

Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc.



ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16



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President's Report

It gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report for the Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV) for the year ending 31 October 2016.

Meeting monthly to conduct the affairs of the MCCV in accordance with its constitution, the Executive Committee and Council continued to shoulder their responsibility to ensure that the objectives set out in the work plan are achieved in the best interest of the community.

Council also operates with the assistance of some seven subcommittees, which focus on specific areas of responsibility assigned to them.

Council's main objective continues to be directed towards meeting the needs of our Maltese-Australian community, particularly the elderly who rely heavily on the services that the MCCV provides through Federal and State government funding.

As in other not-for-profit organisations, there is great reliance on the community to contribute towards the costs of running our social welfare programs and maintaining our premises at both Parkville (our central office) and Sunshine. Council is also reliant on our teams of volunteers who enable it to extend its services and maintain current programs.

Every effort is being made to engage younger members of our community. It is pleasing to note the many successes of the second and third generations, who, given the opportunity, have flourished in the mainstream Australian environment. We are hopeful that, as time passes, they will be prepared to become involved in succession planning and start taking over leadership roles within our community.

MCCV Executive Committee members have continued to make a contribution to the wider community by their membership of various committees, such as, the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV) Aged Policy Committee, HealthWest Anti-Gambling Committee, Alzheimer's Australia (Memory Lane Café) and many others.

Council is mindful of the fact that it is necessary to form and maintain relationships with other aged care providers in its endeavour to share information and venture in new directions in the interest of our community.

In its role as community advocate, the MCCV is constantly on its guard to ensure that its constituents are not disadvantaged and marginalised. Equity and access remain at the forefront in community representations.

Community needs are constantly monitored through our clients who regularly attend the Maltese community centre for activities and functions, communication channels with our affiliated associations and our close working relationship with the Maltese religious.

Grants from the Commonwealth and State governments have assisted and encouraged us to extend our services over the past twelve months.

Welfare Programs

Under the Commonwealth funded Home and Community Care (HACC) Program managed by the Federal Department of Social Services, 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 our Sunshine centre on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Previously jointly funded by the Federal and State governments, the HACC Program for clients aged 65 years and over has now transitioned to the sole responsibility of the Commonwealth. From the MCCV end, the transition process was capably managed by our co-ordinator Ms Maree Rizzo and the MCCV Community Services and Improvement Committee. As part of this transition, the national *My Aged Care* system has streamlined aged care services in this country to the extent that it is now the only point of entry for services. Our workers continued to assist aged community members to familiarise themselves with the system.

Carers Group

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 basically a support group which encourages its members to exchange experiences and assist each other.

Education officers from Carers Victoria give talks on various topics of interest, such as, coping with stress, anxiety and the caring role and any subject of interest to carers. Outings are also organised with carers and their aged relatives being invited to take part.

Advisory and Referral Service

The MCCV advisory and referral service project which started in 2014 has been well received by the community. In many respects the service has become the first point of contact for many Maltese persons seeking the assistance from the Council. The service is fully confidential, provided free of charge and available in both Maltese and English.

Home Visitation Scheme

The MCCV operates this home visits service under the name of an incorporated organisation known as *MCCV Home Visitation Scheme*.

Council was fortunate recently in receiving a grant from the State Government to extend its service to include visits to elderly Maltese persons who reside in aged care facilities. Council is grateful to the Hon. Robin Scott, Victorian Minister for Finance and Multicultural Affairs, for approving this grant.

Council has plans in train to formalise these extended arrangements to ensure maximum cover of the demand within the available resources. We will continue with our efforts to attract the help of volunteers for this purpose.

Maltese Language Classes

The MCCV is grateful to the Hon. Robin Scott, Victorian Minister for Finance and Multicultural Affairs, for approving a grant of \$5,000 to the MCCV for Maltese language teaching at the centre.

Ms Edwidge Borg continues to perform the role of Coordinator of the Maltese Language Classes held at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville. The number of students is constantly on the increase. Weekly classes are conducted at the centre on Thursday evenings. Adult students enjoy learning about the Maltese culture and language.

The tutors for the language classes are Ms Edwidge Borg, Ms Laura Schembri and Ms Alexandra Scibberras. We are most appreciative to all the tutors for their dedication, assistance and commitment.

MCCV Community Awards

It is most fitting for a community to give 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 the following individuals:

- **Professor Maurice CAUCHI** for his contribution to Education
- **Mr Alfred CACHIA** for his contribution to Culture
- **Mrs Marlene SCICLUNA** for her contribution to Culture
- **Fr Edwin AGIUS mssp** for his contribution to Welfare Services
- **Mr Charles BELLI** for his contribution to the Community
- **Mr Vincent CALLEJA** for his contribution to the Community
- **Mrs Marlene XERRI** for her contribution to the Community

Presentation of these awards will take place early next year.

Distinguished Visitors

In the past year we welcomed to the Maltese Community Centre the following dignitaries:

- In June 2016 the Rev Fr Dr Victor Shields mssp returned to Melbourne on a three month visit to continue with his studies and assist his fellow priests, our community and the MCCV.
- On 21 July 2016 Her Excellency Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, the President of the Republic of Malta attended a welcome reception in her honour. She was accompanied by her husband Mr Edgar Preca.
- On 21 July 2016 the Hon. Robin Scott, Minister for Finance and Multicultural Affairs, was also present at the welcome reception for the President of Malta.
- On 21 July 2016 the Hon. José Herrera, Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change in Malta accompanied the President of Malta at the welcome reception.
- On 21 July 2016 His Excellency Mr Charles Muscat, High Commissioner for Malta in Canberra, attended the welcome reception held for the President of Malta.
- Mr Victor Grech, Consul General for Malta in the State of Victoria attended functions at the Maltese Centre on a number of occasions during the year, including the welcome reception held for the President of Malta on 21 July 2016.

Events and other Activities

Other community events and activities for the year included:

- On Sunday **6 December 2015**, the MCCV hosted the annual Children's Christmas Party which was well attended. Entertainment was provided and the young children were kept occupied and seemed to enjoy the activities. The young revellers enjoyed traditional Maltese games such as *passju*. The craft table proved as popular as ever with the children making various decorations to hang on a Christmas tree. Parents and grandparents were also present and encouraged the children to participate. Council wishes to thank Ms Edwidge Borg, Mrs Frances Bonnici, Ms Nolene Xerri, Mr Andrew

Gatt, Mrs Rita Catania, Mrs Marlene Xerri and members of the Ladies Auxiliary and all other helpers for organising and conducting the Children's Christmas Party. At the end of the party children were given a party bag sponsored by George Caruana and GAM and prepared by Mrs Rita Catania and her mother. Ms Olga Ellul assisted by taking photos to record this happy occasion. Our thanks also go to Santa (Joe Camilleri), assisted by Mrs Antonia Camilleri, who made an early visit to the Centre with his decorated sleigh carrying presents provided by the children's respective adult relative.

- On Thursday **21 July 2016** the MCCV hosted a welcome reception for the President of Malta, Her Excellency Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, who was in Melbourne to meet with the Maltese Australian community. The President was accompanied by her husband Mr Edgar Preca and her entourage which included the Hon. José Herrera, Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change. Representing the Victorian Government at the reception was The Hon. Robin Scott, Minister for Multicultural Affairs. His Excellency Mr Charles Muscat, High Commissioner for Malta in Canberra, and Mr Victor Grech, Consul General for the Malta in the State of Victoria, were also in attendance.
- On Sunday **11 September 2016**, the Maltese Community celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Victories ("Il-Bambina") at St Mary Star of the Sea Church, West Melbourne. Prime Celebrant was Fr Dr Victor Shields, mssp and concelebrating with him were Fr Edwin Agius, mssp; Fr Emmanuel Adami, mssp; Fr Lonnie Borg, mssp; Fr Denis Carabott, mssp; and Fr Karm Borg.
- On Wednesday **21 September 2016**, the MCCV held a Cocktail Party at the Maltese 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. Mr Victor Grech, Consul General for the Malta in the State of Victoria, was unable to attend this function as he was in Malta.

Maltese Cultural Festival 2016

After a break of several years, this year the MCCV organised the Maltese Cultural Festival consisting of a number of events that were held in Melbourne during September.

The Festival is intended to provide a great opportunity for the community to come together to celebrate our Maltese heritage, history and culture of which we are all so proud.

The Festival program consisted of the following events:

- 8 September – Maria Bambina Mass celebrated at St. Paul's Chapel in Parkville
- 11 September – Maria Bambina Feast day mass celebrated at St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church, Howard Street, West Melbourne, followed by a procession with the statue of Maria Bambina.
- 17 September – Evening session of Maltese għana and music by Klabb Għannejja Maltin together with Manwel Casha and the Girgenti Group.
- 18 September – The Maltese Literature Group Inc. presented Maltese Prose and Poetry read by members of the Group. The program included traditional Maltese folklore music.
- 20 September – The Maltese Historical Association Inc. hosted a presentation session on Celebrating the Building of Valletta, which in 2018 will be celebrated as the European Capital of Culture.

- 21 September – Cocktail Party to celebrate Malta's Independence Day at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville.
- 25 September – Lunchtime Maltese Restaurant at the Community Centre in Parkville.

While community attendance at some of the events was not as high as was hoped, the MCCV felt that overall the Festival was a success and there are plans to improve the program for next year.

Bingo Sessions and Canteen Services

The Social Committee continued to conduct regular bingo sessions and serve Maltese meals from the MCCV Canteen at the Maltese Centre in Parkville on Friday evenings. Bingo sessions provide a great opportunity for socialisation for the older community members. With the closure of the public bingo hall in Brunswick, the number of patrons attending our bingo sessions increased substantially. We are most appreciative of the efforts of our Assistant Treasurer Rita Pullicino for managing the bingo sessions.

The MCCV Social Committee, which is capably led by our Vice President Mr Joseph Stafrace, also organised a luncheon on 25 September 2016 to mark the end of the Maltese Cultural Festival 2016. This event was well attended and those present enjoyed the Maltese dishes served.

Proceeds from such activities and the sale of frozen Maltese food products, such as, *pastizzi*, *ravjul*, *qassatat* and *qagħaq tal-ghasel* and other varieties of biscuits, have raised funds to be applied towards our welfare programs as well as maintenance costs and outgoings on our Parkville and Sunshine premises.

On behalf of the MCCV I wish to thank Joe Stafrace and his team of volunteers consisting of his wife Lina Stafrace, Maurice and Carmen Spiteri, Rita Pullicino, Joe and Antonia (Lina) Camilleri, Andrew Gatt and Ann Caruana and the callers at the bingo sessions Gejtu Deguara, George Brimmer, Joe Sammut and John Sultana for their commitment and contribution. We are grateful to all of them for their efforts.

Maltese Media Broadcasts

Council continues to enjoy the patronage of Maltese broadcasters, who ensure that our community is kept well informed.

The *Maltese Down Under* TV program broadcast on the local Channel 31 every Sunday afternoon has had a considerable favourable impact on the community, especially on its younger members, who are now accustomed to travel to Malta regularly. We congratulate the directors and producers of this program, Marlene Scicluna, a prominent former SBS Radio broadcaster well-known in our community, and Mark Avellino, for their outstanding commitment and productions.

There are a number of community radio stations in Victoria which broadcast in the Maltese language. A total of 10 hours are broadcast in Maltese each week on the following community stations:

- 3ZZZ Ethnic Community Radio on 92.3 FM
- Stereo 97.4 FM Community Radio
- Radio 3 RIM on 97.9 FM
- Radio North West on 98.9 FM

The MCCV is grateful to the convenors and broadcasters of these community stations for their efforts in entertaining and educating the community through their broadcasts. These broadcast

provide a direct means of passing on information to their listeners on matters of interest to our community.

The MCCV is currently exploring the possibility of a women's program being included in the Radio 3ZZZ broadcasting schedule.

We understand that, Mr Emmanuel Brincat, one of the Maltese broadcasters on Radio 3ZZZ, recently resigned from that role after some 25 years of service. We acknowledge his contribution and thank him for his commitment.

The Special Broadcasting Services (SBS) also broadcasts in Maltese for two hours each week. We are hopeful that once the 2016 Census data is analysed Council will have an opportunity to make a further submission to the SBS Board for more broadcasting hours in Maltese to be allocated to the Maltese community in Australia.

Bereavements

During the past year the Maltese community in Victoria farewelled several of its prominent members, including:

- **Anthony (Tony) Abela**, Vice President of the Maltese Association Northern Suburbs Inc. (MANSI), who passed away on **29 March 2016**. As a result of the post-World War II economic situation in Malta, where there was little work or opportunities, Tony migrated to Australia in 1955. With a keen interest in politics and in community issues, Tony successfully ran for local government in the former City of Broadmeadows in 1989 and was elected councillor for three consecutive terms, at one point serving as Deputy Mayor. In 1996, Tony was elected to the Moreland Council where he served for 3 years. Tony was a member of MANSI for 20 years and spent a seven years as president.
- **Lillian Calleja OAM**, a long time benefactor and community leader who passed away on **24 June 2016** aged 85 years. Lillian was well-known among members of the Maltese community of Victoria, especially among those in the western suburbs of Melbourne. She played a big part in the establishment of the Newport Maltese Association. For many years, Lillian organised the Christmas Eve Children's Pageant that took place at the Centre in Parkville. On the 12th May 2011 at Government House in Melbourne Lillian was the proud recipient of the Order of Australia Medal for services to the Maltese community awarded to her on Australia Day earlier that year.
- **Fr Paul Kierce mssp** who passed away on **20 July 2016** aged 78 years. Fr Paul was professed as a Paulist Missionary in 1977 and ordained to the Priesthood a year later. He served faithfully as a Paulist Missionary Priest for 38 years in Malta, Pakistan and Australia.
- **Fr Andrew Camilleri**, Parish Priest of St Clare's Parish in Thomastown West, who passed away suddenly on **8 September 2016**, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, aged 69 years. Fr Andrew was ordained as a Salesian priest in 1981 at St John's Co-Cathedral, Valetta, Malta. In 1990, following the death of his mother, Fr Andrew came to Melbourne to serve in the Archdiocese of Melbourne and undertake parish ministry for one year. He was appointed to serve at St Peter's Parish in Hoppers Crossing with Fr Dominic DeGiorgio. Throughout his ministry in Melbourne, Fr Andrew served as Assistant Priest in Hoppers Crossing, Fawkner North, Administrator of Thomastown West (2005) and later as Parish Priest from 2006 until his death.

May they rest in peace.

Missionary Society of Saint Paul

Council appreciates its continued partnership with the Missionary Society of Saint Paul (MSSP) and the assistance and spiritual leadership provided by its members. The Australian Provincial Fr Ivano Burdian, Fr Edwin Agius and Fr Emmanuel Adami are always willing and ready to assist Maltese community members and the MCCV.

We also thank Fr John Taliana, Fr Denis Carabott and Fr Lonnie Borg from St Bernadette's Parish in North Sunshine, for their assistance and support. Once again Rev Fr Dr Victor Shields came to Melbourne in June 2016 for three months to provide his assistance.

Working in partnership the MSSP, Council is in a much better position to monitor the needs and concerns of our ageing community.

To our Chaplain Fr Edwin Agius go our sincere thanks for his tireless efforts in accommodating our aged clients at Parkville and Sunshine each week. His participation as an executive member of council is also appreciated.

We extend our condolences to the MSSP community on the passing away of their fellow priest Fr Paul Kierce mssp who departed this earth for his eternal rest.

Malta High Commissioner and Consul General for Victoria

The MCCV wishes to acknowledge the assistance given to us throughout the year by the High Commissioner for Malta in Canberra His Excellency Mr Charles Muscat and members of his staff.

Mr Victor Grech, Consul General in Victoria has once again been most helpful to Council and has given us his assistance when approached. He regularly attends Council functions and community Festas and has become an integral part of the community.

Council also wishes to acknowledge the contributions of the Honorary Consuls, Dr Edwin Borg-Manché and Mr Mario Sammut to the Maltese community in Victoria.

Special Thanks

I wish to conclude by extending my sincere and heartfelt thanks to members of my Executive Committee for their efforts throughout the year. They have been extremely loyal to me and their commitment to our common cause to look after and safeguard the community interests is to be commended.

A number of committee members attend the centre at Parkville, almost on a daily basis, to assist with the management and planning of our activities. Some of them also join our team of volunteers to provide services to our clients and their families.

I especially acknowledge the efforts of our Treasurer Mr Paul Borg, who manages our finances and presents monthly financial statements for our information.

To my two Vice Presidents, Mr Joseph Stafrace and Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, my appreciation for their strong support and guidance.

To our Secretary Mrs Edwina Mallia, our Assistant Secretary Mrs Antonia (Lina) Camilleri, and our Assistant Treasurer Mrs Rita Pullicino, many thanks for your efforts and your part in Council's administrative tasks.

To our Welfare Director Mrs Rosemary Attard and our Public Relations Officer Mr Andrew Gatt – a job well done.

Staff Members

We wish to thank and acknowledge the efforts of our staff, particularly Maree Rizzo, coordinator of the HACC Program, and thank them for their understanding and the service they provide to our clients.

It is appropriate that I should also mention Ms Carmen Mamo, our Administrative Secretary, who resigned in June 2016 after some 12 years of service. We thank her for her contribution and wish her well for the future.

As we move to the election of the Executive Committee for the next two years, I thank all nominees for submitting their nominations and wish the new committee a successful and fruitful term of office.

Victor Borg

President, MCCV

MCCV Executive Committee 2014–16



From left, Mrs Rosemary Attard (Welfare Director), Mr Paul Borg (Treasurer), Dr Edwin Borg-Manché (Vice President), Mr Victor Borg (President), Mr Joseph Stafrace (Vice President), Mrs Edwina Mallia (Secretary), Mrs Rita Pullicino (Assistant Treasurer), Mrs Marilyn Pace (Social Secretary).

Not in photo: Mrs Antonia Camilleri (Assistant Secretary), Mr Andrew Gatt (co-opted to the Committee in the position of PRO from April 2015) and Fr Edwin Agius mssp (Chaplain).

Community Services

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria has as one of its objects the provision of Welfare Services to members of the Maltese Community in the State of Victoria.

HACC-funded Planned Activity Group (PAG)

The aim of the MCCV Planned Activity Group (PAG) is to provide a range of socialisation and support services to isolated Maltese older people and people with disabilities who reside in the Northern and Western Suburbs of Melbourne, as well as respite and support for their carers.

MCCV PAG operates five groups each week with a total of 68 clients attending these groups. Three groups at the Sunshine Centre and two at the Parkville Centre.

During 2016 a transition of funding from the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments under the HACC program to the new Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) is currently being undertaken.

MCCV PAG offers participants a range of physical, cognitive and social activities which are designed to meet the individual and diverse needs and goals of each participant and enhance their skills of daily living by adopting Active Service Model principles and practices.

Some activities include gentle exercise sessions, a range of craft activities, music, use of technology, games which stimulate memory and motor skills as well as regular outings and celebrations of special occasions.

Activities

2016 saw the continuation of a range of stimulating activities including workshops from Bunnings, celebration of Grand Final day with football activities and also the introduction of iPad lessons, pamper days and movies for those interested.

Transition to Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP)

Since February 2016, the PAG Coordinator and representatives of the Community Services and Executive committee attended a number of workshops and information sessions held by the Commonwealth Government to assist with the transition to the CHSP. These workshops provided information regarding My Aged Care referral and assessment processes, Data Exchange reporting site and a number of other sessions regarding legislation and contractual requirements.

New assessment and referral processes involve new referrals being made via My Aged Care by calling or accessing their website. A telephone interview will then take place and if My Aged Care representative deems the recipient eligible, a home visit will be organised with the Regional Assessment Service.

During this assessment the recipient will discuss their requirements and goals and provide some personal information. The Social Support referral will then be electronically forwarded to the Maltese Community Council of Victoria's Planned Activity Coordinator, who will arrange further discussion with the recipient and finalise preferred days of attendance, transport, goals and costs involved in attending the Planned Activity Group.

There is also a change in the reporting system regarding participant's attendance and this will be done through the Data Exchange Portal.

Activities, days and times of attendance will remain the same with a few minor variations. All participants have been notified in writing regarding these changes and are kept up to date with all transition information.

The previous reporting requirements to the Department of health for end of financial year were Risk Attestation, Financial Accountability Reporting and Organisation certification. This year the Department has streamlined this reporting process by providing an online reporting form called 'Service Agreement Compliance Certification (SACC). This incorporates all of the previous reporting information (mentioned above) as well as the addition of staff safety screening and privacy information.

Training

Staff received training in 2016 by attending a number of accredited competency based training sessions delivered through Vicsegs New Futures and regular in house training sessions. Some of the areas of learning included:

- CHSP transition including referral and assessment processes, reporting and explanation of guidelines of new program.
- Team building and impact on performance
- Food handling and safety
- Manual Handling
- CPR refresher course.

Staff

The PAG Support Workers and volunteers continue to perform outstanding work in all areas of the PAG program. Their dedication and duty of care is exceptional. PAG staff have demonstrated leadership skills and excellent working relationships this year. They have adapted well to the transition to CHSP and assisted all recipients to understand the changes and the reasons behind them.

Maree Rizzo

Coordinator Planned Activity Group, MCCV

Maltese Community Centre

The Maltese Community Centre in Parkville and the other MCCV centre in Sunshine are used by MCCV clients for various welfare program events as well as by members of the Maltese community for events organised by the MCCV and its affiliated associations.

During the past 12 months we continued with our maintenance program for our premises in Parkville and Sunshine. It is important that both locations are properly maintained to ensure that we meet and comply with all relevant OHS and other building and health standards and regulations.

The MCCV recent applied a State Government grant to assist with building maintenance projects. One project relates to the replacement of the facia of the Community Centre which has been under consideration for the last 12 months and the other relates to the upgrade of the Canteen kitchen. Both projects need to be done and are estimated to cost around the \$50,000 mark.

I appeal to our affiliated Associations to consider providing some financial support to the Council to ensure that we continue to be in a position to properly maintain our assets in the interest of the Maltese community. Every small annual donation would be of assistance in meeting the maintenance and running costs of our premises.

I would like to thank our regular maintenance team of volunteers: Freddie Asciak, Joe Azzopardi and the many others who come forward when the need arises.

I must also thank our Friday Night Bingo volunteers group, be it in the kitchen or on the floor running the bingo. Thank you for your continuous support as without your help we would not be able to serve our patrons.

Joseph Stafrace

Vice President, MCCV

Maltese Language Classes

Seventeen student registered for Maltese language classes for Semester 2, 2015. The demand for these classes is on the increase. In Semester 1, 2016 we had a record number of thirty students registered.

New MCCV Maltese Language classes advertising posters and updated brochures were produced and posted on the internet and the MCCV website. These updates have generated several telephone or email requests for informaton about the Maltese Language classes at the MCCV. These queries were passed on to the Co-ordinator Edwidge Borg by MCCV staff to respond to these requests and provide the relevant information.



The information about classes for school age children is referred to the Victorian Saturday school of languages where Maltese language classes for school age children are held.

MCCV tutors for the language classes are Ms Laura Schembri, Ms Edwidge Borg and Ms Alexandra Scibberras. All tutors are keen to continue with their professional development.

In October 2015 Alexandra Scibberras and Edwidge Borg attended the Federation of Maltese Language Schools (FMLS) Professional Development Seminar in NSW. The theme for this year's FMLS PD seminar was titled *New approaches to teaching the Maltese Language in composite classes – A collaboration workshop for Maltese Language Teachers*. The presenters for the day were Charles Galea – *Selection of texts for reading and responding*; Anne Cuschieri – *What adults expect from us in teaching them Maltese*; and Sandra Scibberras – *Using recommended text in an adult composite class*.

The textbook series *Maltese for Foreigners* forms a major part of the class and student self-study. In addition, other resources from the MCCV Library and sources from the electronic media are used. The students continuing the course were also keen and delighted to acquire the latest series of these publications.

We have purchased two new whiteboards to replace the existing boards; other purchases included new resource material to use during classes. The MCCV Maltese Language classes applied for a grant from the Department of Premier and Cabinet for a Capacity Building and Participation Program Small Grants. Funds from this grant will supplement the MCCV subsidy of expenses to run these Language classes.



Edwidge Borg

Coordinator MCCV - Maltese Language Classes

Public Relations

The MCCV continued participating on the Reducing Gambling Frequency Project run by the HealthWest Partnership to promote responsible gambling with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) seniors groups.

Reducing Gambling Frequency Project

An initiative of the HealthWest Partnership (HWP), this project is now into its second year. HWP was established by the Victorian Government as one of 28 primary care partnerships throughout Victoria. The Maltese Community Council of Victoria is one of six key ethnic community organisations that have been working with HealthWest Partnership on this project. Each of these organisations committed one senior staff member, one bilingual worker and one community member to participate in the advisory group which met regularly during the year.

The key objectives of the project are to:

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

This year the focus for Health West and the MCCV has been to work with other anti-gambling organisations in offering other alternate venues of entertainment, to publicise our educational campaign and to continue building the relationships with community leaders.

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

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

MCCV Newsletter

Six editions of the MCCV newsletter *MCCV News* were published during the past year. The newsletter was circulated by email to over 1,000 readers locally and overseas and is available for download from the MCCV website. Detailed news reports were published in the newsletter on various MCCV and Maltese community events that took place during the year. The editorial team consists of MCCV Vice President, Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, as Editor and Andrew Gatt, as Sub-Editor.

MCCV Website

The MCCV website, which is maintained by MCCV Vice President, Edwin Borg-Manché, continues to be well received both in Australia and overseas. During the past 12 months our website had over 70,000 visitors from around the world who viewed the website and made a total of 942,000 visits. This equates to a 52% increase in the number of visitors and to more than double the number of visits in the previous year.

Andrew Gatt

Public Relations Officer, MCCV

Maltese Living Abroad

Last May the Council for Maltese Living Abroad held its seventh meeting in Malta and the Maltese Government finally launched the long awaited project to facilitate through the use of mobile equipment the collection of biometric data and applications required for the issuing of Maltese passports.

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

The Council for Maltese Living Abroad held its seventh meeting in Malta over two days, 5th and 6th May 2016. 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 spread around 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.

Maltese Government launches *Consul-on-the-Move* project

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 government 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.

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 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.

Following the launch of the Consul-on-the Move project, the Malta High Commission in Canberra made arrangements for the Consul to travel to other locations in Australia (Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland) 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.

Board elections at the Federation for Maltese Living Abroad (FMLA)

History. The first documented need for an umbrella organisation for the Maltese Diaspora was highlighted by one of the most famous sons of Maltese living abroad, namely the Maltese-French writer, Laurent Ropa, back in the 1930s. Mr. Ropa introduced the idea that Maltese writers around the world should form an association to promote the Maltese language and writing in particular. The first real attempt, however, to form such an organisation occurred at the Convention for Leaders of Maltese Abroad held in 2000, organised by the Migrants Commission in Malta. A loose federation (Federation of Maltese Abroad - FOMA) was created and committee members were elected.

At the subsequent Convention of Maltese Living Abroad held in March 2010, a group of delegates discussed recommendations and terms for revamping the old FOMA, resulting in the formation of a new organisation, namely the Federation for Maltese Living Abroad (FMLA). During that same convention three officers were selected to organise formal elections which were carried out in December 2011.

The aims for FMLA. The main purpose of the FMLA is to represent Maltese organisations, as well as individuals throughout the world, to give them a voice, and to inform them about

developments of interest to the Diaspora. FMLA serves to facilitate overarching communications between the hundreds of Maltese organisations which currently may not have the means or framework to do so.

Within the first term of the FMLA, a formal constitution was developed. A newsletter was established and circulated widely. A website was also set up with the aim of disseminating information of interest to the Maltese living abroad and facilitating feedback from readers.

It is estimated that the FMLA had a total of 46 affiliated member associations with a combined membership of close to 10,000. These facilitated the spread of relevant information, and it also served as a repository of important data not available elsewhere.

FMLA Elections. The FMLA is a democratic organisation, whose President and Board of Directors are elected every two years by members of the organisation. Any person of Maltese background can be nominated to participate in the elections. It is a ground roots, independent organisation. The FMLA believes that it is important to ensure dissemination of information and interaction with members as well as the general public.

Elections for a new board are currently in train with nominations due to close on 31 October. Election results are expected to be published in November 2016. Any Maltese associations that are members of the FMLA are encouraged to vote at these elections.

Edwin Borg-Manché

Vice President, MCCV

Member, Council for Maltese Living Abroad

MCCV Library

The library at the MCCV continues to expand and increase its collection of books. The number of books in Maltese and about Malta contained in this library is not only the largest in Australia, but also the largest outside Malta.

There is a quite a large collection of books on all aspects of Maltese history, ranging from the very earliest times to the most modern. There are books about the Maltese language, about art and archaeology in Malta, about folklore, and of course a large collection of books of fiction and poetry, among others. There is of course quite a significant collection of books for children of all ages.

The MCCV would be happy to accept any books in Maltese or about Malta which are no longer wanted.



Current efforts are being made to make the library more accessible. Firstly, we are endeavouring to ensure that any person wishing to visit the library which currently is open only on a Friday evening, will be able to do so at any time of the day, every day. All one has to do is to inform the secretary to organise opening the library for that purpose. Secondly, by providing a 'roving library' to deliver books to those who are home-bound and cannot access the library themselves. In this way we hope to make browsing or borrowing of books easier and more user-friendly.

We consider it our job also to help other organisations to build up their own collection of books. Over the last several months we have distributed duplicate books to a number of libraries, including ones in Sydney and Perth, as well as libraries overseas, including San Francisco and the Migration Museum library in Malta.

We believe that books are a permanent record of our Maltese heritage and are a mirror of Maltese culture. It is hoped that our grandchildren will also one day appreciate the rich culture to which they belong. It is up to the parents to ensure that the seeds are sown early by bringing their children to visit the library.

The library, as well as of course all the work of the MCCV, depends on the availability of volunteers who are prepared to sacrifice some of their time to help out. This need has been present from the very first time that the MCCV was established, and is no less needed now. So any person with some time to spare might be interested to register as a volunteer.

We thank all those who have helped us during the year.

Prof. Maurice Cauchi & Charles Belli
Library Co-ordinators

Ladies Auxiliary

The main aim of the Ladies Auxiliary (LA) group of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV) is to assist and support the MCCV in its provision of welfare services to the Maltese Community at large.

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc. (MCCV) Ladies Auxiliary's (LA) main aim is to support the MCCV which provides welfare services to the Maltese Community at large.

The Ladies Auxiliary's main function is to hold Bingo sessions every Tuesday morning. They commence on the first Tuesday in February and finish on the second Tuesday in December. During the year Birthdays and Special days are also celebrated such as Shrove Tuesday, St Patrick's Day, Easter and Christmas are also celebrated.

The Bingo sessions on Tuesdays provides an outlet for a small group of women who come to the Centre on a regular basis, every week. They look forward to their social gathering and enjoy playing bingo in a more relaxed atmosphere. This year more women joined the bingo group.

November and December are busy months for the Ladies Auxiliary. They prepare and organize the Aged Care Christmas Luncheon together with the welfare staff. The Tuesday's bingo group is invited to attend the luncheon. A raffle is held during the luncheon to help with the day's expenses as the Ladies Auxiliary sponsor and prepare the Christmas lunch. The Ladies Auxiliary also provides refreshment for the Children's Christmas Party for both the children and adults. This function is organized by the MCCV. Both functions are well received and enjoyed by everyone.

The Ladies Auxiliary appreciates the support of all the committee members, their partners and volunteers. Their assistance throughout the year is greatly appreciated.

The Ladies Auxiliary are very supportive of the MCCV. From time to time they contribute towards various items such as the split air conditioning system at the MCCV Sunshine premises.

Committee members

The Ladies Auxiliary Committee consists of:

- Marlene Xerri, *President*
- Therese Tabone, *Treasurer/Vice President*
- Mary McLaughlin, *Secretary*
- Mary Cefai, *Member*
- Lina Dingli, *Member*
- Inez Mifsud, *Member*

Marlene Xerri

President, Ladies Auxiliary

Appendix A – Community Highlights 2015-16

Sunday 6 December 2015

MCCV Children's Christmas Party

The MCCV held its annual children's Christmas party on Sunday 6th December 2015. This annual event has attracted new visitors to the MCCV premises in Parkville.

Carmen Mamo was a great help in looking after the bookings and publicity for the Christmas party. Alfred Cachia adorned the premises with Christmas decoration and to add to the festive mood additional decorations attractive to the children supplemented the main hall décor for this occasion. Edwidge Borg, Nolene Xerri and Andrew Gatt prepared the hall with addition fairy lights, silver tinsel curtain to attract and bring a children Christmas mood to the large hall.



The food and beverage was donated and catered for by the MCCV Ladies auxiliary led by Marlene Xerri and partners who annually prepare a suitable spread for our young party participants and adults. Pastizzi, pies, minced pies were on the menu. The fairy bread was well liked and demolished in a flash. The MCCV Ladies Auxiliary have been partners in organising the Children's Christmas party since its inception. The MCCV is grateful to the volunteer ladies and husbands who in a few hours cater for a very receptive audience.

Various activities were organised. The young revellers enjoyed traditional Maltese games such as passju. The craft table proved as popular as ever. This year the children made various decorations to hang on a Christmas tree. The craft stall was prepared by Edwidge Borg and coordinated by Frances Bonnici. Frances used her teaching skills to assist the young participants to excel in displaying their decorating skills.



The adults accompanying the children, also joined in the fun and activities of the day, while they enjoyed a cup of tea or coffee and delicious refreshments. The Amazing David displayed showmanship with his magic tricks, balloon twisting and party games, and our young party goers had their face painted by Shiney Shelley.

Santa (Joe Camilleri) assisted by Antonia Camilleri appeared at the right time with his decorated sleigh carrying presents which were provided by their respective adult relative. Each child received their present and had their photo taken with Santa. Many

of the nannas and parents had their photos taken.

At the end of the party children were given a party bag sponsored by George Caruana and GAM. Rita Catania and her mother prepared these bags and Josephine Farrugia had a great time meeting and greeting the guests and giving out the bags. Olga Ellul was a great help, in taking photos to record this happy occasion.

The MCCV annual Children's Christmas party, originally organised by Lillian Calleja, has always been a successful event thanks to the voluntary support of many helpful hands that come on board to assist. The success of this event is a credit to the volunteers.

Edwidge Borg — MCCV Maltese Language Classes Coordinator

Thursday 21 July 2016

Melbourne Maltese community extends warm welcome to President of Malta

On Thursday 21 July 2016 the MCCV hosted a welcome reception for the President of Malta, Her Excellency Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, who was in Melbourne to meet with the Maltese Australian community. The President was accompanied by her husband Mr Edgar Preca and her entourage which included the Hon. José Herrera, Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change. Representing the Victorian Government at the reception was The Hon. Robin Scott, Minister for Multicultural Affairs. His Excellency Mr Charles Muscat, High Commissioner for Malta in Canberra, and Mr Victor Grech, Consul General for the Malta in the State of Victoria, were also in attendance.



A packed hall warmly greeted the President and her husband Edgar Preca as they entered to take their place on the podium. We all stood as she entered the room with her entourage. The outside lights switched on, shining for the first time through the magnificent stained glass window of the centre.

MC Mr George Saliba, president of the Maltese Newport Association, welcomed the many distinguished guests.

MCCV President Mr Victor Borg commended President Coleiro Preca for her reputation as a champion for the disadvantaged. He spoke about the many Maltese worldwide who had left Malta and endured considerable hardship to build a new life for their families. He acknowledged those who assisted the early Maltese settlers, and outlined the development of organisations, such as, the MCCV, which provide resources and support to the community. Now Maltese Australians excel in all walks of life. He asked Her Excellency to take a message home: that despite the distance and the years, we still hold Malta dear.

The Hon. Robin Scott, Victorian Minister for Multicultural Affairs, acknowledged the traditional owners of the land and welcomed the guests on behalf of the Victorian government. He observed that many of his own relatives would not be alive were it not for the Maltese in WW2. He commended the Maltese in Australia for their hard work, their dedication to family and church, their help to the less fortunate, and their leadership role in multiculturalism in Australia.



The Hon. José Herrera, Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change in Malta, reminded us that the children and grandchildren of Maltese migrants are entitled to Maltese citizenship. He outlined the rise in prosperity of Malta after the hardships during and after WW2 and how Malta is now doing very well. She is becoming multicultural, sharing sovereignty with 27 countries in the EU, and has a lot to learn from Australia in that regard.

In her address the President of Malta, Marie Louise Coleiro Preca (left), welcomed us, her Maltese brothers and sisters. She expressed her heartfelt

thanks for helping making Malta great. She said that we will always share the same family and land of our forefathers. She praised us for maintaining our cultural traditions but also for being Australian and contributing to Australia's success and prosperity. Her message to us: Malta will always miss you. Malta will always be proud of you. Malta will never forget you. Tell your children, Malta will always make them welcome. Viva Malta! Viva Australia! She was given a standing ovation.

Victor Borg presented her with gifts, including a boomerang in the hope that she will return to visit Australia soon. She presented Mr Borg with a memento, which will be placed in a showcase in the Centre.

Mr Ray Agius from the St George Association gave the President a cheque for the Maltese Community Chest Fund. She posed with him for a photo, holding the new banner of the St George Association, as she hails from Qormi, whose Patron Saint is St George.

The President then promised to greet everyone with a kiss from Malta. Not only was she true to her word, but she also found a few kind words for each of us.

Charles Gatt — Secretary, Maltese Historical Association, Inc.

Thursday 8th, Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th September 2016

The Feast of Maria Bambina celebrated in Melbourne

Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group Inc. on behalf of the Missionary Society of St. Paul once again organised the feast of Maria Bambina this year.

On **Thursday 8th September**, a Mass was concelebrated by Fr Edwin Agius mssp and Fr Dr Victor Shields mssp in St. Paul's Chapel, Parkville. Around 100 members of the Maltese Community attended. Readers were Sally Bartolo and George Portelli. Prayers of the faithful were read by Joe Stafrace. The Offertory items were brought to the Altar by Fred and Theresa Cachia. A special CD was organised with hymns for the occasion.



Fr Edwin Agius, who returned from Canada and Malta a few days before, delivered the homily. Among those present were the President and members of the Executive of MCCV and members of the female section of SDC.

After Mass refreshments provided by Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group were served in the foyer of the Maltese Centre.

On **Saturday, 10th September**, Reskeon organised the Vittoria Dinner Dance at Firenze Receptions, Fawkner, which was well attended by more than 170 members and friends. Distinguished guests were the MCCV President, Mr Victor Borg; MCCV Treasurer, Mr Paul Borg and Mrs Pauline Borg; Honorary Life Members of Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group Inc., Dr Clemente Zammit and Mrs Mary Zammit; Fr Edwin Agius, mssp, Rector at Parkville and Fr Dr Victor Shields, mssp. Also with us was Past President of Reskeon, Mr George Scicluna and Mrs Anne Scicluna. An apology was received from Life Member of Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group Inc., Mr Caesar Vella and Mrs Phyllis Vella.

Music entertainment was provided by DJ King Charlie who catered for the music tastes of both young and old and kept everyone on the dance floor all night.

This year we were pleased to see among us a lot of young ones who enjoyed the dinner dance and asked us to let them know for next year.

MC for the night was Mr Joe Cutajar. After he welcomed all those present and thanked President, Mrs Salvina Vella, who single-handedly organised the dinner dance, he invited everyone to be upstanding for the singing of the Maltese and Australian National Anthems. The MC asked everyone to fill their glasses with champagne and made a toast for the Bambina Feast.

The birthdays and an anniversary were announced with a special 60th wedding anniversary of Grace and Alfred Muscat who were surrounded by a large number of family members who they invited for the dinner dance.

Later in the night the Malta Gozo Concert Band, under the direction of Ms Tanya Schembri, played marches for the occasion which created the merriment for the night, similar to that of the Maltese Festas, finishing with the Ave Maria and the Reskeon Theme Song, lyrics by Dr Clemente Zammit and music by the late Laurie Armato. All those attending complimented the way the night was organised, the food and the atmosphere.

On **Sunday, 11th September** Reskeon organised the Feast of Maria Bambina on behalf of the Missionary Society of St Paul, at St Mary Star of the Sea Church, West Melbourne.

Among those present were the President of MCCV, Mr Victor Borg; members of the MCCV Executive; Chev. Joseph Borg represented the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta; Mr George Portelli, Chief Representative of the Bank of Valletta in Australia; members of Sisters from religious Orders and members of the Society of Christian Doctrine. A large number of Maltese Associations attended as well along with their banners, as well as the banners from the four villages and towns where the Bambina is celebrated in Malta and Gozo: Senglea, Mellieha, Naxxar and Xaghra, Gozo.

Rosary was recited at 2.30 pm by Ms Miriam Belli, SDC.

This was followed by a Concelebrated Mass: Prime Celebrant was Fr Dr Victor Shields, mssp and concelebrating with him were Fr Edwin Agius, mssp; Fr Emmanuel Adami, mssp; Fr Lonnie Borg, mssp; Fr Denis Carabott, mssp; and Fr Karm Borg. Master of ceremonies was Frank Siriani. The music and singing was provided by the Maltese Choir of Victoria under the direction of Mr Charles Schembri and Ms Lydia Gusman.

First Reader was Mr Paul Borg while Mr Paul Vella did the second Reading. Prayers of the Faithful were read by Ms Anoinette Bajada (Xaghra Association) and Mrs Yvonne Caruana.

The Sacrificial Offerings were brought to the Altar by Mr Joe Borg and Mrs Josephine Borg; Salvina Vella (President of Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group) and Sylvia Dakin.

After Mass, Fr Edwin thanked all those present and the Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group for organising the Feast on their behalf. Thanks went to Fr Anthony Bernal, Parish Priest of St. Mary Star of the Sea. Thanks went to the statue bearers, forcinas and the Maltese Own Band. This was followed by the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Procession took place in the streets around the church.

Later on refreshments were served to the distinguished guests and the helpers of the Feast.

Thanks to all those Reskeon members who on Friday helped with the taking the statue, pedestal, etc. to St Mary's Church and on Monday doing the same job back to the chapel in Parkville. S

Salvina Vella and Paul Vella

Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group Inc.

Sunday, 20 September 2015

Il-Grupp Letteratura Maltija jippreżenta Programm Muziko-Lettararju

I-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria organizza Programm Mużiko-Lettararju 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, is-Sur Victor Borg u l-Viċi-President, is-Sur 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 tickien, skont kif tuża l-ilsien" u "Ikrah l-uġigh". 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 Ġawhra".



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

Dr Clemente Zammit ma setax ikun magħna u l-kitbiet tiegħu, "Xrar ta' Mhabba" u "Hsiebi Jterraq 'l Hinn" inqara minn Manwel Cassar. Ġużi Camilleri qralna żewġ prożi tiegħu, "Aħbarijiet minn Malta" u "Katarina ż-żur-riqija" u wara dan il-qari kellna intervent mużikali ieħor.

John Muscat qara żewġ poeżiji tiegħu, "Fil-Park" u l-"Il-Merill". Manuel Casha wkoll qralna tliet poeżiji tiegħu, "Art il-Holm", "L-Għarix" u "Magna taż-Żmien". Dak inhar stess Manuel Casha tkellem dwar il-ktieb ġdid 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 kejs u gallettini li ġew ipprovduti b'xejn mill-Grupp.



It-tieni parti tal-programm bdiet billi l-mistieden tagħna dak inhar, il-poeta minn Malta, Antoine Cassar, wara introduzzjoni minn Paul Vella, tkellem ftit dwaru u qal li twieled l-Ingilterra minn ġenituri Maltin u kien niżel Malta u mar joqgħod għand in-nanniet fil-Qrendi fejn kien tħarreg sewwa fl-ilsien Malti. Minn hemm beda jikteb bil-Malti. Huwa qralna parti mill-poeżija tiegħu, "Passaport".

Wara smajna lil Rose Lofaro taqra' żewġ poeżiji tal-membru tagħna, Nazzarene Żerafa li joqgħod Queensland, "Għana ta' Kanarin" u "Timxi Waħedha l-Pinna". Nazzarene, avolja joqgħod 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 Mużiko-Lettararju.

Marie-Louise Anastasi tatna żewġ poeżiji tagħha, "Fil-Holm Inżurek" u "Lil Din l-Art l-Oħra". Hawn kien imiss lil Michael Xuereb b'żewġ poeżiji li kiteb huwa stess, "Tifel Waħdu" u "Għanja ta' Raħħal Ċkejken". Ware

intervall mużikali ieħor, Paul Vella qralna l-proża tiegħu, "L- Amarin Jitkellem" u l-poeżija "Sħab". Imbagħad kien imiss lil Josephine Cassar li tatna epigrammi u limerikki "Żewġ Nisa", "Ix-Xiħ" u "Habi". L-aħħar qari tal-pro- gramm sar minn Ray Anastasi, fejn qralna l-kitba tiegħu, "Sibtu".

Il-programm spicċa b'intervent mużikali ieħor li tassew ferraħ lil dawk preżenti.

Wara kien hemm bibita fejn kulhadd reġa' ha kikkra te jew kafe` u xi haġa tal-ikel bħal pastizzi tal-irkotta u piżelli, pies u sausage rolls, kejks u gallettini u xorb ħafif li ġie pprovdut bla ħlas mill-Grupp.

Grazzi lil dawk li attendew, lil dawk li ħadmu biex dan il-programm ikun wieħed 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-ġhajjnuna tagħhom fil-kċina biex jippreparaw l-ikel: Salvina Vella (Social Secretary), Doris Sammut u Sunta Sultana.



Paul Vella

PRO Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria

Wednesday, 21 September 2016

Maltese community in Melbourne celebrates Malta's Independence Day

On Wednesday 21 September 2016, the MCCV held a Cocktail Party at the Maltese 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. Mr Victor Grech, Consul General for the Malta in the State of Victoria, was unable to attend this function as he was away.

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.

Fr Edwin Agius mssp, Rector at Parkville and MCCV Chaplain, then made a brief address about the role that the Catholic religion has had in the history of Malta and the importance of St Paul's shipwreck in Malta, marking its arrival in the Maltese islands.

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



Appendix B – Maltese Historical Association

The Maltese Historical Association had a very active and productive year. The Annual General Meeting was held in November 2015 and members of the committee for 2015 were re-elected.

The committee members are:

President:	Joseph Borg
Vice-President:	George Portelli
Secretary:	Charles Gatt
Treasurer:	Mario Bonnici
Other members:	Charles Portelli and Lewis Zammit

The MHA activity programme for 2016 was quite varied.

Month	Speaker	Lecture Topic
February	Prof. Yosanne Vella	“Women in Malta in the 18th Century”.
March	Prof Maurice Cauchi	“As others see us”
April	Mr George Portelli	“Grand Master Hompesch – Victim or Villain”
May	Claudia Sagona	“The Archaeology of Malta from the Neolithic to the Roman Period” <i>Book Launch</i>
June	Mr Joseph Borg	“Earthquakes and Tsunamis in Malta”
July	Mr Mario Bonnici	“Malta – a Panorama”
August	Susan Perotti	“City Kid – Lola Russel – a Descendant of the first Maltese settler in Melbourne Antonio Azzopardi” <i>Book Review</i>
September	Mr Joseph Borg	“The Building of Valletta 1566 – Laparelli”
October	Mr Robert Blythe	“Sir Alexander Ball and Part of Malta that Almost was – Lampedusa”

The Annual General Meeting 2016 will be held in November and the first lecture for 2017 will be on the third Tuesday of February

On behalf of the MHA I would like to thank the committee members for their help and support throughout the year, especially Charles Gatt for his work in producing the newsletter, Charles Portelli for his technical support with overhead and sound systems and Mario Bonnici for keeping the books in order.

I also wish to thank all of our speakers for their contribution. Without their support we would not exist. I also want to thank our members and friends who attend our discussions – they also help to keep us going.

Lastly I want to thank the Executive of the MCCV for making the hall available to us.

Joseph Borg
President MHA

Appendix C – MCCV Committees and Memberships

Executive Committee

Victor Borg (President)
Dr Edwin Borg-Manché (Vice President)
Joe Stafrace (Vice President)
Edwina Mallia (Secretary)
Paul Borg (Treasurer)
Rosemary Attard (Welfare Director)
Public Relations (Andrew Gatt)
Antonia Camilleri (Assistant Secretary)
Rita Pullicino (Assistant Treasurer)
Fr Edwin Agius mssp (Chaplain)
Prof. Maurice Cauchi (Immediate Past President)

Finance Committee

Victor Borg (Convenor)
Paul Borg
Joe Stafrace
Dr Edwin Borg-Manché
Rita Pullicino
Andrew Gatt

Community Services & Improvement Committee (Welfare)

Rosemary Attard (Convenor)
Victor Borg
Joseph Stafrace
Maree Rizzo
Andrew Gatt
Rita Pullicino
Lina Camilleri
Joe Sammut

Corporate Governance Committee

Victor Borg (Convenor)
Dr Edwin Borg-Manché
Joseph Stafrace
Paul Borg

Human Resources Committee

Victor Borg (Convenor)
Joe Stafrace
Dr Edwin Borg-Manché
Paul Borg
Edwina Mallia
Lina Camilleri
Andrew Gatt

Library Committee

Prof Maurice Cauchi (Convenor)
Victor Borg
Charlie Belli
Joe Stafrace
Lina Camilleri

Social Committee

Joseph Stafrace (Convenor)
Edwina Mallia
Victor Borg
Andrew Gatt
Lina Camilleri
Rita Pullicino
Andrew Gatt

Risk Management & Physical Resources Committee

Joseph Stafrace (Convenor)
Paul Borg
Rosemary Attard
Victor Borg
Andrew Gatt
Rita Pullicino
Lina Camilleri

Planned Activity Groups Staff

Maree Rizzo (Coordinator)
Mary Boland
Margaret Mallia
Rose Nuner
Theresa Tabone
Neil Ilsley
Irene Grillo (Administrative Assistant)

Bingo Committee

George Brimmer
Guy Deguara
Mary Deguara
Horace Dalli
Joe Sammut
Charlie Borg
Matilda Borg
Maurice Spiteri
Arthur Galea

MEMBERSHIP & COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

HealthWest Partnership (Reducing Gambling Frequency with CALD Communities):

Joseph Stafrace and Andrew Gatt

Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria:

Mr Eddie Micallef (ECCV Chair)

Radio 3ZZZ Board Member: Victor Borg

Radio 3ZZZ Members of Maltese Broadcasting Group: Victor Borg, Joseph Stafrace and Edwina Mallia

Appendix D – Affiliated Associations

Association	President
Australian Nadur Association Inc	Mr Tony Sultana
Bacchus Marsh Good Friday Association Inc	Mr Lewis Strafrace
Ex-Members of the Malta Police Force Ass.	Mr Vince Calleja
Hadfield Golden Years Social Club Inc	Mrs Rita Saliba
Klabb Għannejja Maltin Inc	Mr George Aquilina
Lalor United Bocci Club	Mr David Ellul
Malta Star of the Sea House Inc	Mr Raymond Cini
Maltese Association Hobsons Bay Inc	Chev Joseph Attard
Maltese Association Northern Suburbs	Mr Giacinto Cassar
Maltese Australian Association	Mr Benedict Soler
Maltese Australian Community Centre & Social Club L.V. Inc	Mr Mario Sammut
Maltese Cultural Association of Vic Inc.	Mrs Sandra Grech
Maltese Historical Association of Australia	Mr Joseph Borg
Maltese La Vallette Association	Mrs Carmen Camilleri
Maltese Literature Group	Dr Victor Sammut
Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society Inc	Mr Anselmo Xuereb
Maltese Performing Arts	Mr Ray Anastasi
Maltese Senior Citizens Club Airport West Inc	Mr Alfred Sammut
Maltese Social Bowls Club of Victoria	Mr Gregory Grima
Maltese Ex Services Association of Victoria	Mr Joseph Stafrace
Melita Social Club Inc	Mr Edwin Bonello
Moreland Malt. Elderly Citizens Assoc	Mr John Vella
Newport Maltese Association Inc	Mr George Saliba
Newport Maltese Association Seniors Group	Mr George Saliba
Our Lady of Grace Association	Mr Joseph Cutajar
Portarlinton Maltese Pensioners Assoc Inc	Mr Charles Attard
Reskeon Maltese Assoc and Reskeon Seniors Group Inc	Mrs Salvina Vella
St Bernadette Seniors & Social Club	Mr Alfred Zahra
St Gaetan's Society Inc	Mr Jimmy Chircop
St Helena Maltese-Australian Social Club	Mr Victor Bartolo
St Paul's South Eastern Suburbs Ass Inc	Fr Noel Bianco
St Sebastian Association Inc	Mr Raymond Gatt
Stella Maris Maltese Association	Mr Charlie Xerri
Sunshine George Cross Soccer Club	Mr Jamie Chetcuti
Tarxien Social Club Inc	Mrs Lina Mizzi
Tripoli Social Club	Mr Romeo Cini
Western Suburbs Maltese Association Inc	Mr Vince Aquilina

Appendix E – Maltese Programs on Ethnic Radio & TV Stations

The following is the program schedule for radio and TV broadcasts in the Maltese language in Victoria.

RADIO

SBS RADIO - MELBOURNE

Joe Axiaq
Executive Producer

SBS Radio
PO Box 294,
South Melbourne VIC
3205.
T: (03) 9949 2121
F: (03) 9949 2385
W:



<http://www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/maltese/>

The Maltese programs on SBS radio are broadcast as follows:

- **Fridays at 12 noon** – SBS 2/FM analogue (also on digital radio and digital TV)
- **Saturdays at 2.00 pm** – SBS 2/FM analogue (also on digital radio and digital TV)

Maltese radio programs are also available over the internet as follows:

- Internet Live and On-Demand – <http://www.sbs.com.au/maltese> (live and catch up listening)
- iPhone and Android app – SBS Your Language app (live and catch up listening)
- Podcasts of program segments – <http://www.sbs.com.au/podcasts/your-language/maltese>

3ZZZ ETHNIC COMMUNITY RADIO - 92.3 FM

Mondays and
Fridays 5.00 pm –
6.00 pm,
Saturdays 10.00
am – 11.00 am



Lewis Stafrace

Convenor Maltese Programs
Radio 3ZZZ
144 George Street
North Fitzroy VIC 3068
(03) 9415 1923
(03) 9415 1818 or 9417 1670
W: <http://www.3zzz.com.au>

STEREO 97.4 FM COMMUNITY RADIO



Wednesdays and
Thursdays
6.00 pm - 8.00 pm
(2-hour program)

Wednesdays – **Mr Ray Anastasi**, Co-ordinator
Thursdays – **Mr Charles Zammit**

Stereo 97.4,
594 Geelong Road,
Brooklyn, VIC, 3012.
T: (03) 9318 0444
F: (03) 9318 0866

W:

http://www.stereo974.com/program_grid.php

RADIO 3 RIM 97.9 FM

Tuesdays 6.00 pm to 8.00
pm (2-hour program)



Local Community Radio
Station for western area of
Shire of Melton that can be heard in
Metropolitan Melbourne.

Miriam Vella

Broadcaster
RIM 97.9,
Centenary Avenue,
Melton, VIC, 3337.
T: (03) 9747 0450
F: (03) 9747 0450
W: <http://www.979fm.net/>

RADIO NORTH WEST FM 98.9

Fridays 6.00pm - 7.00pm

Victoria Northern
Suburbs Community
Radio



Emmanuel Brincat

Producer - Presenter

Radio North West FM98.9

Post Office Box 403,

Glenroy, 3046.

T: (03) 9304 1244

F: (03) 9304 1468

W: <http://www.northwestfm.org/>

TELEVISION

PBS News from Malta



Two news bulletin from the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), Malta, are televised **every Thursday and Sunday at 8.00 am** on **SBS TWO**.

Maltese DownUnder tv

Marlene Scicluna
and **Mark Avellino**

Directors,
Presenters &
Producers



Maltese DownUnder is a community TV show produced in Melbourne, showcasing Maltese cultural heritage, the arts, music, food, cultural events and sport. The programs are produced in both Maltese and English to really be inclusive of all Maltese Australians, particularly the younger generations of Maltese in Australia, who do not really relate to Maltese as a spoken language. The show's aim is to inform and entertain our audience through stories that inspire and strengthen the pride of all Maltese Australians.

Maltese DownUnder screens on **C31** (TV channel 44) **every Sunday at 4.00 pm** with a repeat on **Tuesdays at 3.00 pm**. Anyone around the world can watch the show via

LIVE stream on www.c31.org.au as well as on demand at www.c31.org.au/series/1313. For more information go to www.facebook.com/MalteseDownUnder or email maltesetv@gmail.com.

Waltzing Matilda – video archive 2010-12

Waltzing Matilda was a very popular TV program about Maltese in Australia produced by Mrs Josephine Zammit Cordina MQR, AM for many years and used to be shown on the national PBS TV station in Malta as well as Channel 31 in Australia. However, *Waltzing Matilda* is no longer produced. To view past editions of *Waltzing Matilda*, [click here](#).