what [SBS does] every four or five years with the Census data is we initiate a review to have a look at



Mr Michael Ebeid, SBS Managing Director and CEO and Ms Tureia Sample, Director, Corporate Affairs, SBS

the demographics of Australia, what new language groups are growing and what new migrant groups need our services, so we do review our languages that we broadcast every four or five years. We have a public consultation process that we are about to undertake and then we will look at the criteria that

would constitute what languages we keep, what languages we change and what languages we might increase or decrease."

On 14 November 2016 SBS launched the public consultation on the language selection criteria for an SBS Radio Review. The period of consultation ends on Sunday 11 December (refer to the SBS Notice on [page 5](#)).

At the hearing Senator Dastyari noted "a concern of some of these communities ... but size does not necessarily equate to either need or perhaps a reflection on the reliance on these services." He said that he was "just slightly concerned with the way that [Mr Ebeid] described it at the start which was that [SBS] are looking at the demographic size."



Senator Sam Dastyari

[Continued on Page 4](#)



## President's Perspective

# SBS priorities are different from community expectations

**T**he Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) recently launched a public consultation in relation to the draft criteria that SBS will apply when reviewing its radio schedule next year and determining how the broadcast hours will be spread among the various community languages. A similar review last took place in 2012.

Following the 2011 Commonwealth Census, SBS savaged the Maltese language radio broadcast time from 9 hrs to only 2 hrs per week. Subsequently, as a result of strong representations made on behalf of the Maltese community, 2 additional one-hour weekly programs on digital radio were allotted, bringing the total Maltese language air-time to 4 programs per week. Upon expiry of the two-year period, these additional hours were terminated allegedly on the basis of a lack of funds.

According to a report published on 11 October 2016 in *The Voice of the Maltese*, SBS advised the Shadow Minister for Telecommunications, the Hon. Michelle Rowland, that due to a cut in Federal Government funding, there is a \$2 million budget black hole that would impact ethnic broadcasting and this hole would equate to ending the funding of 20 language programs in the future.

It is worth noting that these comments from SBS about the existence of a \$2 million budget black hole contrasts sharply with a statement that SBS CEO and Managing Director Michael Ebeid made on 18 October 2016 to a hearing of the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee that SBS has “ended [its] financial year in a *very strong position*.”

If SBS has really had a shortage of funding in recent years, it certainly does not appear to have had any impact on its highly expensive participation in the Eurovision Song Contest which has no relevance to the Australian community, given our remote geographic location, well outside Europe and on the other side of the globe.

It would be interesting to know how many hundreds of thousands of dollars SBS has wasted on its past participation, how many more are being budgeted for its next appearance.

Obviously the priorities of SBS are markedly different from community expectations.

SBS has recently announced its intention to review current ethnic broadcasting schedule following publication of the relevant data from the 2016 Census expected by June 2017. As part of the proposed community consultations, SBS has published draft criteria for comment.

One criterion that directly impacts our community is the very low weighting allocated to ‘ageing’ at 15%. It is imperative that SBS balances the size of various communities taking into account the extent of broadcasting by commercial and ethnic community radio stations. It is understood that the Italian, Greek, Chinese and others are serviced by commercial broadcasting on a 24-hour daily basis. It is worth noting that SBS has set up a 24-hr station to the Arabic community.

Council made every effort to ensure that people of Maltese background complete the 2016 Census form correctly to provide accurate data about how many speak Maltese in their homes.

The MCCV will again be making representations to SBS to ensure that the criteria for the radio schedule review are fair and

the needs of the Maltese community, and particularly those of our ageing members, are brought to the attention of the SBS Board.

### *The American Nightmare*

Many people around the world were shocked by the result of the recent American presidential election, making a mockery of all the polls taken during the electoral campaign. It seems incredible that Donald Trump, who was most unimpressive both during his debates with Hillary Clinton and in speeches he gave at his rallies, should be successful in winning support from his apparently hysterical followers.

Trump will undoubtedly need to rely on his advisors to temper his boastful, self-serving and flamboyant ways. He will be judged on his performance, having enunciated no policies of substance during his campaign, alienated more than half of the American population and offended whole ethnic groups and women.

As many commentators have said, everyone will be watching closely for signs of Trump changing his ways and softening some of his outrageous views as he transitions to a statesman-like figure of a President unifying the nation. Initial signs have been far from encouraging, with the appointment of people with extremist right wing views to key positions in the new administration.

It is also telling that, according to news reports, Trump appointed members of his family on the Transition Committee to select his cabinet. Such close family involvement in the affairs of the incoming administration has been questioned both ethically and legally.

In a recent radio interview President Obama observed that a 43% nationwide turnout vote is not what democracy demands. Adopting the Australian concept of compulsory voting to ensure a decent turnout at elections is probably something that the Americans should seriously consider for future elections.

### *Aged Care Quality Review*

Council has recently undergone a quality review conducted by the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency and I am happy to report that the interim Quality Review Report was most pleasing. The review assessed the performance of the aged care services provided by the MCCV against the Commonwealth government’s Home Care Standards. It confirmed that Council programs are heading in the right direction and gives us confidence to consider other programs for the benefit of the community. I congratulate our Co-ordinator, staff and aged care workers for their efforts.

### *Annual General Meeting*

The AGM of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria was held on 2nd November 2016. I wish to thank the affiliated association members who attended the meeting for their confidence in returning me as President of the Council and congratulate the members of the new Executive Committee on their election.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all our affiliated members for their efforts and services provided to the Maltese community generally.

**Victor Borg**  
MCCV President



## MCCV holds its Annual General Meeting 2016

**O**n Wednesday 2 November 2016 the Maltese Community Council of Victoria held its Annual General Meeting for 2016 at the Maltese Centre in Parkville. Representatives from several affiliated associations attended the meeting.

In his address, MCCV President Victor Borg outlined the achievements of the Council during the year. He said that it has been a very difficult year for the Council in the sense that there were a number of things that needed attention in terms of updating operational policies and procedures to comply with more stringent Government requirements.

On welfare services provided by the MCCV, Mr Borg said that the Council provides important services to the older members of our community who constantly need help, even those who may have relatives living nearby. Sometimes we find that the sort of attitudes that we had towards our parents in Malta unfortunately do not always prevail here. Many of the old people who receive Council services often think that they are abandoned. Some might expect too much but in some cases their complaints seem to be justified.

Regarding MCCV operations, Mr Borg said that the work of the Council was restructured to meet strict government standards. Several committees were set up each responsible for the management of a particular operational area. Seven committees were established to cover the areas of: Finance; Community Services & Improvement (Welfare); Corporate Governance; Human Resources; Risk Management & Physical Resources; Library; and Social Affairs. This structure has generated significant administrative work to operate and to ensure the paperwork is all kept up-to-date.

Mr Borg spoke about the Commonwealth funded Home and Community Care (HACC) Program, under which Council runs the Aged Planned Activity Group sessions. These are conducted every week at the Maltese community centre in Parkville on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as at the MCCV Sunshine centre on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

During the past year the MCCV, with the assistance of Carers Victoria, has continued to run bi-monthly services for carers who are responsible for caring for elderly relatives or those with special needs. This is a support group which encourages its members to exchange experiences and assist each other.

Mr Borg spoke about the MCCV advisory and referral service which has become the first point of contact for many Maltese persons seeking Council's assistance. The



**MCCV Executive Committee 2016-2018:** (from left) Treasurer Paul Borg; Vice President Edwin Borg-Manché; Chaplain Fr Edwin Agius mssp; Secretary Andrew Gatt; Vice President Joseph Stafrace; President Victor Borg; Assistant Secretary Antonia Camilleri; Social Secretary Rita Pullicino; and Welfare Director Rosemary Attard.

service is fully confidential, provided free of charge in both Maltese and English.

He then referred to the Home Visitation Scheme set up to have volunteers visit Maltese people who want to stay home and often have problems with their own children and relatives. He said that the Council is looking for volunteers, who from their own heart want to help others by making home visitations.

Mr Borg said that the MCCV is grateful to the State Government and the Victorian Minister for Finance and Multicultural Affairs, Hon. Robin Scott, for a grant to extend its home visitation service to include visits to elderly Maltese persons who reside in aged care facilities as well as for an annual grant of \$5,000 for 4 years for Maltese language teaching at the Maltese Centre.

Mr Borg then spoke about the Maltese language classes run at the Maltese Centre under the leadership of Ms Edwidge Borg. The MCCV is again appreciative to the Hon. Robin Scott, Victorian Minister for Finance and Multicultural Affairs, for approving.

Mr Borg announced the recipients of the MCCV Community Awards for 2016 as a public recognition to those individuals from within our community who have made a substantial contribution to the Maltese-Australian community.

In 2016 the MCCV Community Awards were awarded to: *Prof Maurice Cauchi* for his contribution to Education; *Mr Alfred Cachia* and *Mrs Marlene Scicluna* for their contribution to Culture; *Fr Edwin Agius mssp* for his contribution to Welfare Services; *Mr Charles Belli*, *Mr Vincent*

*Calleja* and *Mrs Marlene Xerri* for their contribution to the Community. Mr Borg said that the presentation of these awards will take place early next year at an appropriate function.

Mr Borg thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their loyalty and support during the past twelve months. He also thanked the staff for their hard work during the year.

MCCV Treasurer Mr Paul Borg delivered the Financial Report for 2015/16, which was approved at the meeting.

### **Election of Executive Committee 2016-18**

This year's AGM included the election of a new Executive Committee for the next two years. Only the position of Secretary was contested. Mr Andrew Gatt and Mrs Edwina Mallia nominated for that position. Before a vote was taken, Mrs Mallia decided to withdraw her two nominations, for Secretary and Assistant Treasurer.

No nominations were received for the position of Public Relations Officer.

The new Committee is made up as follows:

<b>President:</b>	Mr Victor Borg
<b>Vice Presidents:</b>	Mr Joseph Stafrace Dr Edwin Borg-Manché
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mr Andrew Gatt
<b>Asst. Secretary:</b>	Mrs Antonia Camilleri
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mr Paul Borg
<b>Asst. Treasurer:</b>	Vacant
<b>Welfare Director:</b>	Mrs Rosemary Attard
<b>Social Secretary:</b>	Mrs Rita Pullicino
<b>Public Rel. Off.:</b>	Vacant ♦

## Community concerns about SBS Radio program cuts raised at Senate Committee hearing

[Continued from Page 1](#)

Mr Ebeid clarified that “it is a lot more than size. It is actually a complicated formula that takes into consideration a whole range of things that goes into the methodology that we use. We look at things like aging, proficiency in English, for example, economic circumstances, recent arrivals and all of those sorts of things, together with the size of the community are all balanced and weighted, depending on different levels of importance of those things.”

Mr Ebeid acknowledged that “a language group, for example, that has not had any new migration for 30 or 40 years, that could have been a post-war migrant group, have very different needs with an aging population” compared with “recent new arrivals, although it may be a small community, [who] really need our services to understand Australian values and Australian culture or ... a Scandinavian language that has very high English proficiency, very low recent arrivals, [who] would probably need our services less.”

*The Voice of the Maltese* article, which Senator Dastyari referred to, reports that the Federal Shadow Minister for Telecommunications, Michelle Rowland MP, had taken up with SBS the issue of a fair and adequate share of air-time for the Maltese community.

In the article it was reported that Ms Rowland had released correspondence about her meeting in Canberra with Mr Ebeid, who had indicated that during 2017 SBS would be conducting a review of language groups following the conclusion of the 2016 Census. He also emphasised that the Government Budget measures and funding cuts have left the SBS with a \$10 million budget black hole, and \$2 million will need to be taken out of the SBS Radio budget. This hole according to the Mr Ebeid would equate to ending the funding of 20 language programs.

Mr Ebeid's reference to the shortfall of \$2 million for SBS Radio raises serious concerns for the future of the

current two hours of Maltese language programs per week.

In the correspondence with Ms Rowland, Mr Ebeid also conceded that SBS has opted not to allocate funding to the Maltese community for digital content and social media because the community in Australia is ageing and in turn less likely to use these platforms.

In the same article Mr Ebeid was criticised for continuing to mention “the cuts in funding by the Government to SBS yet in the last year it has set up a new Food [TV] channel and added a 24/7 digital radio station for the Arab community, not to mention the huge managerial bureaucracy.” The article concluded that “SBS Radio must revise its criteria for assessing air-time. More weight must be given to the communities that are less serviced and to admit that radio is vital to the elderly than most other methods of communication.”

In November 2012, without any prior consultation with Maltese community leaders, SBS published the new radio schedule, in which the Maltese programs fared the worst among all then existing broadcast languages with a savage cut of 7 one-hour programs, down from 9 hours to 2 hours per week.

In April 2013, 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 and the Consul-General in Melbourne, SBS announced 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 also advised the Maltese community leaders that the additional two hours will be funded from within the existing SBS Radio budget. SBS indicated that funding of the additional two hours on SBS 3 digital was to be guaranteed only for two years (until the end of the 2014/15 financial year) and the funding situation was to be

reviewed at the end of the two years.

In July 2015 SBS informed the Maltese Community Councils of Victoria and NSW of its decision to discontinue the two hours of Maltese radio programs that were added in April 2013. This was followed by strong protests made by both Maltese Community Councils to SBS, a petition they submitted to the SBS Board supported by over 3,000 signatures, and a meeting held between Maltese community leaders and SBS management representatives on 22 July 2015. SBS gave its funding situation as the reason for the cuts and explained that its funding no longer permitted the provision of these additional services.

The MCCV will again be making representations to SBS on behalf of the Maltese community during the public consultation that SBS is currently undertaking on the criteria to be applied in the 2017 SBS Radio schedule review to be based on the 2016 Census data.

The MCCV believes that much more emphasis should be placed on the specific needs of particular ethnic communities, regardless of their size. The aging members of the Maltese community have significant needs for information delivered in their native language which are not being met by the current two one-hour weekly programs on SBS Radio.

The MCCV believes that the criteria that SBS applied for the review in November 2012 resulted in an overgenerous allocation to the larger ethnic groups, which have many other information sources in their own language, while several medium and smaller sized communities are left with token radio program services. The Maltese community needs a quality local news radio service tailored to meet the specific needs of its aging members and this can only be provided through additional Maltese language programs on SBS Radio. ♦

# SBS Radio Services Review launched



**SBS Radio** has launched a public consultation on the language selection criteria it is proposing for an SBS Radio Services Review.

SBS is calling on audiences, communities and stakeholders to provide feedback on the draft Language Selection Criteria 2016/17 by Sunday 11 December.

The selection criteria will be used, in conjunction with the 2016 Census data, to determine which languages are provided by SBS Radio services. The way in which those services will be delivered will be determined in 2017 by SBS, taking into account changes in audience listening habits, the need to support audience demands for anytime, anywhere news and information via digital platforms and the changing demographics of Australia's diverse communities.

SBS has committed to regularly reviewing and updating the schedule every five years in conjunction with new Census data to ensure it continues to reflect the needs of communities in Australia today. Regularly updating the schedule enables SBS to better service the largest communities with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and offer services to emerging and high-needs communities.

SBS wants to ensure the process of reviewing the SBS Radio Services is objective, open and transparent. Finalising the selection criteria prior to the release of the Census data allows a framework to be in place to select languages, independent of the actual numbers released in the Census information.

The language selection criteria are due to be finalised in March 2017 with the new services to launch before the end of 2017.

For more information and to provide feedback please visit [www.sbs.com.au/consultation](http://www.sbs.com.au/consultation) during the consultation period of 14 November to Sunday 11 December 2016.



## Draft Language Selection Criteria 2016/17

### Large Languages Criteria:

- Population of approximately 25,000\* or greater.

### High Needs Languages Criteria: (maximum. of 15 languages)

- Threshold requirement - population must be greater than 1,000\*
- English language proficiency (weight = 40%)
- Recentness of arrival (weight = 30%)
- Ageing (weight = 15%)
- Household income (weight = 15%)

**SBS may also include a sizeable ethnic community if its needs are significant but not adequately captured in the Large Language or High Needs Selection Criteria. Factors which SBS may take into account include:**

- **Discrimination/Vilification:** where a group is subject to frequent discrimination or vilification in Australia based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.
- **Immediate need:** a significant increase in the population of a language group through Australia's Humanitarian Program.

\* Population size based on 2016 Census data – Language Spoken at Home (LANP) other than English

### Submitting Your Feedback

**ONLINE:** [Click here to submit your feedback online.](http://www.sbs.com.au/consultation)  
[Click here for Frequently Asked Questions](#)

### BY POST to:

SBS Radio Services Review  
S14 Herbert Street  
Artarmon NSW 2064





## Maltese Cultural Festival 2016

*The Maltese Community Council of Victoria organised the Maltese Cultural Festival 2016 consisting of several events that were held in Melbourne during September. The Festival started with the celebration of the Feast of Maria Bambina on 8th September and concluded on Sunday 25th September with a lunchtime restaurant at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville.*

### Maltese in Melbourne celebrate Malta's Independence Day



On Wednesday 21 September 2016, the MCCV held a Cocktail Party at the Maltese Community Centre to celebrate Malta's Independence Day. MCCV President Victor Borg addressed the community on the historical importance of Malta's Independence Day and the continuing progress that Malta has made since gaining its independence from the United Kingdom in 1964.

Among those present were the Hon. Consul of Malta in Victoria and MCCV Vice President, Dr Edwin Borg-Manché; MCCV Immediate Past President Professor Maurice Cauchi; the Rector at Parkville Fr Edwin Agius mssp and MCCV Executive Committee members. The Consul General for the Malta in the State of Victoria, Mr Victor Grech, was unable to attend as he was in Malta.

Formal proceedings opened with the singing of the national anthems of Malta and Australia.

In his address, MCCV President Victor Borg spoke briefly about key milestones in the history of Malta leading to the historic grant of Independence by Great Britain on 21 September 1964, when for the first time in its history, Malta and the Maltese were not dependent on a foreign power to govern themselves.

Mr Borg said that the Maltese in Australia are "proud of the country that we belong to, its culture and history, grateful for the sacrifice of our parents who brought us here and proud that we form part of the Australian community as well as the Maltese community."

MCCV Chaplain Fr Edwin Agius mssp then made a brief address about the role that the Catholic religion has played in the history of Malta and the importance of St Paul's shipwreck in Malta, marking its arrival in the Maltese islands. The Catholic religion is part and parcel of the Maltese culture. It contributed significantly to Maltese history throughout the centuries. Maltese missionaries are doing great work all over the world, including Australia.

After the formal part of the evening, refreshments were provided to those present. 💧

### Entertaining Maltese *ghana* and music evening



As part of the Maltese Cultural Festival 2016, on Saturday 17 September 2016 the Klabb Għannejja Maltin together with prominent Maltese poet and musician Manuel Casha and the *Girgenti Group* presented an evening session of Maltese *ghana* and music at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville.

The participants pictured below were *ghannejja* (standing): Jesmond Attard, Ninu Attard, Anglu Buttigieg, Fredu Cachia; accompanying guitarists Zach Attard, Victor Gauci, Toni Camilleri and Joe Grech and Prime guitarist (middle) Joe Cutajar.

Klabb Għannejja Maltin Inc was established for the sole purpose of providing an environment and a meeting place for the Maltese *ghannejja* (*ghana* singers) and *kitarristi* (guitarists) living in Melbourne to meet and express themselves in the traditional form of Maltese folklore music, thereby keeping it alive in Australia.

It is the only club of its kind in Australia. Through the efforts and leadership of its President, George Aquilina, the club purchased vacant land and constructed the club's premises in Gooding Street, St Albans.

The club enjoys considerable support from the Maltese Community members and their friends who flock to the club premises on a regular basis to enjoy listening to the Maltese *ghana* and accompanying traditional guitar music.

The club also boasts of a Women's and Youth group as part of their club activities. The club provides an excellent service 'to the Community in the preservation of Maltese culture and folklore music. Traditional Maltese dishes are served to club members and their visitors. 💧



## Maltese Cultural Festival 2016

### Il-Grupp Letteratura Maltija jippreżenta Programm Muziko-Letterarju

Minn Paul Vella, GLM PRO

**I**l-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria organizza Programm Muziko-Letterarju nhar il-Hadd, 18 ta' Settembru, 2016, fiċ-Ċentru Malti ta' Parkville, fis-2 pm. Madwar 80 membru tal-Komunità Maltija attendew. Fost dawk preżenti kien hemm il-President tal-Kunsill Malti tal-Victoria, Victor Borg u l-Viċi-President, Joe Stafrace.

Il-programm beda bil-kant tal-Innu Malti u l-Innu Awstraljan. Marie-Louise Anastasi, Viċi-President tal-Grupp tat merħba lil dawk preżenti u ntroduċiet lill-President, Dr Victor Sammut, fejn dan ta l-Messaġġ tiegħu. Imbagħad beda l-programm tal-qari u Dr Victor Sammut qara l-kitba tiegħu, "Jew tikber jew tiċkien, skont kif tuża l-ilsien" u "Ikrah l-uġiġh". Manwel Cassar qara x-xogħol tiegħu: erba' Epigrammi u ħames Limerikki. Is-Segretarja, Rosemary Attard qrat poeżija tal-mibki u qatt minsi membru tagħna, Manwel Nicholas Borg, "Lil Gżira Gawhra".

Dan wassalna għall-ewwel intervent muzikali mill-grupp "Girgenti" magħmul minn Alfred Xuereb (synthesiser), Joe Camilleri (perkussjoni), u Joe Gauci u Manuel Casha. Dawn tawna ħafna mużika Maltija li ntlagħget tajjeb minn dawk preżenti.

Dr Clemente Zammit ma setax ikun magħna u l-kitbiet tiegħu, "Xrar ta' Mhabba" u "Hsiebi Jterraq 'l Hinn" inqas minn Manwel Cassar. Gużi Camilleri qralna żewġ prozi tiegħu, "Ahbarijiet minn Malta" u "Katarina ż-Żur-riqija" u wara dan il-qari kellna intervent muzikali iehor.

John Muscat qara żewġ poeżiji tiegħu, "Fil-Park" u "Il-Merill". Manuel Casha wkoll qralna tliet poeżiji tiegħu, "Art il-Holm", "L-Gharix" u "Magna taż-Żmien". Dak inhar stess Manuel Casha tkellem dwar il-ktieb gdid tiegħu, "Maltese Traditional Music of Ghana and Prejjem". Fredu Cachia wkoll tkellem ftit dwar dan il-ktieb u wara qralna poeżiji li kiteb huwa stess. U hawn kellna intervall ta' 20 minuta fejn dawk preżenti ħadu kikkra te jew kafe' u keġks u gallettini li ġew ipprovduti b'xejn mill-Grupp.

It-tieni parti tal-programm bdiet billi l-mistieden tagħna, il-poeta minn Malta, Antoine Cassar, tkellem ftit dwaru u qal li tweeked l-Ingilterra minn ġenituri Maltin u kien niżel Malta u mar joqghod għand innanniet fil-Qrendi fejn kien tharreg sewwa fl-ilsien Malti. Minn hemm beda jikteb bil-Malti. Huwa qralna parti mill-poeżija tiegħu, "Passaport".



Ritratti: Paul Vella



Wara smajna lil Rose Lofaro taqra' żewġ poeżiji tal-membri tagħna, Nazzarene Żerafa li joqghod Queensland, "Għana ta' Kanarin" u "Timxi Wahedha l-Pinna". Nazzarene, avolja joqghod fi Queensland, xorta hu membru attiv tal-Grupp tagħna u dejjem jiehu interess f'dak li jkun qed jiġri mill-Grupp f'Melbourne u qatt ma jonqos jibgħat xogħol tiegħu għall-Programmi Muziko-Letterarju.

Marie-Louise Anastasi tatna żewġ poeżiji tagħha, "Fil-Holm Inzurek" u "Lil Din l-Art l-Ohra". Hawn kien imiss lil Michael Xuereb b'żewġ poeżiji li kiteb hu stess, "Tifel Wahdu" u "Għanja ta' Rahhal Ċekken". Ware intervall muzikali iehor, Paul Vella qralna l-proża tiegħu, "L-Amorin Jitkellem" u l-poeżija "Shab". Imbagħad kien imiss lil Josephine Cassar li tatna epigrammi u limerikki "Żewġ Nisa", "Ix-

Xih" u "Habi". L-aħħar qari tal-programm sar minn Ray Anastasi, fejn qralna l-kitba tiegħu, "Sibtu".

Il-programm spicċa b'intervent muzikali iehor li tassew ferrah lil dawk preżenti. Wara kien hemm bibita fejn kulhadd reġa' ha kikkra te jew kafe' u xi ħaġa tal-ikel bħal pastizzi tal-irkotta u piżelli, pies u sausage rolls, keġks u gallettini u xorb ħafif li ġie pprovdut bla ħlas mill-Grupp.

Grazzi lil dawk li attendew, lil dawk li hadmu biex dan il-programm ikun wiehed ta' suċċess, lil dawk li ppreparaw il-ktejjeb bix-xogħol kollu li nqara u speċjal-ment lill-mużiċisti li ferrhuna bil-mużika tagħhom u lil dawk li taw l-ghajnuna tagħhom fil-kċina biex jippreparaw l-ikel: Salvina Vella, Doris Sammut u Sunta Sultana. 💧

Aghfas fuq dan il-link biex taqra l-programm: <http://online.fliphtml5.com/bxai/avti/>



## Another successful Nisga Maltese Cook-off

A menu consisting of a beef casserole with Maltese potato bake for the main course and Maltese bread pudding with orange blossom ice cream for dessert won the 6th edition of the Maltese Cook Off. The event was organized by community group **nisga** and held on Sunday 23 October 2016 at the Angliss Restaurant in Melbourne.

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 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.

Hamrun Knights, a team made up of Melanie Cricco, Rebecca Schmidt and Shandelle Melios also tied in the category for Malteseness and for Most Organized Team in the kitchen.

This annual event brought together 8 teams made up of 3 people, in some cases 3 generations from one family, cooking Maltese traditional food.

This year's judging panel consisted of the Maltese Consul General in Victoria Victor Grech, former MasterChef Australia contestant Tregan Spiteri, former MKR contestant Carla Mangion and Doris Delia.

The 250 guests were entertained by renowned musician Nicky Bomba and members of Bustamento while Nicol Caruana belted out a few Maltese favourites.

People's Choice Award went to The Awesome Altairs with a menu consisting of baked rice and imqaret (date slices) with orange blossom syrup and vanilla ice cream who also tied for 3rd/2nd places with Conservative Kunservas, who had a menu consisting of rabbit and Maltese sausage lasagna and a Kinnie and chocolate cake. ♦

For more photos go to

[www.facebook.com/nisga.org](http://www.facebook.com/nisga.org)

For more information about **nisga** visit

[www.nisga.org](http://www.nisga.org)



The Participants



The Winners



The Diners



## ECCV strongly opposes changes to Section 18C

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) is strongly opposed to attempts to change the wording of Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act.

ECCV Chairperson, Eddie Micallef, said that recent media reports about South Australian Senator Cory Bernardi lobbying to remove the words "offend" and "insult" from Section 18C, and that fact that he has enlisted 20 senators to support this move, is something that must be "strenuously rejected".

"The ECCV supports the principles of free speech. This is something that all democratic societies are based on. But arguments about taking the words 'insult' and 'offend' out of the Act, need to be seen in context.

"Section 18C of the Act clearly states that it is illegal to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate on the basis of race, colour or national or ethnic origin.

"Those who have argued in the past that it is not necessary to have the words 'offend' and 'insult' in the Act because it sets the bar too low, and that it would allow people to take legal action based on 'hurt feelings', miss the point entirely.



Mr Eddie Micallef, ECCV Chair

"This is not about the words in themselves, but the context in which they are used. To put forward an argument that we should amend the Act and take out the words 'insult' and 'offend', does not take into account how this might be done in a racist way.

"ECCV supports the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia opposition to the proposed changes and how they threaten the strength of the Racial Discrimination Act for multicultural Australia.

"Section 18C of the Act provides important protection against hate speech and racially motivated attacks against people from Australia's culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

"Those people who attempt to argue that having the words 'offend' or 'insult' in Section 18C, is an attack on freedom of expression, seem to be intentionally ignoring the provisions of Section 18D which provides a powerful and detailed protection of freedom of speech.

"Section 18D sets out a series of exemptions where conduct will not be deemed to be unlawful if it is done 'reasonably' and in 'good faith', such as in artistic, scientific or academic purposes that are of genuine public interest.

"It is of concern that recent media reports have indicated former Prime Minister John Howard has urged Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to support the proposed changes to the Racial Discrimination Act.

"ECCV is strongly opposed to proposals to amend the Racial Discrimination Act because of the real potential to have a highly negative impact on people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and the consequences for the promotion of social cohesion within our society." ♦

[Source: <http://eccv.org.au/>]

## Consul-on-the-Move programme update

The Consul-on-the-Move programme was launched on 5 May 2016 and provides certain consular services normally available at Malta's Embassies and Consular posts, in different locations. Such services include the collection of biometric passport applications. This programme conforms to the Government's vision to have government services closer to the citizen.

After the successful introduction of the *Consul-on-the-Move* in South Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand and Queensland, this service will now be introduced in Western Australia on Friday and Saturday 20-21 January 2017.

In Perth the venue will be at the Maltese Association of Western Australia club at 1 May Holman Drive, Bassendean,

The Consul-General for Melbourne will be facilitating the collection of passport applications from those Maltese residing in Perth in addition to gathering of biometric data necessary for the issuing of the passports.

Western Australia will become the third Australian State in which the *Consul-on-the-Move* service will be introduced. There are

plans to provide this service to all applicants who are eligible in all Australian States where there is inadequate access for the issuing of passports, as long as there is sufficient interest and demand that justify such travel.

Meanwhile, the Minister for Foreign Affairs is proceeding with this project not just in Australia, but also in Canada (Vancouver and Edmonton and St Johns), the USA (San Francisco, California, Detroit, Houston, and Los Angeles), the United Kingdom (Cardiff in Wales and Edinburgh in Scotland), as well as in two cities in Italy (Milan and Catania in Sicily).

Hence the *Consul-on-the-Move* is a worldwide programme with the participation of five Maltese consulates in those countries: Toronto, Washington, London, Rome and

Melbourne. It is a pilot project over a five year period.

So Maltese migrants or their descendants who live far from certain Maltese Embassies or Consulates in Australia and other parts of the world, now can take an interest and plan to make use of the *Consul-on-the-Move* service.

This service is available by appointment only. In Australia, the service may be accessed by contacting the Malta High Commission in Canberra and seeking further information about this programme as well as guidelines on the documentation required.

For further information and appointments, please contact your respective location focal point as indicated in the table below:

Location	Email	Telephone
<b>Australia</b>	<a href="mailto:consul.melbourne@gov.mt">consul.melbourne@gov.mt</a>	+61 (02) 6290 1724
<b>Canada</b>	<a href="mailto:consul.toronto@gov.mt">consul.toronto@gov.mt</a>	+1 (416) 207 0922/0989
<b>USA</b>	<a href="mailto:consul.washington@gov.mt">consul.washington@gov.mt</a>	+1 (202) 4623611/2
<b>UK</b>	<a href="mailto:consul.london@gov.mt">consul.london@gov.mt</a>	+44 (0) 207 292 4800
<b>Italy</b>	<a href="mailto:consul.rome@gov.mt">consul.rome@gov.mt</a>	+39 06 687 9990

## Maltese Historical Association—October 2016 Lecture

# Sir Alexander Ball and the part of Malta that almost was

By Robert Blythe

On Tuesday 18th October 2016, Robert Blythe delivered a lecture to the MHA about *Sir Alexander Ball and the part of Malta that almost was*. Ball was a British Navy Admiral who played a key role against the French in Malta and also at the Battle of the Nile. Popular with the Maltese, he helped bring Malta under British rule. He also tried to annex the Island of Lampedusa to British Malta, which could have altered the course of Maltese history.

Sir Alexander Ball was born in 1757 in Gloucestershire, England. He joined the British Navy and was promoted to lieutenant in 1778. In 1782 he joined the British fleet under Admiral Sir George Rodney. They saved Jamaica and its valuable British sugar plantations by destroying the French fleet at the famous Battle of the Saintes. This restored British prestige, which was in tatters after their defeat the previous year at the Siege of Yorktown during the American Revolution. Two days later, Ball received his commander's commission and the next year he became a captain.

In 1796, Captain Alexander Ball was appointed to the HMS Alexander and joined Sir Horatio Nelson in the Mediterranean. Nelson initially disliked Ball's "intellectualism" but when Nelson's flagship was demasted in a violent gale, Ball towed the stricken vessel to port, and a lifelong friendship ensued.

In 1798, they learned that Napoleon had taken Malta and was headed towards Egypt. The fleet set sail and engaged the French in the famous Battle of the Nile on 1st August. The Alexander blew up the French flag-ship L'Orient. France suffered heavy losses and the British gained control of the Mediterranean.

Meanwhile in Malta, Napoleon had left a garrison of 4,000 men under the command of General Vaubois. The new regime quickly set about dismantling the institutions of the church and of the Knights of St. John. The local nobility was abolished. The French refused to meet the debts of the Order and suppliers were left unpaid for goods. Churches were looted, and Church property was confiscated to finance Napoleon's wars. This angered the deeply religious Maltese.

On 2nd September 1798, during an



Rear-Admiral Alexander John Ball (1757-1809)

auction of church property in Mdina, tensions finally hit breaking point. The Maltese attacked the French soldiers, who fell back to Valletta, which was then sieged by approximately 10,000 Maltese militiamen, led by Emmanuele Vitale, Vincenzo Borg and Canon Francesco Saverio Caruana.

Nelson and Ball joined the blockade with a number of ships and Nelson put Ball in charge. The Militia leaders were immediately attracted by Alexander's charisma and the sympathy he showed for the plight of the Maltese people. Despite their success, the Maltese leaders had found it difficult to co-operate. Alexander smoothed over many of the troubles and quickly earned the respect and admiration of the men. He was recognized as Civil Commissioner and secured food supplies for Malta. He organised a Congress of 25 representatives from the major towns, with a bishop and judges. He retained the power to approve decisions but rarely needed to veto them. The Congress became an invaluable aid to government.

Several unsuccessful assaults were made on the walls of Valletta. Ball's pleas for a force adequate to breach the walls of the city were rejected due to ongoing wars in the Mediterranean. Meanwhile, the French in Valletta gained knowledge of a plot by the Maltese inhabitants to open the gates after dark. In January 1799, forty or so conspirators, including Father Michele Xerri and Guglielmo Lorenzi, were shot in the square outside the former Grandmaster's Palace.

Food in the fortress city was running low. The French forced most of the civilian population out of the city but during the summer of 1800 the French rations ran out and a hundred men were dying a day. On the 5th of September 1800, General Vaubois surrendered to the British General Pigot. Ball and the Maltese, however, were excluded from negotiations.

The British decided to make the island a de facto protectorate. Ball was placed in charge of civil administration but ultimate authority lay with General Pigot. Ball sent a number of documents to London, suggesting that Malta could act as a Mediterranean trade centre for the British, with the Grand Harbour providing a secure naval base. In 1801, Ball was transferred back to active duty with the Royal Navy. Control of Malta was passed to Charles Cameron and Major General Henry Pigot, whose tyrannical administration angered the Maltese to the point of rebellion had Ball not intervened.

The Treaty of Amiens of 1802 placed Malta again under the rule of the Knights of St. John, despite a Maltese request that they remain attached to Britain. In June, the recently knighted Sir Alexander Ball returned to Malta to help arrange the handover to the Order. However, the Treaty broke down and orders came from London to stop preparing for departure. Ball was once more given charge of civil administration. This pleased many of the Maltese, as he was a supporter of the Maltese cause and a strong advocate for Malta to remain attached to Britain. However, Ball supported ambitions that would see a greater Malta with the incorporation of the island of Lampedusa.

Lampedusa lies to the south west of Malta and has an area of 21 square km, less than a



[Continued on page 13](#)



Maltese Historical Association—October 2016 Lecture

## Sir Alexander Ball and the part of Malta that almost was

[Continued from page 12](#)

third than that of Gozo. It belonged to the King of the Two Sicilies. Being so close to North Africa, it was prone to raids by pirates and therefore remained largely uninhabited. The island was well known to Maltese sailors. The harbour of Lampedusa served as a shelter from bad weather and from the Barbary corsairs and Ottoman vessels. The Order of St John even kept a small establishment consisting of a priest and six Maltese men on the island.

In the late 18th century, the Prince of Lampedusa sub-let the island to Salvatore Gatt, a Maltese entrepreneur. Gatt and a few Maltese workers worked the land and collected firewood to trade with Malta. They were occasionally visited by Algerian or Moroccan corsairs – fortunately however only to buy food and fill up with water for which they would pay cash.

Initially the British considered Lampedusa as an alternative marine-military base to Malta, in case they would have to vacate Malta, as stipulated in the Treaty of Amiens. The idea was soon dropped, as surveys of the island confirmed that Lampedusa was not remotely comparable to Malta on many counts, especially as it lacked a safe and deep sea harbour.

With the British firmly established in Malta, the role of Lampedusa as an adjunct to Malta took an entirely different dimension. Correspondence between Malta and London shows Ball pleading with London to consider taking over Lampedusa. If Bonaparte took Sicily, Malta would lose its main source of essential foodstuffs. Lampedusa, once in British hands, could be developed as a base for the provision of food for Malta. Ball argued that taking over Lampedusa should pose no problems, as the stakeholders, Salvatore Gatt, The Prince of Lampedusa, and the King of Sicily, were all expected to co-operate.

In May 1800, Ball had instructed Alexander Fernandez, a British citizen and an employee with the Army Commissariat in the Mediterranean, stationed in Malta, to report on the feasibility of Lampedusa forming part of the Maltese Islands. Fernandez reported favourably that the island could stock more than enough cattle and sheep for Malta's needs. Only a small number of Maltese farm hands would be required and running expenses would be retrieved from the financial returns.

By 1803, a number of Maltese farmers had returned to Lampedusa, engaged by the Commissariat, presumably on a trial basis. Wild cattle and sheep, the successful



Monument to Sir Alexander John Ball at the Lower Barrakka Gardens in Valletta

growing of barley, and abundant olive trees and firewood were reported. However, the British government, in spite of all the reports and pressure from Malta, did not commit itself and preferred the waiting game. There were political as well as financial implications to be considered.

In 1809, the most influential supporter of the incorporation of Lampedusa into Malta, Sir Alexander Ball, died in San Anton Palace and was buried in Fort Saint Elmo.

In 1810 Salvatore Gatt transferred the lease of Lampedusa to Alexander Fernandez for 3,000 scudi per annum. Fernandez wanted to carry out his project of building a large farm for the breeding and fattening of cattle, to grow corn and other vegetables for the Maltese market. A development on this scale, however, required a measure of security. He requested military protection against hostile incursions which only the British government could provide. Fernandez was planning to build a fort on the island and for it be occupied by a detachment of British troops. The Treasury found the whole situation disconcerting.

In 1811, the Secretary of State, Lord Liverpool, instructed Governor Oakes to materially support the Fernandez project but insisted no families were to be allowed to settle on the island. In 1812 a Royal Commission was appointed to report on "Lampedusa, Pantelleria and Linosa as possible sources of supply of food for the Maltese Islands". The resulting report was a blow to Fernandez. The commission considered his project purely as a business venture and wholly speculative. They could not recommend the government to "incur

LINKS:

- [Lecture Recording and Powerpoint](#)
- [Discovery of the wreck of the Orient](#)

the heavy expense which would naturally attend the occupation of the island".

Problems for Fernandez accumulated rapidly. In May 1813, there was an outbreak of plague in Malta. The crew of HMS Partridge went down with yellow fever. The ship was directed to spend a period of quarantine in Lampedusa. The local inhabitants panicked and over 120 fled the island on two small boats, leaving behind a small number of farmhands.

In early 1813, the King of Naples informed the British government of his intention to let Lampedusa stay under British protection "at least during the war". Indeed, the British flag was hoisted and a small detachment was posted there but British interest in linking the two islands was waning.

Following the appointment of Sir Thomas Maitland as the new Governor of Malta, the matter came to a head. Fernandez was investigated, as it was deemed not proper for an officer in HM Government service to become the sole proprietor of an island and his pay was suspended. In 1814 Maitland closed the Malta-Lampedusa question by telling London that "Lampedusa never can be of any real use or service to us; the sooner we withdraw the better".

Fernandez was still the leaseholder up to 1818. On March 1, he petitioned London for compensation amounting to £44,000, a huge sum at the time, to cover losses incurred in the Lampedusa project, which he considered as "a tale of official encouragement, official letdowns and eventually of sheer bad luck". The petition was turned down. The final straw for Fernandez came when he lost the lease of Lampedusa by a decree of the Sicilian courts, at the insistence of Salvatore Gatt, on the grounds that he failed to pay the 3,000 scudi per annum he had contracted in 1810 for the lease. Gatt returned to live in Lampedusa with his family and was still residing there up to 1824.

Had Sir Alexander Ball lived a few more years, perhaps the incorporation of Lampedusa would have taken place. He was possibly the British leader most loved by the Maltese population. His affectionate care of the Maltese was considered by many of the English settlers and place-seekers to be impolitic and unjust, but he maintained throughout that Britain had won the island largely with the aid of the Maltese and that it was held by their free-will, as fellow-subjects and fellow-citizens. The year after Ball's death, the Maltese built a monument in the Lower Barrakka Gardens dedicated to his memory, and it is still there today. 💧

## Newport considering proposal to merge committees

**N**ewport Maltese Association Inc. held its Annual General Meeting at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville on Sunday 2nd October 2016. 178 members attended the meeting.

The Association's President Mr George Saliba OAM thanked those present for their attendance.

Mr Saliba reported that the Association had another successful year and credit is due, firstly, to the hard-working committee and, secondly, the never-ending support of the members.

As the Association runs a Senior's group committee, the President put forward a proposition to the members that the time has come for the two committees to amalgamate into one in order to facilitate a more unified and cohesive membership and better serve the members of both groups. No decision was taken on this proposal at the meeting. Discussions are still ongoing.

Lunch was provided at the meeting. ♦



## Canon Fr Eddie Zammit visits Melbourne



L to R: Paul Vella, Canon Fr Eddie Zammit, Canon Fr Manny Bonello

**C**anon Fr Eddie Zammit, Rector of the Good Shepherd Church at Taċ-Ċawla, Rabat, Gozo, recently was on a visit to Melbourne for a fortnight. This was his 12th visit. This time the main reason for his visit was to celebrate the wedding mass for his niece Katherine Zammit and Charlie Marmara at St. Paul's Parish in Kealba.

While in Melbourne, Canon Zammit was the guest of Canon Fr Manny Bonello, Parish Priest of the Parish of St. Joseph the Worker in North Reservoir. He also helped with Masses and funerals.

Canon Zammit was also interviewed on the Maltese language radio program on community Radio 3ZZZ 92.3 FM, each Friday at 5 pm. He told his interviewer Paul Vella how he enjoys seeing the Maltese community here still treasures the Maltese language and heritage and keep alive the religious values. ♦

## Reskeon Seniors enjoy trip across the bay



**O**n Thursday 10th November 2016, a group of 57 Reskeon Seniors enjoyed a trip around Port Phillip Bay. The 48-seat coach had to be upgraded to a 57-seater as the demand was great with even members being on the waiting list.

The journey started through Mornington Peninsula Freeway, arriving in Sorrento around 10.30 am. The group boarded the Peninsula Sea Road Ferry around 11 am for the boat trip across Port Phillip Bay to Queenscliff.

Disembarking the ferry at Queenscliff, the group headed to Corio to the Gateway Hotel where a free buffet lunch was served.

Around 3 pm the group boarded the coach for the return ride to Reservoir.

Along the way Coach Captain, Alan Mahar, gave an interesting commentary on sites that the coach was passing through. ♦



## St Helena Maltese Australian S.C. holds its AGM

**S**t Helena Maltese Australian Social Club's Annual General Meeting for 2016 was held on Sunday 6th November at the Maltese Cultural Centre in Albion.

Following the reading of the last meeting, the Club President Mr Victor Bartolo thanked Mr Paul Borg for accepting to chair the meeting. Mr Bartolo also thanked everyone in attendance as well as the committee members and all volunteers.

The election of a new committee for followed. As only one nomination for each position on the committee were submitted, the nominees were elected unopposed as follows:

*President:* Victor Bartolo  
*Vice-President:* Joe Busuttill  
*Secretary:* Kylie Dimech  
*Asst. Secretary:* Desmond Calleja  
*Treasurer:* Joe Borg  
*Asst. Treasurer:* Joe Abdilla  
*Public Rel. Officer:* Mary Bartolo  
*Function Organiser:* Mary Abdilla  
*Church Organiser:* Joe Grima ♦



## Reskeon Seniors Group conducts its 2016 AGM

By Paul Vella

**R**eskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group held their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 5th October 2016 at Merrilands Community Centre in Reservoir. 90 members attended.

In delivering her report, the Group's President Salvina Vella thanked the committee members for their work during the year, especially Victor Pulis for taking care of the finances. She also thanked all members for their participation during the year. She also thanked her husband, Paul, for the work he does behind the scenes.

The President's special thanks went to the ladies in the kitchen, Madeleine Vella, Melita Magro and Sylvia Dakin, to Therese Cachia at the coffee table and also to Fred Cachia who is learning the ropes at the bingo table and to those who help with Bingo calling. She also thanked all those non committee members who helped organise the hall.

The Treasurer, Victor Pulis, read out the Treasurer's Report which was approved by all present.



Addressing the meeting, from left to right: Treasurer, Victor Pulis; President, Salvina Vella; Secretary, Paul Vella.

The election of a new committee for 2016-2018 followed. As only one nomination for each position on the committee were submitted, the nominees were elected unopposed as follows:

*President:* Salvina Vella  
*Vice-President:* Madeleine Vella  
*Secretary:* Paul Vella  
*Treasurer:* Victor Pulis  
*Asst. Treasurer:* Miriam Mizzi

*Committee members:* Alfred Cachia, Theresa Cachia, Melita Magro, Sarah Catania, Sylvia Dakin.

After the meeting was closed, there were two Bingo sessions and all members were served a free lunch of roast chicken and roast potato, soft drinks, tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits, being the AGM and Seniors Week. ♦



## News from the Vatican

## Pope Francis speaks out

Compiled by Rev. Charles Borg-Manché from Vatican Radio sources

## Solidarity: only solution to migration crisis

**26 Oct.** Speaking to the crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square for the weekly General Audience, the Pope reflected on two particular corporal works of mercy - welcoming the stranger and clothing the naked - and said that the growing numbers of refugees fleeing war, famine and dire poverty calls us to welcome and care for these brothers and sisters.

Pope Francis reflected on the many stories of migration that are to be found in the Bible and on how, through the centuries, so many committed Christians have found generous ways of meeting the needs of people fleeing violence and injustice.

"Today - he said - the current economic crisis unfortunately fosters attitudes of closure instead of welcome".

"In some parts of the world walls and barriers are being built. It appears that the silent work of men and women who, in different ways, do what they can to help and assist refugees and migrants, is being drowned out by the noise made by those who give voice to an instinctive egoism" he said.

Closure is never a solution, the Pope said, it actually ends up favouring criminal trafficking. The only solution, he said, is solidarity: "Solidarity with the migrant, solidarity with the foreigner..."

"Dioceses, parishes, religious institutes, organisations and individual Christians: we are all called to welcome our brothers and sisters who are fleeing war, hunger, violence and cruel conditions of life" he said.

Setting aside his text, Pope Francis told the story of a lady who was approached by a refugee asking directions for the Holy Door. The man, the Pope said, was dirty and barefoot but wanted to go to St. Peter's Basilica to cross the holy threshold. The woman took stock of his bare feet and called a taxi, but the taxi driver initially didn't want him on board because he was 'smelly'. The taxi driver ended up boarding the woman and the man who, during the drive, told his story of pain, war, hunger and migration.

On reaching the destination, Pope Francis recounted, the taxi driver, the

same man who initially didn't want the refugee to board his taxi because he was 'smelly', refused to accept payment for his service from the woman because he said: "It is I who should pay you because thanks to you I have listened to a story that has changed my heart".

The Pope continued saying that the woman was well aware of the pain of a migrant because she had Armenian blood and knew the suffering of her people.

"When we do something like that initially there is some discomfort - 'a smell' - but at the end, a story like this brings fragrance to our soul, and changes us. Think about this story and think what you can do for refugees" he said.

So too, 'clothing the naked' he said, increasingly means caring for those whose dignity has been stripped from them, and working to ensure that it is upheld and safeguarded.

And this, he explained, means literally giving clothes to those who have none, but it also means thinking of women whose bodies are exploited by human traffickers and of the many other ways people - even minors - are used as a form of merchandise.

"Having no job, no home, no just salary is also a form of nakedness, as is suffering discrimination because of race or faith. These are all forms of 'nakedness' that we Christians are called to act upon" he said.

As followers of Christ, Pope Francis concluded, may we never close our hearts to those in need. By being open to others, our lives are enriched, our societies can enjoy peace and all people can live in a way befitting their dignity.

## The elderly bear witness to enduring truths

**15 Oct.** Pope Francis received the participants in a gathering of senior citizens and their caregivers on Saturday, in the context of Italy's national Grandparents' Day celebrations.

Pope Francis said: "The Church regards the elderly with affection, gratitude, and high esteem. They are an

essential part of the Christian community and of society: in particular they represent the roots and the memory of a people. You are an important presence, because your experience is a precious treasure, which is essential if we would look to the future with hope and responsibility. Your maturity and wisdom, accumulated over the years, can help younger people in search of their own way, supporting them on the path of growth and openness to the future. The elderly, in fact, show that, even in the most difficult trials, we must never lose confidence in God and in a better future. They are like trees that continue to bear fruit: even under the weight of years, they can give their original contribution for a society rich in values and for the affirmation of the culture of life."

The Pope thanked grandfathers and grandmothers for their example of love, dedication and wisdom. "Continue with courage to bear witness to these values! Let not your smiles and the beautiful brightness of your eyes be lacking in society! I accompany you with my prayers - and do not you forget to pray for me as well. And now, upon you and your intentions and good works, I invoke the Lord's blessing."

## Archbishop Hart on welcoming the stranger

**5 Nov.** One of the things Pope Francis has stressed over the course of this Jubilee of Mercy has been welcoming the stranger, especially at a time when migrants are fleeing areas of conflict in the world and looking to make a better life in Europe and in countries, such as Australia

On the issue of migrants, the President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Archbishop of Melbourne Denis Hart commented: "We have had vigorous interactions with the government about people who have come by boats and have been placed in the islands off Australia who are not allowed to come here while their criteria are examined and this has been something in which we've been saying to the government, 'well we're a big country, we have a small population, we have a high level of prosperity; it's our duty to welcome migrants, it's our duty to welcome those who really struggle'". ♦





## Hu Hsieb Sahh'tek

Professur Maurice Cauchi



# Xi tkun din l-Anemija?

**D**in hija haġa komuni hafna li tolqot hafna nies. Tista' tiżviluppa fit-tfal, fiż-żagħżagħ, fix-xjuħ - jiġifieri tista' tolqot lil kulhadd u ta' kull età.

L-ewwelnett, biex niftehmu, fid-demmm insibu sustanza ('haemoglobin', jew emoglobina) li hija essenzjali biex tiġbor l-ossiġenu mill-arja fil-pulmun biex dan jixtered mal-ġisem kollu. Jekk ma jkollokx biżżejjed emoglobina, ifisser li qed tbatu bl-anemija.

### Sintomi

Fejn tkun taf li għandek anemija? X'inhuma s-sintomi ta' din il-marda? Hafna drabi, jekk l-anemija ma tkunx qawwija wisq, allura ġeneralment ma tħoss xejn, imma jekk tkun aktar severa, allura tibda tħoss uġieħ ta' ras, għejja, xi drabi konfużjoni. Meta ma jkollokx ossiġenu biżżejjed, allura l-ġisem kollu jibda jbatu, il-qalb, il-mohħ, il-kliewi, eċċetra.

### X'jikkawża l-anemija

Minn fejn tiġi din l-anemija? Hemm hafna raġunijiet għaliex tiżviluppa din l-anemija. Per eżempju:

- **it-tfal:** it-tfal jikbru malajr u allura jeħtieġu aktar emoglobina. Biex il-ġisem jipprova dan, jeħtieġ li fid-dieta jkun hemm biżżejjed haġid u vitamini. F'dieta normali għandu jkun hemm biżżejjed minn dawn, imma xi drabi jista' jkun hemm nuqqas, u allura tiżviluppa l-anemija
- **nisa tqal** (speċjalment jekk ikollhom tewmin jew 'triplets'): niftakru li hawn ukoll qed tikber tarbija li teħtieġ l-emoglobina. Għalhekk il-mara tqila teħtieġ dieta li ttipprova, haġid, u l-vitamini meħtieġa.
- **min jitlef id-demmm** (emorraġija): per eżempju, meta jkollok xi barxa fl-istonku, jew inkella tbatu bil-morliti, jew titlef hafna demm mill-'period' jew għal xi raġuni oħra, allura qed titlef ukoll l-emoglobina, u dan iġib



Image: <http://www.rd.com/health/conditions/anemia-symptoms/>

l-anemija, speċjalment meta itul iż-żmien jew tikber il-kwantità tal-emorraġija.

Għal dawk li għandhom mal-50 sena 'l fuq, minbarra minn dawn il-kundizzjonijiet li semmejna irridu naħsbu ukoll fi problemi oħra li jistgħu jkunu aktar serji. Nieħdu per eżempju kundizzjoni li hija komuni mhux hażin f'dawn in-nies. Qed ngħid għal- kanċer tal-musrana li hafna drabi tirriżulta f'anemija, li tibda bil-mod il-mod, mingħajr ebda sintomi, u issir aktar serja kif il-gwaj jidhul il-ġewwa.

### Kif nistgħu nevitaw dawn il-problemi

L-ewwelnett jeħtieġ li nkunu nafu xi haġa dwar dan is-suġġett. Għalhekk niktbu dawn l-artikli fl-MCCV News. Jekk inkunu nafu min hu suġġett għal-l-anemija, allura dawn ikunu jistgħu aktar jifhemu x'qed jiġri.

It-tieni, jeħtieġ li nkunu nafu x'inhuma s-sintomi tal-anemija, halli nkunu nistgħu nagħrfu aktar malajr x'tista' tkun il-problema.

Fl-aħħarnett, jeħtieġ li jkollna eżami mit-tabib biex ikun jista' jordna t-testijiet meħtieġa biex jagħraf x'inhil-kawża.

### Testijiet tad-demmm

Xi haġa dwar testijiet tad-demmm: Tisma' min jgħidlek: "għamilt test tad-demmm" imma ma jkollhomx idea x'kien dan it-test u għalfejn sar dan it-test, u wisq inqas x'kien ir-riżultat ta' dan it-test.

Hemm hafna kwalitajiet ta' testijiet tad-demmm. Id-demmm huwa mera ta' kif qed jaħdem il-ġisem. Fih hafna sustanzi li huma meħtieġa biex il-ġisem jaħdem sew. Fil-każ ta' anemija, l-aktar test importanti huwa li jkoll il-livell ta' l-emoglobina. Jekk din tkun baxxa, allura jfisser li qed tbatu bl-anemija. Xi drabi din tkun tant baxxa li jkun jeħtieġ li jagħtuk trasfużjoni tad-demmm.

Testijiet oħra tad-demmm jistgħu isiru biex naraw jekk in-numru taċ-ċelluli fid-demmm qed jonqos, jew jikber, jew testijiet biex naraw jekk hemmx mard fil-kliewi, jew fil-fwied, jew f'organi oħra, jew inkella biex naraw hemmx sinjali ta' infezzjonijiet. Testijiet għad-dijabete, jew kolesterol, u anki xi drabi jsiru testijiet biex neskludu l-kanċer.

Fi kliem iehor, meta t-tabib jgħidlek li hemm bżonn isiru testijiet tad-demmm, staqsi għal-liema skop qed isiru dawn it-testijiet, u interessa ruħek li tkun taf x'qed jiġri, billi titgħallim xi haġa dwar dan x'ifisser. ♦

## Postcodes and delivery of mail to Malta

Letters and other mail items sent to Malta by post might face longer delays in delivery if they do not have the correct postcode clearly shown in the address.

Postcodes to be used in conjunction with addresses were first introduced by MaltaPost in 1991 so as to facilitate the sorting and distribution of postal articles. The original 5-character postcode format comprised of 3 letters and 2 digits. In 2007 a new alpha-numeric postcode format was introduced to accommodate demands with a new 7-character format comprising of 3 letters and 4 digits (e.g. FRN1913), which is still currently applicable.

When a postcode is included in a postal address, postal sorting and delivery operations are greatly facilitated, increasing efficiency of the postal operator and reducing the potential of mis-deliveries and other errors from taking place in the process.

From a number of reports on mail studies it transpired that the majority of postal users do not include postcodes in their mail items negatively impacting mail sorting and distribution processes.

Between 21 October 2016 and 11 November 2016 the Maltese

Government through the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) recently conducted a public consultation regarding its proposal to update the current regulations to include postcodes as an integral part of a postal address rather than leave it as optional.

A number of conditions have been identified for the implementation of the proposal including the provision of a simple and easy to use postcode finder to be accessible from MaltaPost's website homepage, including an interface that caters specifically for smartphone based users. An extensive information programme would also need to be undertaken by MaltaPost to inform the general public of this change.

The MaltaPost website contains a postcode search page where one can select the town, street and house name or number to search for the correct postcode. It is located at <http://postcodes.maltapost.com/PostCodeEnquiry.asp>

Those who do not use the internet would be wise to ask their friends and family members with whom they communicate by post to provide them their local postcode to avoid unnecessary delays in mail deliveries to Malta. 💧



### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The MCCV advises that the MCCV Children's Christmas Party 2016 that was scheduled to take place on Sunday 27 November 2016 has regrettably been **cancelled** due to insufficient numbers.

LEARN **MALTESE**  
FOR PLEASURE, WORK OR TRAVEL  
BEGINNER ADULT CLASSES STARTING

• 9th February, 2017

Don't let distance or work/family commitments stop you! Join us live online.

WHERE: MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL VIC Inc.  
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](http://www.mccv.org.au/community-events)

### December 2016

Sun 4 December @ 6.00 pm	Newport Assn. Christmas Break-up Dinner - Newport Maltese Assn	-
Wed 7 December @ 7.00 pm	MCCV Council Meeting	Maltese Community Centre, Parkville
Wed 14 December @ 6.00 pm	Newport Seniors. Christmas Break-up Dinner - Newport Maltese Seniors	-
Thu 15 December @ 6.00 pm	Pizza Night - Maltese Assoc. Northern Suburbs, Inc.	-
Fri 16 December @ 6.00 pm	Dinner Dance - Maltese Assoc. Northern Suburbs, Inc.	Hadfield Hall
Sat 24 December @ 11.30 pm	Christmas Midnight Mass preceded by Carols singing	St Paul's Chapel Parkville
Sat 31 December @ 6.00 pm	New Year's Eve Dinner Dance - Newport Maltese Assn,	Emerald Reception Centre

### 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:

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



MALTESE COMMUNITY CENTRE  
477 Royal Parade, Parkville

OUR CANTEEN SERVES MALTESE FOOD  
EVERY FRIDAY—BINGO NIGHT  
WE OPEN AT 5.00 PM TO SERVE FOOD  
BINGO HEADS DOWN AT 7.00 PM  
EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT

*Għandek aptit ta' ravjulata?*  
*Come along and enjoy our friendly atmosphere*  
*We would love to see you*  
*and bring your friends along with you!*



### MCCV Ladies Auxiliary

#### Bingo Sessions

at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville every Tuesday between 11.00am and 2.30pm.

A small group of women enjoy spending time together playing bingo, having lunch and also celebrating special events.

In 2017 The first bingo session will be held on Tuesday 7th February. **Everyone is welcome.**

For more information please ring the Maltese Centre on 9387 8922.