



MCCV News

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Maltese in Melbourne give new Consul General a warm welcome

The new Consul General of Malta for the State of Victoria, Ms Joanna Pisani, received a warm welcome at a well-attended reception, which was hosted by the Maltese Community Council of Victoria at the Maltese Centre in Parkville on Thursday 21 September 2017. The reception was also held to celebrate the 53rd Anniversary of Malta's Independence.

Among the distinguished guests at the reception were MCCV President Mr Victor Borg; Mr Eddie Micallef, Chairman of the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria; Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, Honorary Consul of Malta for Victoria and MCCV Vice President; Mr Mario Sammut OAM, Honorary Vice Consul of Malta for the Latrobe Valley; Fr Edwin Agius and Fr Lonnie Borg of the Missionary Society of St Paul; and Sr Doris Falzon OP, Administrator of Rosary Home Residential Aged Care facility in Keilor Downs.

In his address MCCV President welcomed Ms Joanna Pisani as the new Consul General of the Republic of Malta for Victoria. He spoke briefly about the long gestation period of Malta's independence, touching upon the history of foreign dominations over the centuries, culminating in the granting of independence to Malta by the British on 21 September 1964.

The Maltese people had to go through a lot of suffering over the years and, particularly during the Second World War, before Malta was able to acquire its independence. Having become a republic in 1974, Malta joined the European Union in 2004.

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Photo: Paul Vella

Current Maltese radio programs retained in new SBS Schedule

The SBS Radio Services Review has been finalised and the outcomes were published on 22 September 2017. The new schedule will take effect on 20 November 2017.

The two weekly one-hour programs in the Maltese language have survived the review. The only change is that the programs will be broadcast on Tuesdays and Fridays both at 12.00 noon, instead of Tuesdays at 12 noon and Saturdays at 2.00 pm. Both programs will be broadcast on the FM Analogue radio network in Melbourne and Sydney and the Friday program will also be broadcast on the same network nationally. The two programs will also be broadcast on Digital Radio



DAB+ (SBS Radio 2) and Digital TV (SBS Radio 2).

There is no change to their accessibility online at www.sbs.com.au/maltese (Listen live or catch up on programs and podcasts), on Social Media at www.facebook.com/SBSMaltese and via iPhone and

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President's Perspective

Same Sex Marriage postal survey is a waste of taxpayers' money

The Australian Government has, in the view of many Australian citizens, abrogated its responsibility to make laws in relation to same sex marriages. The coalition parties have attempted to justify the Government's decision to hold an Australian Marriage Law postal survey on the basis that it was part of their political platform at the last election to hold a plebiscite relating to the matter and give Australians a direct say.

A plebiscite is a compulsory vote by citizens on an issue of significance, which does not affect the Constitution of Australia, and has no legal force. Governments at a national or state level can hold plebiscites to gauge people's support for an idea or action, but they are not bound by the outcome.

The Turnbull Government turned the plebiscite into a postal survey after the *Plebiscite (Same-Sex Marriage) Bill 2016*, the enabling legislation, was twice rejected by the Senate, once in November 2016 and then again in August 2017, which meant there could be no compulsory plebiscite conducted by the Australian Electoral Commission. The Government then by-passed the issue, asking the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to conduct the postal survey.

On 7 September 2017 the High Court of Australia rejected an application to it to prohibit the Government from accessing funds which had been set aside for disasters or other special occasions. It ruled that the federal government had the power under the constitution to fund the survey and there was no error of law in the process of reasoning disclosed by the finance minister.

The survey is estimated to cost taxpayers the sum of 122 million dollars, which could have been spent more appropriately in providing accommodation for the homeless, research and other projects with much higher priority within the community.

There are many who believe that the survey was aimed at placating members of the coalition backbench who had indicated their opposition to changes to the law. The coalition was warned that the exercise would cause community unrest and division, which led it to make regulations similar to those applicable in a general election to minimize the risk.

The survey document itself has been strongly criticized in that the only question it contained is: 'Should the law be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry?' The letter from the ABS, which accompanied the survey, gives no explanation or summary of both sides of the argument. This fact, coupled with public statements made by the Prime Minister, a number of ministers, and the leaders of the opposition parties, assumes that the result of the survey is a foregone conclusion.

Should the community decide otherwise, the Government will then be defying the will of the people in contemplating any changes to the law?

We await the results of the survey in November.

Dual Citizenship obstacle for Federal MPs

In a surprising development, seven sitting members from both Houses of the Australian Parliament were challenged as to their eligibility to maintain their seats having regards to alleged breaches of Section 44 of the Australian Constitution. It was alleged that at the time of their nominations they held dual citizenship which is prohibited by Section 44.

Two of the seven MPs have resigned and the Attorney General referred the remaining five cases to the High Court for its determination and hearings are still proceeding for this purpose. What is most surprising is that even the major political parties had overlooked the requirements of this constitutional provision, when screening individuals to represent them in the various Federal Electorates.

The Australian Constitution has been in existence since 1901, but the provisions of section 44 of the constitution have been subjected to judicial interpretation by the High Court of Australia only in a handful of instances before this latest group. It makes one wonder how many former MPs may have sat in Parliament while in breach of this provision and what effect would that have on their current parliamentary pension entitlements.

It is clear that provisions regulating eligibility for nomination for Federal Parliament elections are fundamental in nature and must not be interpreted out of existence or operation.

An article recently published in *The Sunday Times of Malta*, co-authored by Prof Maurice Cauchi and Dr. Edwin Borg-Manché, reproduced on page 3 of this newsletter, referred to the corresponding situation in Malta. It is interesting that, in contrast to the Australian situation, the Constitution of Malta apparently allows persons with dual citizenship (Maltese and that of another country), to be elected to Parliament, provided that they have not become a citizen of the other country voluntarily and are not under a declaration of allegiance to such a country.

Malta Independence Day Celebrations

It was a pleasure for the MCCV to host a reception to celebrate the 53rd Anniversary of Malta's Independence Day, at the Maltese Community Centre on 21 September 2017. Official guests included Ms Joanna Pisani, the new Consul General of Malta for Victoria, who was introduced to the community; Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, Hon. Consul of Malta for Victoria and MCCV Vice President; Mr Mario Sammut OAM, Hon. Vice Consul of Malta for the Latrobe Valley; Mr Eddie Micallef, Chair of the Ethnic Community Council of Victoria; Maltese priests and nuns, and Presidents of MCCV-Affiliated Associations.

It was very pleasing to see a number of young adults, who are currently attending Maltese language classes at the Centre, also present at the reception. A detailed report about the reception is included in this newsletter.

Victor Borg
MCCV President

Having Dual citizenship: an unmixed blessing?

By Prof. Maurice Cauchi & Dr Edwin Borg-Manché

While most citizens welcome the option of possessing a second citizenship, and many are even prepared to spend millions to possess one, recent events in Australia have highlighted the problems which a second citizenship can unwittingly lead to. Several members of the Federal Parliament have had to resign on finding out that, unbeknown to them, they had also a foreign citizenship through birth in another country or by descent and were ineligible to take a seat in Parliament.

They or their parents were born in Canada, New Zealand, Italy or elsewhere, and did not realise that they or their parents being born in a foreign country is sufficient to make them ineligible to serve in Parliament.

While the benefits of double citizenships are widely known and acknowledged, much less is known about the drawbacks of possessing such multiple citizenships.

Section 44 of the Australian Constitution lists the grounds for disqualification from contesting an election to the Parliament of Australia. Section 44 (i) provides that "Any person who is under any acknowledgement of allegiance, obedience, or adherence to a foreign power, or is a subject or a citizen or entitled to the rights or privileges of a subject or citizen of a foreign power shall be incapable of being chosen or of sitting as a senator or a member of the House of Representatives." By implication, this provision requires members of parliament to have allegiance only to one country (Australia) and, therefore, anyone possessing dual or multiple citizenships would be ineligible to contest parliamentary elections.

What makes compliance with Section 44(i) a rather complex matter for many is the reference to being "entitled to rights or privileges of a subject or citizen of a foreign power", as it typically would not require a voluntary act to be so entitled. Let's not forget that, in reality, everyone living in Australia (except for those of pure Aboriginal heritage) is a migrant or a descendent of a migrant and, therefore, with some family heritage links to a "foreign power".

The most recent case to come to light is that of a Senator born in Australia in 1959, the son of a Cypriot migrant who emigrated to Australia in 1951. The Senator was deemed to be a Colonial UK Citizen by virtue of the British Nationality Act 1948, which was in force until 1983. Cyprus became independent on 16 August 1960. At the time of independence every Cypriot lost their colonial UK citizenship status.

According to the Senator's published official statement, he "would have lost that colonial status as well, if [his] father was living in Cyprus at the time. or in any other country in the world except, according to the then British Nationality Act, these nine countries: Canada, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), India, New Zealand,

Pakistan, Union of South Africa, Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Newfoundland (then a separate dominion, now part of Canada) and Australia."

The UK Home Office advised the Senator that "this whole scenario is a "rare peculiarity". Citizens of the UK and Colonies - CUKCs - without the right of abode in the UK, were reclassified as British Overseas Citizens (BOCs) on the 1st January 1983, after British nationality legislation was modernised."

It would appear that, since Malta was a British colony like Cyprus, the same provisions in the British Nationality Act 1948 are likely to have applied to any Maltese person living in one of the above list of countries, who would have retained their colonial status when Malta became independent in 1964. So, in effect, aspiring Australian politicians of Maltese descent born in Australia with similar circumstances as this Senator's could face the same predicament.

When the Australian parliament resumes in September, the Senator will be seeking the support of the Senate to refer himself to the High Court of Australia, sitting as the Court of Disputed Returns, to determine his eligibility to sit in Parliament. The outcome of this case would, therefore, be of special interest to members of the Maltese community in Australia.

Citizenship in Malta is currently based on blood relationships (*jus sanguinis*). Prior to 1 August 1989, citizenship was based on the principle of *jus soli*, i.e. anyone born in Malta was considered to be a citizen, but this is no longer sufficient to claim citizenship.

Dual citizenship was very restricted since Independence (1964) but all restrictions were removed in February 2000. From then on, with the adoption of the principle of 'once a citizen always a citizen', it became difficult to renounce Maltese citizenship. Any person, either of whose parents was a Maltese citizen, automatically obtained Maltese citizenship, often without appreciating it, and always without acknowledging it.

Many countries around the world allow dual citizenship, including most countries of Europe, North and South America, as well as Australia. This can lead to conflicting situations. Up to April 2002, Australia did not recognise multiple citizenships, a situation which raised several problems. In fact, any person who did 'any act or thing' to acquire a nationality or foreign citizenship' would have automatically lost Australian citizenship.

For instance, in the 1980s one had to renounce Maltese citizenship when applying for Australian citizenship, which was essential to occupy certain positions and professions. In fact, anyone who acquired Australian citizenship before April 2002 had to surrender their Maltese passport.

In 2000, Maltese citizenship law was changed, so that anyone who had to give up their Maltese citizenship on acquiring or retaining the citizenship of any other country, is "deemed not to have ever ceased to be a citizen of Malta," provided they resided in any country outside Malta for an aggregate period of at least six years (Maltese Citizenship Act (Cap.188), Section 9).

While there are currently no persons of Maltese descent serving in the Australian Federal Parliament, it is conceivable that in the future this might be the case. Section 9 of the Maltese Citizenship Act, could potentially cause significant problems for people of Maltese descent wishing to become members of the Australian Parliament, particularly those who acquired Australian citizenship before 2000 (when Section 9 was enacted) and had even renounced Maltese citizenship in the process. Under Section 9 they automatically reverted to being citizens of Malta in 2000, reversing the effect of their prior act of renunciation.

Does Maltese legislation allow those with dual citizenship to serve as parliamentarians? This is particularly relevant given that it is currently estimated that there are more Maltese citizens worldwide with a double citizenship than with only Maltese citizenship.

The qualifications for being elected as a member of the Parliament of Malta are set out in the Maltese Constitution. Section 54 (1) provides that "No person shall be qualified to be elected as a member of the House of Representatives - (a) if he is a citizen of a country other than Malta having become such a citizen voluntarily or is under a declaration of allegiance to such a country."

In contrast to Section 44 (i) of the Australian Constitution, Section 54(1) of the Maltese Constitution appears to allow persons with dual citizenship to be elected to Parliament, provided that they have not become a citizen of another country voluntarily and are not under a declaration of allegiance to such a country. This means that any Maltese citizen, who is also a citizen of another country by reason other than voluntary acquisition or declaration of allegiance, such as, by birth, is qualified to be elected to the Maltese Parliament.

In an age when the demographic composition of Malta is rapidly changing, it is probably becoming relevant to ask the question whether members of Parliament should owe allegiance to Malta only and to no other country, regardless of how the foreign citizenship was acquired or the circumstances resulting in being a citizen of another country.💧

[First published in *The Sunday Times of Malta* on 25.09.2017].

Maltese in Melbourne give new Consul General a warm welcome

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Photo: Frank Abela

Mr Borg then introduced Ms Joanna Pisani (pictured above) to the gathering. He said that Ms Pisani is a career diplomat, with great experience in this area. She joined the Malta civil service in 1976. After 12 years working in the Ministry of Agriculture, she moved to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where she headed the Scholarship Section for 15 years, during which time she was awarded a Quality Service Charter.

In 2003 Ms Pisani was appointed Consul General of Malta in Sydney until 2008. On her return to Malta on 1 March 2008, she was appointed Deputy Chief of Protocol within the Protocol and Consular Services Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On 17 September 2009 she was appointed Acting Director Protocol and Consular Services and on 24 November 2011 she was appointed Director, Protocol and Consular Services.

On 1 July 2015 she was appointed Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of Malta in Dublin, Ireland. On 14 August she took up the post of Consul General of Malta in Melbourne with jurisdiction over the State of Victoria.

Mr Borg welcomed Ms Pisani to Melbourne and said that he was sure that she would enjoy her stay here among the Maltese community. He said that he hoped that the MCCV would continue to maintain the very close relationship with the consular office.

In her reply address, Ms Pisani thanked everyone for their warm welcome. She said that she had previously been Consul General in Sydney but, after nine years, she never dreamt that she would return to Australia to serve as Consul General in Melbourne.

In relation to Malta's independence

day, Ms Pisani said that Malta's location in the heart of the Mediterranean has historically given it strategic importance as a naval base which led to a succession of powers, including the Phoenicians, Romans, Moors, Normans, the Order of St John, the French and finally the British, to rule the

Maltese archipelago.

Ms Pisani said that when Malta gained its independence, it established bilateral relations with Australia. Malta and Australia have outstanding relations, especially by mutual interests, such as, the Commonwealth and the Maltese diaspora. "I have every confidence that this excellent relationship with Australia will continue in the future," she said. Evidence of this excellent relationship is the number of official visits by dignitaries between the two countries. The most recent visit was that of the Maltese President Her Excellency Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca who came to Australia in July last year. The President takes great interest in the second and subsequent generations of Maltese descent.

Ms Pisani said that Malta attaches great importance to the preservation of

Maltese heritage among the Maltese diaspora in Australia. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs helped to facilitate the resolution of consular problems encountered by members of the diaspora by means of the Consul-on-the-Move project which has been very successful.

Ms Pisani referred to another initiative relating to the teaching of the Maltese language over a digital platform. It is hoped that this project will come to fruition in the not too distant future.

She briefly spoke about the reduction in Maltese language programs on SBS Radio from nine to two per week due to a substantial decrease in the Maltese population in Australia according to the census. She stressed the importance of declaring the use of the Maltese language when completing the census.

In closing, Ms Pisani thanked those present for their welcome and she said that she looks forward to working closely together with the Maltese community during her stay on Melbourne.

Following her address, a [recorded video message](#) from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion, the Hon. Carmelo Abela, about Malta and its contributions on the international stage was shown to the audience.

Both Mr Borg and Ms Pisani also addressed in Maltese.

Fr Edwin Agius also addressed the gathering. He said that, throughout its

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Photo: Frank Abela

Consul General Ms Joanna Pisani and MCCV President Mr Victor Borg with members of the younger generations of the Maltese community.

Maltese in Melbourne give new Consul General a warm welcome

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history, Malta and the Maltese have always has a strong relationship with God through the Catholic faith introduced to Malta by St Paul. This

faith is something that the Maltese brought with them to Australia and contributed to the local culture and to the church in Australia. ♦



Photos: Frank Abela

With MCCV Executive Committee members: from left: Vice Presidents Joseph Stafrace, and Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, President Victor Borg, Consul General Joanna Pisani, Secretary Andrew Gatt and Welfare Director Rosemary Attard.

BOV closes down its representative office in Australia

For many years Maltese banks operated branches and representative offices in Australia. Over the years their number dwindled significantly. The last one remaining, Bank of Valletta (BOV), closed its representative office in St. Albans, a suburb to the west of Melbourne where many Maltese reside. The office used to open for a few hours per week.

In a letter sent to their clients in Australia towards the end of June 2017, the BOV informed them that the representative office would be closing from 7 July and from that date forward the banking services would be provided through the BOV International Private Banking located in Valletta. The bank recommended to its clients that they use the online banking services that the bank offers on a 24/7 basis.

This closure causes considerable inconvenience to the largest concentration of Maltese living outside Malta. Naturally, the most disadvantaged are those ageing Maltese who are not familiar with the internet and the use of online services. ♦

New SBS Radio Schedule

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Android app – SBS Radio app (Live, Catch up & Podcasts).

The Review began nearly 12 months ago with a public consultation into the proposed Selection Criteria to be used, in conjunction with the Census 2016 data, to select which languages would be serviced by SBS Radio from the end of 2017.

The MCCV and MCCNSW had made a detailed submission to SBS on the proposed Selection Criteria in December last year.

The population of Maltese who reported that they speak their language at home decreased by 7% during the past 5 years from 34,396 in the 2011 Census to 31,987 in the 2016 Census.

Since SBS last reviewed its services in 2011 more than 1.3 million people have migrated to Australia. An extra 950,000 people now speak a language other than English at home. ♦

SBS Maltese Program Information Summary

Language Population 2011: 34,396*
Language Population 2016: 31,987*

Current language services	Language services from 20 November 2017
FM Analogue Radio: Sydney and Melbourne Two hours of programming – Friday from 12pm to 1pm and Saturday from 2pm to 3pm	Two hours of programming – Tuesday and Friday from 12pm to 1pm
Analogue Radio: All other locations via the SBS National Radio Network (NRN) No service	One hour of programming – Friday from 12pm to 1pm
Digital Radio DAB+ (SBS Radio 2)^A Two hours of programming – Friday from 12pm to 1pm and Saturday from 2pm to 3pm	Two hours of programming – Tuesday and Friday from 12pm to 1pm
Digital TV (SBS Radio 2)^E Two hours of programming – Friday from 12pm to 1pm and Saturday from 2pm to 3pm	Two hours of programming – Tuesday and Friday from 12pm to 1pm
Online at www.sbs.com.au/maltese (Listen live or catch up on programs and podcasts)	No change/service continues
On Social Media at www.facebook.com/SBSMaltese	No change/service continues
iPhone and Android app – SBS Radio app (Live, Catch up & Podcasts)	No change/service continues

Adrian Delia is the new PN leader

On Sunday 17 September 2017 Dr Adrian Delia was elected as the new leader of the Nationalist Party in Malta, replacing Dr Simon Busuttil. Dr Delia won 7,734 votes (53%) from the party members in a heated contest against his rival Dr Chris Said, for whom 6,932 members voted.

Dr Delia, a lawyer from Birkirkara, began his career as legal counsel for Mid-Med Bank before branching out as a litigator. He is a senior partner in Aequitas Legal and, until a few months ago, served as president of Birkirkara FC.

"From tomorrow, people will hear the PN speak with one voice, with a strong voice, a stable voice," Dr Delia told a crowd at the Granaries at around 12.50am when his victory became clear.

Dr Said conceded defeat via Twitter, congratulating his rival and urging his followers to focus on "uniting the party". Dr Busuttil also took to Twitter, congratulating his successor on his win while telling him that he now had "the responsibility of finishing what we started."

The two leaders, past and present, appeared on stage together at 1.15am and shook hands. Dr Delia then gave his first address as PN leader.

Dr Delia used the speech to reassure party members that he wanted to continue the "battle" for truth and honesty which his predecessor had started, saying "we will continue to fight it with all our energy and will."

He also made it clear that he would be doing some things differently, telling the crowd that while the PN he led would continue to speak out against wrongdoing, he wanted it to be "a constructive opposition."

"We must condemn that which is wrong," he said. "But this will be a PN which shows that there is no room for hatred in Malta."



Hatred and divisiveness, he went on to say, were the biggest challenges facing the PN and the nation.

Speaking to journalists, he said that he had spoken with his rival Dr Said and urged him to begin working with him "from tomorrow morning" to unite the party.

Finding a seat in Parliament

Dr Delia now needs to find a PN Member of Parliament who would be willing to give up their seat so he can take up his role as Leader of the Opposition. However, his road to a parliamentary seat may be more arduous than most of his supporters thought it would be.

The clearest way for him to get into Parliament would be if any one of the five Nationalist Party MPs elected in a casual election were to resign their seat.

If that happens, the law states that the vacated seat would have to be filled by co-option, which means the onus would fall on the PN's executive to catapult Dr Delia into Parliament.

However, one of the five PN MPs elected through a casual election is Godfrey Farrugia, who now sits in Parliament as a Democratic Party MP and is effectively out of the PN's control.

This reduces the options to four names: PN administrative president Karol Aquilina, former Naxxar mayor Maria Deguara, former Mosta mayor Ivan Bartolo and former European People's Party staffer David Stellini.

However, on Monday 18 September all four MPs yesterday ruled out giving up their seat so that the PN chief could make it to Parliament and sworn in as Opposition leader. Unless one of the four MPs elected through a casual election is hiding the truth, this leaves Dr Delia with a riskier route to Parliament. The PN leader may have MPs within the party fold willing to give up their seat – Gozitan MP Frederick Azzopardi yesterday said he was willing to be of service to the party – but their resignation would automatically trigger a casual election.

Dr Delia cannot contest a casual election, because he was not even a candidate in the last election.

His option would be to convince all unelected PN candidates on the district where the seat would be given up not to contest the casual election, allowing the PN to co-opt someone instead.

But while Dr Delia may convince all unelected PN candidates to refrain from contesting the casual election, he will still have to contend with the PD candidates who ran under the PN flag. This is an added complication, unless he convinces the PD not to contest an eventual casual election. However, the PD is unlikely to do Dr Delia any favours, with departing leader Marlene Farrugia telling Times of Malta newspaper she was not for turning.

With Parliament slated to open on October 1 and the Budget expected a week later, Dr Delia's route to Parliament is a race against time. He would want to enter Parliament and take up the mantle of Opposition leader in time to deliver his reaction to the Budget.

Political outsider

Dr Delia won over the majority of PN members despite much of the party administration making it clear they favoured insider Dr Said. Media reports questioning his financial solvency and business interests as well as allegations that he helped move money linked to a prostitution ring in Soho (London) also failed to dent his popularity with PN grassroots members.

A political newcomer who has never previously contested an election on a party ticket, Dr Delia's leadership pitch hinged on his promise of a 'new way' of doing politics.



[Sourced from reports on timesofmalta.com]

Six challenges facing the new leader

In an article by published in the *Times of Malta* just after Dr Delia's victory, journalist Bertrand Borg listed the following as the six big challenges ahead for the new leader:

- 1. Stopping the PN's internal bleeding.** One of Dr Delia's first tasks as PN leader will be to rally the troops and unite an Opposition which has frayed at the seams over the course of the party leadership race.
- 2. Getting a parliamentary seat.** The new PN leader also faces a more pragmatic challenge: obtaining a parliamentary seat.
- 3. Delivering a strong budget reaction and making electoral inroads.** Should Dr Delia sail into parliament, his first major test as Opposition leader will come in three weeks' time once Finance Minister Edward Scicluna delivers his Budget 2018 speech.

4. Fleshing out what is 'new' about his 'new way'. Dr Delia's rallying cry for 'a new way' of doing politics ignited interest in his candidacy and carried him to victory in both rounds of the electoral process.

5. Reconciling Simon Busuttil's PN with his own. Although Dr Delia will be keen to stamp the party with his own imprint, he will nevertheless have to build his vision atop foundations laid by his predecessor – something he alluded to in his first words as party leader.

6. Not finding himself on the back foot. Having faced questions about anything from prostitutes in Soho to offshore accounts and seven-figure debts, Dr Delia has already been heavily exposed before he has even set foot in the arena of national politics.

Maltese Parliament passes controversial Marriage Equality legislation

On 12 July 2017 Malta joined 14 other European countries to legalise gay marriage in Parliament after MPs from both sides of the House voted in favour of the Marriage Equality Act. The Act recognises homosexual marriage by “modernis[ing] the institution of marriage,” as described by Equality Minister Helena Dalli.

In comments to the press, when asked what message the Prime Minister has for people like who are opposed to gay marriage, he said that in 1973, when the country decriminalised homosexuality, the public said that the move would be a disaster. He said that the same story took place for divorce and the civil union act.

With reference to the decision by PN MP Edwin Vassallo to vote against the Bill, he Muscat stressed that everybody's beliefs and choices should be respected.

"This is a natural progression, a natural evolution of society." Muscat added that this was an important move for equality, and most importantly today's children do not have to feel ashamed or hide their sexual orientation and enjoy the same rights as everybody else.

Nationalist Party MP Edwin Vassallo, who made waves by voting against the Bill at the second reading, stood up to say that he again would be voting against at this final stage:

"I spent the last days trying to find a compromise in my mind that while I declare that I am against, I am voting in favour in order to toe the party line. I understand the separation between the state and church, but I believe that if a liberal person comes into Parliament, and pushes their beliefs that does not mean that as a Christian politician, I should not push my beliefs.

"With respect to my beliefs, the people, the Parliament and society I will be voting against this law."

When asked by The Malta Independent whether Vassallo's decision to vote against the Party Whip and the Bill exposes a split within the PN, Busuttil said that it is no secret that not everybody in Malta is in favour of the Bill.



He appealed for everybody to respect each other's beliefs, adding that it would be a shame if in society we cannot respect divergent views.

The Act makes it legal for any and all consenting adult couples, be it of the same sex or different, have the right to enter into a marriage. The draft bill is not a new piece of legislation in itself, but seeks to amend many clauses throughout Malta's laws.

One of the main bones of contention was the government's proposal to replace all gender specific terminology, such as 'mother', 'father', 'husband' and 'wife' into gender neutral terminology such as 'parent' and 'spouse'.

The Nationalist Party had presented some 80 amendments to the Bill in order to retain the gender specific terminology but also add clauses so that homosexual married couples are recognised by law. The government rejected all amendments calling them 'discriminatory', and stressing that the way in which the Bill was drafted closes any legal loopholes that could otherwise arise.

Despite this, outgoing PN leader Simon Busuttil declared that his party would be voting in favour of the Bill, keeping in faith with the party's electoral manifesto, and that it would not be giving MPs a free vote. This was decided on the basis that candidates contesting the elections all knew that gay marriage was on the party's manifesto.

Nationalist MP Edwin Vassallo shocked his fellow MPs and the public

when he declared in Parliament, during the Bill's second reading, that he does not agree with the way in which the Bill has been proposed and voted against it.

Voting takes place at the second reading stage, the committee stage, and then a final one which is called the third reading. This evening Parliament carried out the third reading, and voted gay marriage into law.

On Tuesday evening, some 150-200 protestors gathered outside Parliament to voice their opposition to gay marriage, saying that marriage should be between a man and a woman. Protestors held that they wanted the public to know that not everybody in Malta is in favour of gay marriage.

Tonight a celebration is underway with people descending upon Castille square on this historic day. The celebrations have been organised by the government. Two years ago when Parliament voted in favour of Civil Unions and gay adoption, celebrations were held outside the old Parliament building in St George's Square. ♦

[Source: The Malta Independent]

Maria Bambina Feast in Melbourne

By Paul Vella

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

On Thursday 7 September 2017, Fr Dr Victor Shields, mssp celebrated Mass in St. Paul's Chapel, next to the Maltese Centre, Parkville. Concelebrants were Fr Edwin Agius mssp, Rector at Parkville, and Fr Lonnie Borg mssp. About 80 members of the Maltese community attended.

The Homily was delivered by Fr Dr Victor Shields mssp, who was on a visit to Melbourne from Malta. Among those present were the MCCV President, Mr Victor Borg, and members of the Executive and members of the female section of SDC.

At the conclusion of the Mass, Fr Edwin Agius thanked all those who helped organise this Mass, including Reskeon and Mr Alfred Asciak who decorated the chapel. After Mass, refreshments were served by Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group at the Maltese Centre.

On Saturday 9 September 2017, Reskeon organised the Vittoria Dinner Dance at Firenze Receptions, Fawkner, which was well attended by more than 200 members and friends. Distinguished guests were Fr Dr Victor Shields, mssp; MCCV Treasurer and Hon Auditor of Reskeon, Mr Paul Borg and Mrs Pauline Borg; Reskeon Ex-President and Co-Ordinator, Mr Caesar Vella and Mrs Phyllis Vella; Reskeon Past President, Mr George Scicluna and Mrs Anne Scicluna; MCCV Secretary, Mr Andrew Gatt and Mrs Annie Gatt; MCCV Ladies' Auxiliary President, Mrs Marlene Xerri and Mr Andrew Xerri. Apologies were received from the Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Ms Joanna Pisani; Fr Edwin Agius, mssp; MCCV President, Mr Victor Borg; and Reskeon Honorary Life members, Dr Clemente Zammit and Mrs Mary Zammit; and Mr Laurie Bartolo and Mrs Theresa Bartolo.

Music was provided by DJ King Charlie who catered for the music enjoyed by 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. There were also new members of the community who enjoyed the night so much that they will be attending next year's event and will bring more friends with them.

MC for the night was Mr Joe Cutajar who was voted best MC in the Maltese Community by Reskeon members. After he welcomed those present and thanked Reskeon President, Salvina Vella, who single-handedly organised the dinner



Photo: Paul Vella

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.

Entrée was antipasto, second course was ricotta cannelloni with Bolognese sauce, main course was chicken Kiev and roast beef with vegetables, followed by Cassata ice cream, a fresh fruit platter and coffee with Continental cakes. Beer, red and white wine and soft drinks were served all night.

Later in the night the Malta-Gozo Concert Band, under the direction of Ms Tanya Schembri, played for about 40 minutes marches for the occasion, adding to 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.

On Sunday, 11 September 2017 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 Honorary Consul of Malta for Victoria and MCCV Vice President Dr Edwin Borg-Manché; MCCV President, Mr Victor Borg; members of the MCCV Executive; Chev. Joseph Borg, who represented the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, Rhodes and Malta; members of religious orders and the Society of Christian Doctrine. A large number of Maltese Associations attended 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 3.00 pm by Ms Miriam Belli, SDC. This was followed by a Concelebrated Mass. Prime Celebrant was Fr Denis Carabott, mssp; concelebrants were Fr Edwin Agius, mssp, Rector at Parkville; Fr Dr Victor Shields, mssp; Canon Fr Emmanuel Bonello; Fr Karm Borg; and Fr Lonnie Borg, mssp, who gave a beautiful Homily. 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 Vella, while the second Reading was done by Dr Edwin Borg Manché. Prayers of the Faithful were read by Ms Mary Bonello (Xaghra Association) and Mrs Phyllis Vella.

The Sacrificial Offerings were brought to the Altar by Mr Joe Borg and Mrs Madeleine Vella; Salvina Vella (President of Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group) and Secretary, Paul Vella.

During Mass two collections took place: one going towards the Missionary Society of St Paul and the second one going towards the Church of St Mary Star of the Sea.

After Mass, Fr Edwin Agius thanked all those present and the Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group for organising the Feast on their behalf. He thanked Fr Anthony Bernal, Parish Priest of St. Mary Star of the Sea, the statue bearers, *forcinas* and the Maltese Own Band, who this year were celebrating the 40th anniversary of their foundation. The MSSP and Reskeon also were celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Feast. This was followed by the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Procession then took place in the streets around the church. ♦

Augustinian Sisters celebrate 60 years of religious ministry in Australia

On Sunday 24 September 2017 the Augustinian Sisters, Servants of Jesus and Mary, celebrated 60 years of their religious ministry in Australia with a thanksgiving mass held at St Martin De Porres parish church in Avondale Heights.

The main celebrant was Auxiliary Bishop Terence Curtin who was assisted by eight concelebrants Fr Brendan Hayes, Fr Nhan Le, Fr Anthony Kerin, Fr John Taliana mssp, Fr Denis Carabott mssp, Fr Carm Borg, Fr Ivano Burdian mssp and Fr Edwin Aguis mssp.

Among the congregation present were Ms Joanna Pisani, Consul General of Malta for Victoria; Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, Honorary Consul of Malta for Victoria; and Mr Victor Borg, President of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria. Sr Tessie Bezzina, Rev Mother General of the Augustinian Sisters, was also present.

In his homily, Bishop Curtin spoke about the life and strong faith of the founder of the Augustinian Sisters, the Venerable Maria Teresa Spinelli, who was declared Venerable by Pope Francis in October 2016.

Bishop Curtin then spoke about the mission of the order in Australia, which started 60 years ago with the arrival of five nuns in Melbourne on 25 February 1957, opening their school on 12 March. The initial years were not easy and the sisters in Malta thought that Australia was too hard and the nuns should go back. However, Sr Evodia Bonnici decided that they should persevere and stay. The community in Australia was the first overseas mission for the order and it was followed by missions in the Philippines, England, Africa (Congo), United States, India and Brazil.



Photo: Edwin Borg-Manché

Fr John Taliana mssp, Parish Priest of St Bernadette's, North Sunshine, also addressed the congregation. He thanked and congratulated the order on reaching this beautiful milestone of 60 years of ministry in Australia, and particularly at St Bernadette's.

"As a migrant myself, I can only imagine the culture shock that the pioneer sisters experienced when they travelled from the small island of Malta to this island continent. They were hard and challenging times. One had to settle down and embrace their new home and also had to run a Catholic primary school, which they continued to administer until recently. We shall always be grateful," said Fr Taliana.

"You have been a religious presence and witness in our parish. You have preached without ever going to the lectern. You have ministered to the sick by visiting them and administer the Eucharist. You visited homes with the statue of Our Lady and prayed the Rosary with them. You prepare children for the sacraments. Sr Renata has been the parish

sacristan which she does with love. We will also be grateful," he said, before presenting Sr Lorraine Testa with a token gift to the order.

Sr Lorraine Testa then addressed the congregation. She said that that it has been a long but good journey. There were times when the direction may not have been clear. But at all times the nuns kept faithful to the spirit of the order's founder. She thanked Fr Nhan Le, the parish priest of Avondale Heights, for allowing them to have this important celebration in his parish.

"It's another way of saying 'We are here!' And whether it be through the smile, on the phone, or through letters or through emails, the Augustinian presence will continue in Australia," said Sr Testa. She thanked all those present for joining in the celebration.

The Augustinian order consists of about 340 sisters from nine countries and working on five continents.

The mission of the Augustinian Sisters in Australia started in 1956 when there was an approach made to Mother General Sr. M. Caterina Galieti to provide the parish of North Sunshine with a team of nuns to be involved in various parochial activities.

So, in 1957 the first community of Augustinian Sisters arrived in Melbourne before their convent had been completed. The Sisters of St. Joseph (Josephites), under the care of Sr. Forrester, at Maidstone, made room in their convent for the first Augustinians for 10 months.

In December 1957, sisters moved into their convent at 59a Westmoreland Road, North Sunshine. Since then, the congregation also had houses in Broken Hill (1964-1970); Frankston (1970-1982); Avondale Heights (since 1986).

In all these parishes, the sisters have been involved in education; pastoral care, sacristan / home visitation to St. Bernadette's Parish; adult education for those preparing to enter the Church; marriage preparation, catechism classes; organising and leading parish communion services for the many times that there are no priests available for weekly mass; and running retreat days for young adults and parish groups, spiritual direction. ♦



Photo: Edwin Borg-Manché

Back L to R: Fr Brendan Hayes, Fr John Taliana, Fr Denis Carabott, Fr Nhan Le, Bishop Terence Curtin, Fr Anthony Kerin, Fr Carm Borg, Fr Ivano Burdian, Fr Edwin Aguis. Front: L to R: Sr Anna Chircop (half view), Sr Renata Cross, Sr Cresilda Villas, Sr Marlene Falzon, Sr Ninette D'Amato (General Secretary, Rome), Sr Tessie Bezzina (Mother General, Rome), Sr Connie Mamo, Sr Lorraine Testa

Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria

Programm Mużiko-Letterarju 2017

Minn Paul Vella

Nhar il-Hadd, 17 ta' Settembru, il-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria organizza Programm Mużiko-Letterarju, fis-sala taċ-Ċentru Malti f'Parkville, fis-2 pm li għalih attendew madwar 70 membru tal-Komunità Maltija.

Bdejna biex skużajna ruġna minhabba li ma kellniex aċċess għas-“sound system” u lanqas mikrofonu imma xorta wahda kollox mar sewwa.

Din is-sena ma kellniex il-mużiċisti tas-soltu minhabba li kellhom membri l-isptar u oħrajn li kienu msefrin.

Imma l-President, Dr Victor Sammut, salvana fl-aħħar minuti u organizza l-mużika u l-kant mill-familja tiegħu li kulhadd ha pjaċir bihom u veru haqqhom prosi kbir.

Bhas-soltu bdejna bl-Innu Malti u dak Awstraljan fejn it-tifla ta' Victor u Doris Sammut, Amanda Steidle, kantat u daqqet l-Innijiet fuq il-kitarra.

Il-PRO, Paul Vella, ta merħba lil daww prezenti fejn introduċa lill-Viċi President, Marie Louise Anastasi fejn fost affarijiet oħra ntroduċiet lill-President, Dr Victor Sammut li tana rendikont ta' dak li l-Grupp għamel matul is-sena. Huwa fisser l-għan tal-Grupp, u qal li niltaqgħu darba kull xahar u stieden lil daww prezenti li forsi jridu jsiru membri. Tkelllem fuq il-Folju tagħna li jmur lil madwar 500 ruh fuq l-internet, organizzat minn Paul Vella bl-ghajnuna tal-membri Rose Lofaro.

Wara l-messaġġ tal-President kien imiss lin-neputijiet ta' Victor u Doris li tawna reċta qasira “Jack and the Beanstalk”. Hadu sehem Ronin u Coen (ulied it-tifel Raphael); Zoe u Leo (ta' binthom Amanda) kif ukoll hadu sehem (kbar) Amanda, Cecilia, Janette u Doris. Din ir-reċta intlaqgħet tajjeb hafna.

Wara dan beda l-qari. Victor Sammut qralna “Il-Papa u l-Lhud” u “Sabiha l-Hajja?” u warajh smajna lil Manwel Cassar u qralna numru ta' epigrammi. Rosemary Attard qrat żewġ poeziji ta' Joe Saliba (illum mejjet), “Barbecue” u “Ghasfur tal-Bejt”. Filwaqt li Charles Attard qralna żewġ poeziji ta' Manwel Nicholas-Borg (illum mejjet), “Hmura” u “Tfulija fl-Irgulija”.

Wara intervent mużikali minn Amanda, Cecilia u Victor, Rose Lofaro qrat proża ta' Dr Clemente Zammit (li ma setgħax ikun magħna): “Suspetti Bla Rażan”.

Wara li Ġużi Camilleri qralna żewġ prozi minn tiegħu, “Il-Hajja tar-Raghaj u Martu” u “Frangiska” wasalna għall-intervent mużikali ieħor u din id-darba



Photos: Paul Vella

Amanda kantat il-kompożizzjoni tagħha “Thirty Years in Australia” li hi kitbet fl-okkażjoni li l-familja ċcelebraw dan l-avveniment fid-9 ta' Mejju ta' din is-sena. Kanzunetta sabiha hafna.

Imbagħad kien imiss li John Muscat li qralna żewġ poeziji tiegħu, “Ix-Xita” u “Lid-Dinja”. Manwel Casha kiteb erba' poeziji li Paul Vella qara minhabba li Manwel ma setgħax ikun magħna: “Lill-Poeta”, “Lil Karmnu”, “Lil M.M.” u “Fid-Dell ta' Vestru”.

Hawn waqafna għall-intervall fejn kulhadd kellu ċ-ċans jiegħu kikkra te jew kafè, kejk u gallettini li ġew provduti b'xejn mill-Grupp.

Wara l-intervall, Rose Lofaro qrat żewġ poeziji tal-membri tagħna li jgħix fi Queensland, Nazzarene Zerafa, li avolja jinsab tant ‘il bogħod huwa membru attiv hafna, “Metamorfosi” u “Mument Ikrah, Mudlam, Sewdieni”. Marie Louise Anastasi qrat żewġ poeziji tagħha, “Mejju.. f'Malta” u “F'Inżul ix-Xemx”. Hawn kien imiss lil George Portelli li qralna poezija sabiha tal-Professor Oliver Friggieri, “Hekk Biss Ikun Poeta”.

Wara li Michel Xuereb qralna żewġ poeziji tiegħu, “Il-Mara bl-Għonella” u “Is-Skiet” kien imiss għall-intervent

mużikali ieħor minn Amanda, Cecilia u Victor.

Bdejna noqorbu lejn it-tmiem u hawn kien imiss lil Paul Vella li qralna l-proża tiegħu stess, “Pietru u Sant' Antnin” u fl-aħħar Fredu Cachia qralna erba' poeziji li kiteb huwa stess, “Barumbara”, “Għidtilha Nhobbok”, “Imnarja 2017” u “Mill-Vrus Maltin”.

Spicċajna b'intervent mużikali ieħor, din id-darba minn Simone Cremona, li għalkemm ma setgħetx tkun magħna xorta bagħtet materjal fuq il-laptop.

Wara li hadna ritratt għall-okkażjoni kulhadd mar fil-foyer taċ-Ċentru biex hadna kikkra te jew kafè, “pies” u “sausage rolls”, kejk u gallettini li kollox ġie provdut b'xejn mill-Grupp.

Nirringrazzjaw lil daww kollha li għenu biex dan l-avveniment ikun suċċess, speċjalment lil Salvina Vella (Social Secretary) li għamlet ix-xiri u t-tisjir u lil Doris Sammut u Sunta Sultana tal-ghajnuna tagħhom fil-kċina u t-tqassim tal-ikel. Grazzi lil Paul Vella u Rose Lofaro għall-ktieb li fih kien hemm il-materjal kollu moqri fil-Programm Mużiko-Letterarju ta' din is-sena. 💧

Maltese DownUnder TV show is back on air for Season 4 on Channel 31

The popular Maltese DownUnder TV program in its Season 4 is back on air on Channel 31 (C31). The original plan was to produce Season 4 earlier on this year when C31's broadcast licence was first extended by the Federal Government for 6 months. The reviews for the program were really good and encouraging, with viewers asking for more.

The production team led by Marlene Scicluna and Mark Avellino approached a large number of businesses and companies run by Maltese. Unfortunately, only a handful of sponsors were interested in sponsoring the program. As for the first three seasons the production depended on financial support from the same few sponsors, the team felt that running a crowd funding campaign might help to ease the pressure off them. However, that campaign was not successful and not enough funds could be raised in time to start production. Only four Maltese Associations and Groups in Melbourne pledged their support.

With the second broadcast licence extension granted by the Federal Government and with the constant great reviews, the production team decided to give it another go and the response has been great. With some hard work, the required sponsors came on board. The team found it very frustrating to see Maltese businesses not backing initiatives, like *Maltese DownUnder*, who now have a proven record of attracting good audiences, both on free to air TV and online.

The basic criteria for interviews on *Maltese DownUnder* are that the people interviewed on the program are Maltese in Australia or Australians of Maltese descent. The aim is to inform and entertain our audience through stories that inspire and strengthen the pride of all Maltese Australians. This is why the show is bilingual, Maltese and English, to preserve and strengthen the cultural links for all Maltese Australians. Among those features are artists, musicians, sports people, actors, authors, cultural themes and food.

In its first 3 seasons *Maltese DownUnder* has featured 108 stories. Among those interviewed were soprano Amelia Farrugia, actor Paul Capsis, fashion designer Jason Grech, musicians Nicky Bomba and Fr Robert Galea, international DJ Joven Grech of Tenishia, painter Paul Borg, cabaret artist Danielle Asciak, film director Grant Scicluna, ocean rower Tim Spiteri, children's author Deborah Abela and the President of Malta, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca.

Going by the statistics provided by C31, an average of 1500 people watch each episode of the show on C31's apps for iOS, Android, Smart TVs and the web. To date, there were about 11,000 views on the YouTube channel, which was set up not that long ago.



With the show available not just on free to air TV in Melbourne but also via our online platforms, the featured stories were expanded to NSW for Seasons 2 and 3.

A show teaser is available from the Facebook page www.facebook.com/MalteseDownUnder. The production team also reached out to electronic newsletters such as this newsletter *MCCV News* and *The Voice of the Maltese*, as well as community radio Stereo 974 to spread the word. A YouTube channel www.youtube.com/channel/UCD-Gopxuli31s9S0ZEJw6AA was set up where we are uploading every single segment individually, so viewers can pick and choose which segment to view.

Coming up in Season 4 are interviews with artists, actors, musicians, inventors, sports people, entrepreneurs, prominent person-

alities, a former homicide detective, authors and an interesting migration story linked to the very first Maltese settler in Melbourne; as well as food and a few interviews related to the Maltese community in Australia.

Tune in on C31 (channel 44 in Melbourne) every Sunday at 4pm with repeats on Monday at 2pm and Tuesday at 2.30pm or watch anywhere around the World via LIVE stream on www.c31.org.au/series/1313 where you can also find our latest shows on demand.

For those with a smart TV who are able to access YouTube, search for *Maltese DownUnder*, subscribe to our channel and you can watch the individual segments on demand, on your TV.

For more information you can follow the program news on their Facebook page, *Maltese DownUnder* or via twitter on [@maltesetv](https://twitter.com/maltesetv). Alternatively you may send an email to maltesetv@gmail.com.

Marlene Scicluna presented with MCCV Community Award

Ms Marlene Scicluna, a prominent member of the Maltese community in Melbourne, was presented with a MCCV Community Award for services to the Maltese community in the field of culture at the reception held on 21 September 2017 at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville to mark the 53rd Anniversary of Malta's Independence and to welcome the new Consul General, Ms Joanna Pisani.

When the 2016 Awards presentation was made to the recipients on Sunday 18 June 2017 Ms Scicluna was unable to attend to receive her award. Marlene Scicluna was born in Sydney in 1969 of an Aboriginal mother and an American father. When she was three years of age, she was adopted by a Maltese couple and taken to Malta, where she was brought up in the village of Xaghra in Gozo.

During her 14 years as producer and broadcaster at SBS Radio, Marlene made a significant contribution to culture within the Maltese community in Australia. With her professionalism as a broadcaster and her mastery of the Maltese language, she became a household name among the Maltese in Melbourne.



Photo: Frank Abela

Consul General Joanna Pisani (left) presented the Award certificate to Marlene Scicluna.

Appreciation

John Zammit (1926-2017)

John Zammit was born on 20 May 1926 in the town of Paola, Malta. His was a very happy life until the age of 14, when war broke out and Malta became a country under siege. From 1940 to 1942 it was under constant bombardment. John witnessed the loss of many lives – none more sad than that of his grandparents, whose house was flattened in one of the many attacks. These painful memories of war lived with John for the rest of his life.

John left home one day after his 17th birthday, when he joined the British military occupation forces, as a civilian in Tripoli, Libya in North Africa. It was during his time there, at the age of 19, when delivering a message from Malta to the Cassar family that he met the love of his life - Jane Cassar.

After a two-year courtship, aged 21, he married Jane. This was to be a beautiful union between two people who would remain devoted to one another for an amazing 69 years and 7 months.

Still in Tripoli and now employed as a district clerk for the Hom/Cussabat district in North Africa, John became a father. In 1949, when he was 23, his first child Dorothy was born. Fatherhood brought immense happiness to John, a role he loved and treasured all his life. Imagine his ecstasy when in 1953, his first son Saviour was born. John was 27.

John was an adventurer. For many years he had read about this huge continent called Australia - full of opportunities but on the other side of the world. He would tell Jane often about these opportunities hoping he would infect her with his enthusiasm.

So in July 1955, John undertook the long 8-day trip by air to Melbourne, via Sydney, in Australia, where he would settle before bringing his young family out in Sept that year. They also flew into Sydney and John was there to greet them. The re-united family flew together to Melbourne. John met them in Sydney because he couldn't be one more day without them.

Life began in Australia at 86 Highett St Richmond. It was there that John was blessed with his second son - little Aussie Vincent - his family was complete.

It was at this time that John went to work for the state electricity commission (the old SEC). He worked hard, he took on extra studies, and gained many promotions culminating in the position of the Secretary of the Approvals Board of the SEC. He held this position for 20 years until he retired aged 58. It was a most rewarding career.

John loved Australia and the unlimited opportunities he could see. In 1958 John and Jane purchased their first home and moved their very young family to Glenroy. Miles and miles of beautiful open space, no made roads, no gutters, really no infrastructure - but lots of fresh unpolluted air John said, but Jane was less than happy!



So there in the middle of nowhere, John's community spirit kicked in. He came to realise lots of fresh air was great but the community needed roads, storm water drainage, buses, and parks. So John formed "the Progress Association Committee". All meetings were held in his lounge room and John began the process of canvassing members of parliament until one at a time infrastructure in his community became complete, including a park for the neighbourhood children.

At the same time John's love of Australia's opportunities was being shared with friends back home, who were seeking to ensure a better life for their children. John sponsored many families to Australia, the Minglis, the Gabrieles, the Grechs and the Schembris to mention just a few.

John saw the need for immigrants to interact with a strong healthy support system so along with Paul Paris and Father Galea and others he helped establish the Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV). John Zammit was one of the founding members and its first Secretary.

This council provided Maltese immigrants with lots of support, helping them find employment, translators and help with simple paperwork. They ran charity nights to collect money to help families suffering financially. He would visit families in their homes to ensure they were settling in and he'd help resolve many of their problems while settling into their new country.

One of the recurring issues was the attainment of drivers licences without a good grasp of English. So in 1964, as MCCV Secretary, John went to Canberra to campaign and he lodged a request for licence tests to be published in the language of each culture. His argument was this would increase opportunities for employment and aid in their successful settlement in their new country. South Australia was the first state to offer driver licence questions in other languages followed closely by the rest of Australia.

John remained active within the community he lived in and the Maltese community until his retirement at 58.

Retirement took John to Dromana and, on Jane's insistence, they joined Main Ridge Lawn Bowls Club - and he became Secretary of the Executive Committee and re-wrote the constitution of the club. Interestingly, at about the same time, John took to writing a book - a fictional story that read really well and many of us thought he should have tried to have it published. He loved words. While he enjoyed his bowling, what he really enjoyed was the camaraderie and friendships he formed.

He spent many wonderful years within the lawn bowling fraternity and, once again, that generous nature of his to include everyone came up with the idea that Malta should field a bowling team in the upcoming commonwealth games to be held in Melbourne. Sounds simple and realistic provided you don't acknowledge that (a) no one in Malta plays lawn bowls, (b) Malta has no bowling club or even a green and, as a result, (c) Malta was not a member of the Commonwealth Lawn Bowling Federation.

As to the fine details of this impossible task we'd need John himself to take us through the long, slow frustrating administrative process - but he succeeded. Lawn bowlers residing in Australia of Maltese heritage were able to compete in round robin playoffs to qualify to represent Malta in the Commonwealth Games.

He then engaged a world class coach, Rex Johnston, to train the Maltese team, which would compete in the 2006 Commonwealth Games, and John was Team Manager.

At the age of 80 he was the oldest person to march in the Opening Ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. Only Her Royal Highness the Queen sitting in the stands was older by one month. He resided in the athletes' village with the team- he met and chatted with many interesting people including Prince Edward. I think the Prince would have enjoyed the conversation.

The first ever Maltese triple team played off for bronze and even though they didn't win it was an amazingly successful first entry! Since then Malta has competed in India and Scotland and has won one silver and one bronze medal and enjoyed success in the international games. John remained fully active in an administrative capacity.

This man's interesting life was carefully interwoven with his first love - his family and extended family. He was a devoted husband to Jane- she came before all else and he loved her so dearly. His children, grandchildren and great grandchildren were his heart's great joy - John Zammit lead the life of a very good man.

May he rest in peace. 💧

Eulogy provided by John's daughter Dorothy

Appreciation

Fr. Joe Pulis, SDB (1932-2017)

On Monday, 28th August, 2017, with great sadness, we learned of the death of Fr Joe Pulis, SDB, two days short of his 85th birthday. He passed away at Cabrini Hospital, Melbourne after a short illness.

A Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul was celebrated at St Margaret Mary's Church in Brunswick North.

Fr Joe was born in Sliema, Malta, on 30 August 1932. He was a member of the Salesians of Don Bosco of the Australia-Pacific Province.

Fr Joe was brother of Victor Pulis, Treasurer of Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group, and Eddie Pulis.

His brother Victor told me that when he was young they used to spend a lot of time playing with his religious model church with the altar.

He joined the Salesians as an aspirant and spent some time in the Seminary in Malta before he travelled to Australia with his cousin Joe Ellul in 1948. When he arrived, he attended the Archbishop Mannix Missionary College in Oakleigh, where he studied and stayed at this college.

On 31 January 1952, he took Religious Profession in Sunbury. From there he went to Brooklyn Park, South Australia, where he continued to study and at the same time did teaching and looking after the boarders of the college.

In 1958 he went to Naples, where he continued his studies in Theology, and on 25 March 1962 he was ordained Priest. Soon after, he returned to Australia going back to Oakleigh, teaching and furthering his studies. Later on, he went to Port Pirie where he served as Principal in that college.

Later he went back to Sunbury teaching and in charge of the student's Infirmary. Here, Fr Joe was also learning Japanese.

In 1997 he went to Bairnsdale where he taught Japanese, Italian and other subjects and he was always in charge of Religion.

Fr Joe spent 18 months straight in Japan where he taught English. Later on, he travelled to Japan for two months every year to teach English. When he returned to Melbourne, he was back in Sunbury and Bairnsdale teaching Japanese.

Each year until 2016, before Christmas, he used to take students from Bairnsdale on excursions to Japan.

When Japanese student used to come to Melbourne as exchange students, they used to be looked after by Fr Joe.

His last trip to Japan was in November 2016.

Fr Joe spent his life ministering to the young teaching in Salesian schools in various states of Australia Brooklyn Park

and Port Pirie (South Australia), Glenorchy (Tasmania) and Chadstone, Sunbury and Bairnsdale (Victoria).

During this time, Fr Joe acted as the Spiritual Director of the Maltese Salesian Past Pupils Association of Victoria for 26 years until this association stopped functioning.

He entered eternal life in Melbourne, Australia, on the 28th of August, 2017.

He is survived by his brother Victor and his wife Lina, nieces Marie, Bernadette and nephew Patrick. He is also survived by another brother, Eddie and his wife Jeanette and niece Sarah.

May God grant him eternal rest. ♦

— Paul Vella



Fr Pulis' Requiem Mass at St Margaret Mary's Church in Brunswick North.



Fr Joe Pulis with his brothers Eddie and Victor and their respective families.

Newport Maltese Association Seniors Group celebrate Christmas in July

By Lydia Cole, PRO

On a bitterly cold day you appreciate the members leaving their cosy warm home and coming to this event at Melrose Receptions. But once you get there it's all warm and friendly and the aim is to have fun and enjoy.

The President Mr George Saliba OAM welcomed everybody and acknowledged Presidents and members of other Associations. Attending this function was our special guest, the founder of the Association, Fr. Victor Shields.

The choice of menu was, as always, very pleasing. DJ for the night was Tony who by now knows what songs to play to make everyone get on their feet. The dance floor was always full.

After the main meal everyone is waiting for the committee members to start slowly moving to the stage. They all gather in front of the stage and they all know what is coming next. Once the popular Newport Inn comes on everybody joins in and it's great to see everybody singing and loving it.

Our thanks go to our members and friends for their support, which is greatly appreciated. ♦



Reskeon Seniors Group's membership of Northern Federation of Ethnic Senior Citizens Clubs

By Paul Vella

The Northern Federation of Ethnic Senior Citizens Clubs was formed in 1998 to provide stronger voice and support for ethnic Senior Citizens Clubs in the Northern Region. The Federation is an incorporated Association and is auspiced by Spectrum. The Federation represents many clubs in the Northern Region, including the Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group.

The aims of the Federation are to provide an opportunity for representatives to meet together and identify common issues; to exchange information and share skills and where possible share resources; to promote awareness of relevant policies and programs impacting on the elderly; to represent the interests of member organisations to agencies, services and government departments; to provide feedback to service providers, agencies and



government bodies on policies and program levels; to encourage agencies and services to be more culturally sensitive to senior citizens from diverse backgrounds; to work closely with peak bodies, such as, the Ethnic Communities Council Victoria and Council of the Ageing and our auspicing body – Spectrum; and to encourage membership from new and emerging groups of senior citizen groups.

Reskeon Seniors Group President, Salvina Vella, and Secretary, Paul Vella, attend meetings of the Federation every month at Bell Motel, Bell Street, Preston. At these meetings, Salvina and Paul meet and share experiences with members of other clubs from different ethnic backgrounds, including Italian, Macedonian, Greek, Chinese, Vietnamese, Indian, Polish, Filipino and Mauritian. ♦

Reskeon Seniors celebrate Father's Day

By Paul Vella

In Australia Father's Day is celebrated on the first Sunday in September. The Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group celebrated Father's Day with a luncheon at Firenze Receptions Fawkner on Thursday 10 August. About 130 members attended.

Pre-drinks and *hors d'ouvres* were served as members entered the hall and were seated at the tables.

MC for the day, the Group's Secretary, Paul Vella, greeted all those present and the distinguished guests: Fr Edwin Agius, mssp Rector at Parkville; Fr Dr Victor Shields, mssp (who was on a visit to Melbourne from Malta); Honorary Life Members of Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group, Dr Clemente Zammit and Mrs Mary Zammit; MCCV Treasurer and Reskeon's Honorary Auditor, Mr Paul Borg and Mrs Pauline Borg. Apologies were received from Life Member and ex-President and ex-Co-Ordinator of Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group, Mr Caesar Vella and Mrs Phyllis Vella.

This was followed by the singing of the Maltese National Anthem and Advance Australia Fair, after which, the champagne bottles on the tables were opened and a toast offered to all fathers present. Then the meals were served. Entrée was a serving of fish with rice and vegetables, followed by a serve of *lasagna*. The main course was grilled chicken and roast beef with roast potatoes and vegetables. Red and white wine, beer



and soft drinks were also served. Dessert was *Cassata* ice-cream and a fruit platter, followed by tea and coffee and continental cakes.

DJ Tony provided the entertainment for the event. Members joined in on the dance floor dancing to his music.

Seniors Group President, Salvina Vella, gave a short message for Father's Day and wished fathers a good day and asked those present to pray for the fathers who are no longer with us.

Normally the presentation of trophies to the winner and runners-up of the Men's Bocce Competition takes place at this social event. However, this year the competition was running late because of members being sick with the flu and others being away on holidays. The

competition was eventually completed the day before the luncheon, so the trophies will be presented at a later date at one of the Wednesday meetings at Merrilands Community Centre. Just the same, the names of the winners and runners-up were read. Winner was Lino Hammett, First Runner-Up was Charles Galea and Second Runner-Up was Philip Debono. Angelo Farrugia was thanked for running the competition.

The function finished with the Reskeon Theme Song, music by the late Laurie Armato, lyrics by Dr Clemente Zammit.

A good day was had by all those attending this function. Thanks to President, Salvina Vella, who worked so hard to make this luncheon a very successful one. 💧

MSSP hosts lunch for Maltese priests serving in Melbourne

The Maltese priests have given excellent service to members of the Maltese community since their arrival in Australia in the late 1940s.

They have helped new arrivals settle in their new environment and assisted them in many areas including obtaining accommodation, employment, and education as well as providing traditional spiritual services.

The Maltese priests meet on regular occasions for lunch when they discuss current issues within the Maltese community and support each other in their roles as Chaplains, Parish Priests and migrant Chaplains. They meet at different venues and take it in turns to host their brother priests.

The priests work very closely with the MCCV and other Maltese associations and it is pleasing to see them attending various community functions. They are held in very high regard by the Maltese community and form an integral part of the Maltese family in Australia. 💧



Round the table from left: Fr. Raymond Bugeja, Fr. Emmanuel Bonello, Fr. Albert Said, Fr. Victor Shields, Fr. Dennis Carabott, Fr. Edwin Agius, Br. Joe Pantalleresco, Fr. Lonnie Borg, Fr. Mario Micallef, Fr. Dominic Degiorgio,

Young Maltese Australian netball player with great potential

By Paul Vella

After zone trials held in Queensland, Madison Conwell was selected to represent Queensland in the Under 18 mixed indoor netball team.

Madison competed in the 2017 National Indoor Netball competition representing Queensland Under 18 mixed netball team. This year the National Competition was held at the Springvale Indoor Netball Centre in Melbourne between 29 July and 5 August 2017.

Madison and her team were successful in winning two gold medals in both the 6s netball competition which is a New Zealand indoor netball game and the 7s competition being the Australian indoor netball game. Maddie showed great grit, determination and maturity



playing with a broken finger for the week.

In the 6s competition Maddie and her Under 18 mixed team played Under 18 and Under 23 teams from all states of Australia. Maddie and her team went

through the competition with only one loss to the Qld Under 23 team. They were victors against Victoria Under 23, NSW Under 23, WA Under 23, SA under 23 teams and NSW Under 18 and WA Under 18 teams. They were also winners in the under 18 grand final. A massive achievement for such a young team. In the 7s competition Maddie and her team went through undefeated and taking out the Under 18 grand final on the last day.

To end such a successful week, Madison was selected in the All Stars Australian Under 18 mixed team for 2017.

Madison is the granddaughter of Reskeon Seniors member Rose Sacco. ♦

MCCV Maltese Language Classes in 2018

Registration for Maltese Language Classes in 2018 is now open. The Maltese Language classes, sponsored by the MCCV at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville are held on Thursday nights. Students pay a nominal enrolment fee. Families pay a heavily discounted fee.

Ms Edwidge Borg, a past President of the MCCV, coordinates the Maltese language classes in Parkville. Other teachers include Ms Laura Schembri and Ms Alexandra Sciberras. Classes provided at three levels: Beginner, Intermediate and Conversation Classes. All tutors are qualified LOTE Victorian teachers and attend regular professional development training in Victoria and interstate.

The MCCV Education Committee overseeing the classes is composed of qualified LOTE tutors, class coordinators as well as an independent advisor Mrs Frances Bonnici.

The Co-ordinator of the Maltese Language classes, Ms Edwidge Borg, is also the delegate to the [Federation of Maltese Language Schools Inc.](#) (FMLS) and President of the FMLS.

She has attended various meetings with interstate Maltese Language schools teachers in Australia to organise and attend professional development for Maltese Language teachers in Australia as well as visited Maltese Language Classes for foreigners in Malta.

Language Classes Schedule

WHEN:

Semester 1 of 2018 –

Thursdays from 8 February 2018 to 21 June 2018

Semester 2 of 2018 –

Thursdays from 19 July 2018 to 22 November 2018

Beginners (B1) Class:

6.00 pm to 7.00 pm

Intermediate (B2) Class:

6.00 pm to 7.00 pm

Conversation (C1) Class:

6.00 pm to 7.00 pm

WHERE:

Maltese Community Centre,
477 Royal Parade, Parkville

Courses are intended to provide participants with a basic knowledge of reading, writing and speaking Maltese. Courses run for one semester.

[Click here](#) to download the registration form for Semester 1 of 2018 and email the completed to admin@mccv.org.au or post a completed hardcopy to “Att: Maltese Language Classes” at the address stated in the form by **Friday 5th January 2018**.

Lessons coincide with school terms. A token fee of \$90 per semester covers some expenses. The tutor will advise student of other resources that are appropriate. The classes run for one hour extended to 0.5 for student queries. Students receive guided self-learning activities equivalent to 1 hour. The total Unit context hours are 2.5 hours per week.

Adults wishing to learn Maltese and require further information should contact the Maltese Community Centre during business hours 9387 8922 and leave a contact phone number or email: admin@mccv.org.au. Children accompanied by adult can attend these classes. ♦

A lonely, dislocated generation?

By Maurice Cauchi

The real physical world seems to have largely disappeared and visual reality seems to have taken over almost completely. Children assess their relationship with the outside world not through social contact but through 'likes' and similar superficial nods from social media like Facebook, Smartchat, Instagram. Without these gadgets, they seem to be completely lost.

Parents worry about the health of children who have now practically given up playing with other children and prefer to sit in a corner and communicate only with and through their smart phones.

A recent report by Jean Twenge, professor of psychology at San Diego State University and author of *Generation Me* and *iGen*, highlights some of the dramatic changes that have taken place in the past decade.

The iPhone was introduced in 2007 and the iPad in 2010. A survey in the US this year showed that three-quarters of American teens owned an iPhone, and while no data is readily available for teenagers in Malta, there is no reason to believe that the prevalence of iPhone use is significantly different.

The unfortunate fact is that excessive use of electronic gadgets is not without side effects. It is usual for teenagers to spend hours using their gadgets every day. Twenge comments: "Around 2012, I noticed abrupt shifts in teen behaviours and emotional states."

Undesirable side effects include not only reduced retention span, or cyberbullying, but may lead to more serious complications, including depression and even suicide.

Twenge says that currently, teens seem to be "on the brink of the worst mental-health crisis in



Photo: www.deseretnews.com

decades. Much of this deterioration can be traced to their phones".

It is curious to note that while these days one counts the number of 'friends' on social media in their hundreds, one is more and more likely to feel lonely and left out.

Another undesirable side effect is the interruption of normal daily life and particularly reduction in the sleep pattern.

Many teens now use electronic gadgets for seven or more hours a day – many sleep with their mobile under their pillow to be consulted last thing at night and first thing in the morning. This could lead to a serious reduction in ability to deal with normal schooling.

Moreover, sleep deprivation has been shown to lead to reduced capacity for thinking and reasoning, as well as to physical effects, including weight gain and an increase in blood pressure. Moreover, habits gained in childhood have an increased likelihood of being perpetrated into adulthood.

To be sure, there have been some beneficial effects resulting from the use of smart phones and other digital equipment. Compared to groups of

teenagers over the past decade, it appears from the survey referred to above, that these days teenagers are less likely to smoke, less interested in obtaining a driver's car licence resulting in a reduction in the incidence of traffic accidents, less likely to leave the family home early, less likely to indulge in early sexual activity, with a consequent reduction of teenage pregnancy.

It is my view that this report should be required reading for anyone, particularly parents and educators in order to counterbalance the current view that computers are the panacea for educational reform.

It has become very difficult if not totally impossible to control the abuse of digital equipment, particularly by the younger generation. ♦

[First published on *timesofmalta.com* on 23.09.2017]



News from the Vatican

Pope Francis speaks out

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

Pope's inflight press conference

Sept 11: An inflight press conference given by Pope Francis on his recent visit to Columbia was cut short by turbulence, but he answered numerous questions on various issues.

... on corruption

Pope Francis was asked about corruption, which can be even more devastating to a country than outright violence. The Holy Father noted that he had touched on this topic numerous times. God never tires of forgiving sin, he said, but corruption is a kind of sin with a difference: the corrupt person tires of seeking forgiveness, and even forgets how to ask for forgiveness. "He is not able to ask for forgiveness," the Pope said, and for this reason, it is very difficult to help someone who is corrupt. But, he said, "God can do it. I pray for that."

... on climate change

The Pontiff also responded to questions about climate change, especially with regard to politicians and others who refuse to collaborate with other nations because they deny that climate change is caused by humans. Pope Francis responded that such people must go to the scientists, who speak clearly and precisely. He worried about the consequences of failing to change our lifestyles: "If we do not turn back, we will go down," he said. He emphasized that everyone has a moral responsibility to respond to the "very serious" issue of climate change, not only politicians, but each one of us. If someone has doubts about man-made climate change, they must go to the scientists, and then make their decisions: "And history will judge the decisions."

[Click here](#) for a full transcript of the press conference.

'Pray for leaders despite their mistakes'

Sept 18: As Christians we must pray for our elected leaders, even if we don't agree with their politics. That was Pope Francis' message during Mass in the Casa Santa Marta, as he reflected on the readings for the day. Pope Francis took as his starting point the First Reading from St Paul's Letter to Timothy, where he asks that "supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings" be offered "for kings and for all in authority". In the day's Gospel, a



Photo: www.catholicworldreport.com

Roman leader, the centurion, prays that his servant be healed.

Recognize one's subordinate position.

"This man felt the need to pray," the Pope noted, because "he was aware that he did not have everything under his control". He knew that above him was another who was really in charge. The centurion had soldiers as subordinates but he was also aware of being a subordinate. This awareness led him to pray. "If leaders do not pray, they close themselves off in a self-referential circle or in that of their party, a circle from which they cannot escape", said Pope Francis. It is important to be aware that we are all subordinate to someone more powerful. And those who are more powerful than political leaders, he suggested, are both the people who gave those leaders their power, "and God from whom their power comes through the people". Political leaders pray, said the Pope, when they are aware of being a subordinate.

Leaders must pray. Pope Francis went on to talk about the importance of prayer for a leader. "It is the prayer for the common good of the people with whom they have been entrusted." He then recalled a conversation with a political leader who spent two hours before God every day, despite being tremendously busy. A leader must ask God, said the Pope, for the grace to govern well like Solomon, who asked not for riches and gold but for the wisdom to govern. The Holy Father said political leaders must ask the Lord for the same wisdom. "It is very important for leaders to pray, asking the Lord not to take away the awareness of being subordinate and not to find strength in a little group or in myself." To those who would object on grounds of agnosticism or atheism, Pope Francis said: "If you cannot pray, confront yourself with your

conscience, with the wisdom of your people, but do not remain isolated with the small group of your political party." This is what leads to becoming self-referential.

Prayer for leaders. In the First Reading, St Paul invites us to pray for kings, "so that we can live a calm and peaceful life," the Pope said. He pointed out that when political leaders do something we don't approve of, they are either criticized or praised, but often we simply claim we didn't vote for them and pretend we don't really care what they do. But Pope Francis said we must not leave abandon our leaders. "We need to accompany them with our prayer", he said. "Christians must pray for their leaders", even if they do "bad things". In this case, the Pope continued, they need prayer even more: "Pray, and do penance for leaders. Intercessory prayer is such a wonderful thing, as Paul says. It is to be done for all kings, for all persons in positions of power. Why? 'So that we can live a calm and peaceful life.' When a leader is free and can govern in peace, the whole population benefits."

Examination of conscience. Pope Francis concluded by asking those present to make an examination of conscience regarding their prayer for leaders. "I ask you this favour: every one of you take five minutes, no more. If you are a leader, ask yourself: 'Do I pray to the One who gave me power through the people?' If you are not a leader, 'Do I pray for my leaders? Yes, for this one and that one, yes, because I like them; but for that one, no.' They need it so much more for this reason! 'Do I pray for all leaders?' And if you find in your examination of conscience before Confession that you have not prayed for your leaders, bring it to Confession. Because not to pray for leaders is a sin." 💧



Hu Hsieb Sahhitek

Professur Maurice Cauchi



Problemi tal-ghajnejn

L-ghajn hija il-kamera li thalli d-dawl jghaddi mill-lenti u jistampa ruħu fuq ir-retina, li hija qisha il-film fil-kamera tar-ritratti. Kulhadd japprezza l-importanza tagħhom, u kulhadd jaf li meta nibdew nitilfu d-dawl x'aktarx li jkun hemm xi problema tkun dahlet il-ġewwa. U bħal kull mard ieħor, aktar ma naraw kmieni għal din il-problema, aktar hemm ċans li nevitaw problemi akbar.

Il-katarretti

Kullhadd naħseb li jaf x'inhuma l-katarretti, meta l-lenti li hemm in-naħa ta' quddiem tal-ghajn tibda tiċċajpar u ssir qisha ħġieġa matta li minnha ftiit li xejn jghaddi dawl. Il-katarretti huma komuni f'dawk ta' ċerta età, speċjalment jekk dak li jkun ibati bid-dijabete. Darba li jiżviluppaw il-katarretti ma hemmx ċans li dawn se jitrangaw waħidhom, imma hafna drabi jkun jehtieg li issir operazzjoni biex inehhu l-lenti matta u jpoġġu flokha lenti oħra.

Il-glaukoma

Marda oħra li hija komuni għmelha hija l-glaukoma. F'dan il-każ il-pressjoni fl-ghajn titla' sew u dan jagħmel ħsara lil-ghajn, u jekk ma narawx għaliha, nistgħu nitilfu id-dawl kompletament. Il-problema hi li fil-bidu ma nħossu xejn, l-ebda sinjali jew sintomi. U għalhekk jekk ma nagħmlux vista għand speċjalista tal-ghajnejn ('optician'), ma nkunux nafu x'qed jiġri minn kmieni.

U għalhekk kull meta nagħmlu vista għan-nuċċali l-ispeċjalista tagħmel eżami għall-pressjoni fil-ghajn. Ma ninsewx li l-pressjoni fil-ghajn ma għandiex x'taqas ma' pressjoni normali.

'Retinal detachment'

Marda oħra serja li taffettwa l-ghajnejn hija msejja 'retinal detachment'. Ir-retina hija il-parti l-aktar sensittiva tal-ghajn għax tiġbor

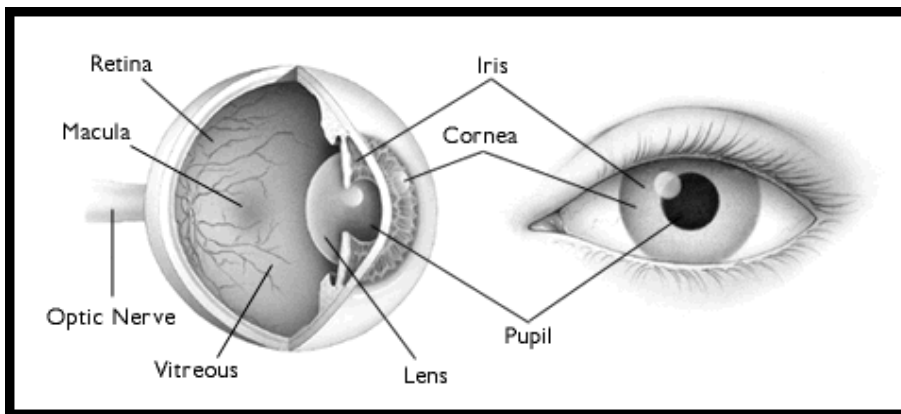


Image: <http://www.eyesightresearch.org>

fiha numru kbir ta' friegħi tan-nerv li jieħdu għall-moħħ. Din ir-retina hija miksija min naħa ta' barra b'faxxa speċjali.

Fil-każ ta' distakk ('detachment'), ir-retina tinqala minn din il-faxxa. Hafna drabi dak li jkun jinduna li hemm xi problema għax jibda jsib diffikultà jara it-truf (il-periferija), għax hafna drabi dan id-distakk jibda fit-truf u imbagħad jixtered aktar il-ġewwa. Jekk tinqabad kmieni l-ispeċjalista jista' jwahħalha bil-laser, imma jekk dan ma jsirx fil-pront, hemm ċans kbir li wieħed jitlef id-dawl kompletament.

Macular degeneration

Fl-aħħarnett insemmu sitwazzjoni komuni oħra, imsejja 'macular degeneration'. Il-makula hija dik il-parti tan-nofs tar-retina li hija l-aktar sensittiva, u allura meta jkun hemm xi problema f'din il-parti tar-retina ikun hemm aktar ċans li wieħed jitlef id-dawl, speċjalment meta tkun ħares fil-viċin lejn xi stampa u tibda issibha diffiċli li tara l-biċċa tan-nofs.

Degenerazzjoni tal-makula insibuha aktar spiss fl-anzjani u f'dawk li jpejpu jew għandhom pressjoni għolja. Hemm ukoll tendenza ereditarja, u għalhekk, dawk li għandhom membri tal-familja li għaddew minn din l-esperjenza

għandhom ikunu aktar attenti biex ma jittraskurawx vista tal-ghajnejn regolari.

Problemi li jibdew bil-mod, mingħajr sintomi, huma aktar diffiċli li tagħrafhom fil-hin. Li nafu żgur huwa li jekk nittraskurawhom dawn se jidhlu l-ġewwa u iġibu gwaj akbar. Għalhekk vista ta' l-ghajnejn ta' kultant hija xi haġa li kullhadd għandu jagħmel, sewwa jekk għandek bżonn ta' nuċċali u sewwa jew le. ♦

Jekk għandek xi mistoqsijiet dwar is-saħħa jew tixtieq aktar informazzjoni dwar kundizzjonijiet ta' saħħa, ibgħat imejl lil:
pro@mccv.org.au.

Cassola's new book

Süleyman the Magnificent and Malta 1565 – Decision, Concerns, Consequences

In his latest book 'Süleyman the Magnificent and Malta 1565 – Decisions, Concerns, Consequences', Professor Arnold Cassola (pictured right) shares his depiction of the challenges that were faced from a Turkish viewpoint, under Ottoman Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent.

There are so many books about the Great Siege of Malta, however, this one has unique appeal as it highlights a different piece of history. Based mainly on original Ottoman 1564-66 documentation it will be of interest to the general reader, as well as to those with a love of history and this exciting era. Cassola highlights a different piece of history by recounting it from the Turkish perspective, and he is the first to do so.

"I wanted to look at the preparations that took place



before the Siege – the concerns, the worries, the daily needs, the technicalities and so on, as well as what went on during the siege and in its immediate aftermath," shares Cassola.

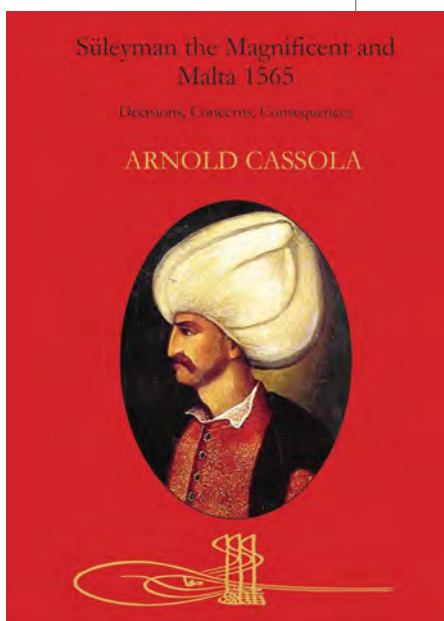
"All of this is presented from the perspective of Süleyman the Magnificent, which is especially interesting as he was based thousands of kilometres away from where the action was happening in Malta, in modern day Istanbul."

To help cover the costs for this unique book to be published and printed, Prof Cassola will be

[crowdfunding](#) on

Maltese crowdfunding platform ZAAR.

Backers who [support the crowd-funding campaign](#) can also expect to receive a reward, depending on the amount they have donated, varying from an e-copy of the book to multiple signed copies and an invitation to the exclusive lecture on the subject by Prof Cassola.💧

**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**.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH 2018
10AM UNTIL 4PM KERNOT HALL MORWELL

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MCCV News

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

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