



# MCCV News

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## Labour returned to power in landslide win despite corruption allegations

The incumbent Labour government was returned to power in a landslide victory in the general election held in Malta on 3 June. At the ballot box 55% of voters (170,976) decided that there was no need for a change of government despite the serious allegations of corruption that led to the snap election.

Prime Minister Dr Joseph Muscat heralded the stunning win declaring the result to be an endorsement of his government's programme, stating that "It is clear that the people have chosen to stay the course." He said that, after a divisive political campaign, his priority is to bring about unity and to invite all to work together to achieve even better results for the country.

The Partit Laburista (PL) retained the comfortable buffer of about 35,000 over the opposition Partit Nazzjonalista (PN) and Partit Demokratiku (PD) which joined forces to form the Forza Nazzjonalista coalition. The PL won 37 seats while the PN/PD coalition won 28 seats.

Applying a provision in the Maltese Constitution that enables a correction to be made to ensure that the seats in parliament reflect the proportion in first preference votes, the Electoral Commission increased the number of PN seats to 30. The PL filed an objection to this increase in PN seats before the Constitutional Court, disputing the application of this constitutional provision on the basis that it applies only where the opposition consists of one party. The PL argued that the principle of proportionality should not apply in this case because those 28 seats are made up of both PN and PD, meaning

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Photo : DOI- Omar Camilleri

## Malta Consul General for Victoria completes term of office

In a Farewell Reception held on Sunday 18 June at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville, members of the Melbourne Maltese community joined the MCCV in farewelling the outgoing Consul General of Malta for the State of Victoria, Mr Victor Grech. His term of office concludes at the end of June, after serving for almost four years.

Among those present were the Honorary Consul of Malta for the State of Victoria Dr Edwin Borg Manché; the MCCV President, Mr Victor Borg; the Superior General of the Missionary Society of St Paul Fr Mark Grima mssp; MSSP Provincial, Fr Ivano Burdian mssp; members of the MCCV Executive Committee and presidents of affiliated associations. MC for the event was Mr George Saliba.



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## President's Perspective

# Judicial process is the only hope

**N**ot unexpectedly, the Labour Government was returned to power in the June 3 snap election. At face value, the size of the win was rather surprising to the 45% of the electorate who voted for an end to corruption and for clean governance. This election was not a typical one fought on party policies. It was an unusual contest in which self-interest won over decency and love of country.

The growing tide in favour of change witnessed towards the end of the campaign appears to have been negated by the caretaker government inappropriately handing out jobs, awarding promotions, and having planning permits approved in exchange for votes in the days leading up to the election, as reported by some Maltese media.

There is no doubt that the electoral campaign was divisive. We welcome the calls for reconciliation that came from the President of Malta and the Archbishop of Malta, as, after all, we are all Maltese, regardless of one's political leanings.

However, the landslide victory and the calls for reconciliation have not changed the urgent need to clean up all hints of corruption in politics and particularly at the core of government. The election win should not be taken to be an absolution of the alleged wrongdoings.

Since the election, there has been a further deterioration of the rule of law with the sacking of two senior officials at the Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit (FIAU) that took place barely three days after the cynical remark by the Finance Minister to a *Times of Malta* journalist suggesting that the reports were drawn up to be leaked.

What is really troubling is the fact that these sackings have continued to weaken the institution, which is one of the pillars of the rule of law, set up to protect the financial services industry and the country from corruption and money laundering.

It is difficult not to construe the sackings as a sure way of silencing those who drew up the leaked reports and precluding any further FIAU action on the instances of alleged corruption uncovered in the reports. As the editorial in *The Malta Independent on Sunday* (July 2) put it, "These goings on at the FIAU, the government's possible hand in all of this as well as the government's silence on the issue inspire very little confidence in this or indeed any state institution at all."

Malta's only real hope to rid itself of the scourge of corruption now lies in the judicial process that is currently under way with the three magisterial enquiries. The judicial process must be allowed to take its natural course without any undue haste, pressure or hindrance so that any alleged wrongdoings that are proven beyond reasonable doubt in a court of law are dealt with in accordance with the law that is applied equally to all without exception.

Without an effective rule of law and with the continuing abuse of power, Malta is in danger of transitioning to a banana republic.

## First generation Maltese in Australia

**T**he first statistics from the Australian Census that took place last August have started to emerge. In the five years from the previous census in 2011, the number of first generation Maltese born in Malta has dropped by 9% to 37,613. Victoria is still the State with the highest proportion of Maltese. Just under half (17,873 or 48%) reside in Victoria, compared with 14,481 or 39 % in New South Wales.

The main reason for this decline in our community numbers can only be the ageing of our population and the number of deaths in the past five years.

SBS Radio will be relying on Census data when adjusting its community language radio programs. The statistic that will be more relevant, however, in this regard is the number of those who marked their census form as speaking Maltese at home. There was a 7% drop in this group since the 2011 Census, with just under 32,000.

The new SBS Radio schedule is expected to be published in the coming weeks. We hope that this small drop in the number of those speaking Maltese at home will not translate into any further cuts to the current already low allocation of two hours per week of Maltese language programs.

Unless on this occasion we are treated fairly and equitably, the Maltese community will have no option other than to protest in the strongest terms and seek justice for our ageing community.

**Victor Borg**  
MCCV President



## New Labour Government pledges Constitutional reform in President's Speech at Opening of Parliament

Malta's 13th parliament will begin the process which will lead to a Constitutional Convention intended to modernise national institutions and strengthen local democracy, reviving a pledge first made by Prime Minister Joseph Muscat in the run-up to the 2013 election.

The pledge to renew the nation's Constitution was made in an address delivered by President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, marking the opening of parliament following the June 3 general election.

In line with tradition, the address was written by the Prime Minister but read out by the head of state Ms Coleiro Preca from the Speaker's chair.

"This government believes that the new Constitution can be the tool that unites our country and prepares it for the challenges ahead," the President read, having started the speech by it would take more than days or weeks to heal "scars of division", and that doing so would require a cultural change across the nation.

Parliament's opening address is intended to lay out the incoming government's legislative programme, and in a 20-minute speech Ms Coleiro Preca listed some of the Labour government's priorities for its five-year term in government.

In the immediate term, the government will



prioritise ensuring Air Malta remains a viable airline. "Even here, we need national cooperation among political parties, stakeholders and unions," the speech noted.

The government's key aims include: ensuring economic growth remains above the European average; developing new economic sectors such as fintech, life sciences and logistics; creating an Environmental Court and enshrining protection of public spaces, the right to clean air and environmental protection in the Constitution; introducing electoral quotas to encourage women to enter politics and reducing the voting age to 16; increasing childcare allowances by €200 for low-income families and €100 for everyone else, with every mother receiving €300 for each child she gave birth to or adopted; a "substantial"

increase in social housing projects and elimination of allocation waiting lists; ensuring Gozo is physically and virtually connected to Malta, by pursuing an undersea tunnel project, a fast ferry service and also a second fibre-optic cable for stronger internet connectivity; discussions about the removal of parliamentary privilege for MPs; ambassadors and high-ranking

regulatory officials to be scrutinised by Parliament.

The Opposition backed the nomination of Anglu Farrugia as Speaker, with Opposition leader Simon Busuttil saying it was doing so "despite us not being consulted." Dr Busuttil said the Opposition was willing to extend "a hand of cooperation" at the start of the legislature.

After motions to appoint Dr Farrugia and deputy speaker Claudette Buttigieg were both passed unanimously, Malta's parliamentary members took it in turns to take their parliamentary oaths and assume their seats as MPs.

[Source: [www.timesofmalta.com](http://www.timesofmalta.com)]

## Labour returned to power in landslide win despite corruption allegations

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that there are more than two parties in Parliament. On 16 June the Constitutional Court dismissed the case on the basis that the list of candidates submitted by the parties to the Electoral Commission was the "conclusive evidence" of which party they were representing. All PD candidates had contested under the PN ticket.

The landslide win came as a shock result to the PN, particularly following the momentum that its electoral campaign had gathered, focusing on the duty of citizens to stand up and be counted against alleged corruption of the government. The PN leadership assumed full responsibility for the defeat and resigned as a group. "The PN needs new leadership. I will stay on until a new leader is elected and sworn in as Opposition Leader," Dr Busuttil told a press conference at PN headquarters held on 5 June. The new leader is expected to be appointed by mid-September.

The PN warned that, although Labour won the election, Dr Muscat will remain under pressure as magistrates investigate claims of corruption made against Konrad Mizzi and chief of staff Keith Schembri. Dr Mizzi was appointed Minister of Tourism in the new cabinet, while Keith Schembri was re-appointed as the Prime Minister's chief of staff.

The full list of Ministers in the new cabinet is as follows: **Joseph Muscat** – Prime Minister; **Christian Cardona** – Minister for the Economy, Investment, and Small Business; **Evarist Bartolo** – Minister of Education and Employment; **Chris Fearne** – Minister of Health; **José Herrera** – Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Climate Change; **Michael Falzon** – Minister of Family and Children's Rights; **Edward Scicluna** – Minister of Finance; **Carmelo Abela** – Minister of Foreign Affairs & Trade Promotion; **Justyne Caruana** – Minister of Gozo; **Michael Farrugia** – Minister of Home Affairs and National

Security; **Owen Bonnici** – Minister of Justice, Culture, and Local Government; **Helena Dalli** – Minister of European Affairs and Equality; **Konrad Mizzi** – Minister of Tourism; **Ian Borg** – Minister of Transport and Infrastructure.

The PD leader Marlene Farrugia and her husband Godfrey Farrugia were elected to Parliament in casual elections. In a statement issued on 23 June, the PN said that its parliamentary group will cooperate with Marlene and Godfrey Farrugia in the same way they cooperated during the last election campaign, when the two parties joined forces for Forza Nazzjonali. "The Opposition's parliamentary group will provide an effective and strong opposition and it will keep Joseph Muscat's government under constant scrutiny," the party said. ♦

[Sources: [www.independent.com.mt](http://www.independent.com.mt) and [www.timesofmalta.com](http://www.timesofmalta.com)]

# Marriage Equality Bill introduced for debate in Malta's Parliament

**A**lthough it has been labelled as the Marriage Equality Bill, what the Maltese Parliament will start discussing is a raft of changes to existing laws.

The stated aim of the Bill, piloted by Equality Minister Helena Dalli, is to “modernise the institution of marriage” so that all consenting adult couples would have the right to enter into marriage.

The proposal is not a standalone law but consists of changes to the *Marriage Act* and several other laws, ensuring that references to husband, wife, mother and father become gender neutral, among other things. The aim is for the institution of marriage to be open to same-sex couples, with all the rights and obligations this brings about.

The key changes the government is proposing include:

**1. The laws that will be changed.** The Bill includes changes to the Criminal Code, the Code of Civil Organisation and Procedure, the Civil Code, the Interpretation Act, the Marriage Act, the Civil Unions Act and other subsidiary legislation.

**2. ‘Spouse’ instead of ‘husband and wife’.** References to “husband and wife” will be changed to the gender neutral “spouse” to cover situations when the partners are two men or two women. It also provides legal clarity for all married couples.

**3. ‘Parents’ instead of ‘father and mother’.** The gender neutral “parents” will recognise all family set ups, including

those where children have two fathers, or two mothers, instead of the traditional male and female model. It also helps avoid situations when parents are asked to fill official forms related to their children. The change also provides legal clarity for same-sex marriages in all aspects of the law.

**4. The ‘person who gave birth’ instead of ‘mother’.** The change is in line with the other provisions for gender neutral references. This is particularly important in the case of a lesbian couple since it may be necessary to distinguish between the parent who gave birth to the child and the other parent. This change also suggests that the government is looking ahead to a situation where sperm and egg donation become legal, which is the only way for a lesbian couple to conceive naturally.

**5. You are now... spouses.** The epic moment of any marriage is the official declaration that the couple are now “man and wife”. But the rule book will change to the gender neutral “spouses” to reflect the newfound diversity of marriage. However, a new proviso will be introduced, which allows couples to indicate to the marriage registrar the form of words to be used during the ceremony.

**6. Maiden surname to surname at birth**  
In view of the surname choices for married couples, the law removes reference to maiden surname in relation to the woman, replacing it instead with a reference to the surname any of the two spouses had at birth and after marriage.

**7. Which surname shall we take up?**  
The law will offer married couples more

options when deciding on what surname they will adopt after marriage. The couple will be able to adopt the surname of either one of the parties to the marriage, which means that a man can decide to take on his future wife’s surname, unlike today. The spouses can also take on both of their surnames in the order of their choice as long as the new surname is no longer than four combined surnames. They may also opt to retain their own surnames. These choices had already been included in the Civil Unions Law three years ago.

## Example:

If John Borg is getting married to Joan Abela Baldacchino, the couple can opt for any of these models after marriage:

*Retain their own:* John Borg and Joan Abela Baldacchino

*Adopt wife’s surname:* John Abela Baldacchino and Joan Abela Baldacchino

*Adopt man’s surname:* John Borg and Joan Borg

*Combination:* John Abela Baldacchino Borg and Joan Abela Baldacchino Borg

## 8. Religious protection

A same-sex couple will not be able to demand that its marriage be conducted by a priest or under the aegis of the Church because the new law introduces a provision that protects an official of a religious body from being obliged to solemnise a particular form of marriage not recognised by the religious body he forms part of. ♦

[Source: timesofmalta.com]

## Maltese language VCE accreditation extended



**O**n 5 June the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) wrote to the Maltese Community Council of Victoria to advise that the accreditation of the Maltese language for VCE purposes has been extended.

VCAA participates with other curriculum and assessment authorities across Australia in the delivery and assessment of many language subjects through the Collaborative Curriculum and Assessment Framework for Languages (CCAFL) Project.

This collaboration enables the national provision of small candidature languages studies at the senior secondary level. In the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) language studies are offered at Units 1 to 4.

In 2016, the VCAA wrote to advise MCCV of the possible suspension of Maltese, due to its very low candidature in 2014 and 2015. As the national candidature for Maltese was above 15 in 2016, the CCAFL National Reference Group has agreed that the

suspension of this subject will no longer proceed as advised previously. Should enrolments in the future fall below a total of 15 students nationally, the VCAA will write to the MCCV again with further advice.

VCAA would like to acknowledge the contribution made by the Maltese-speaking community and others in supporting the study of the Maltese language across Australia. I hope the information offered here will assist you to understand the current situation and the possibilities for the future. ♦

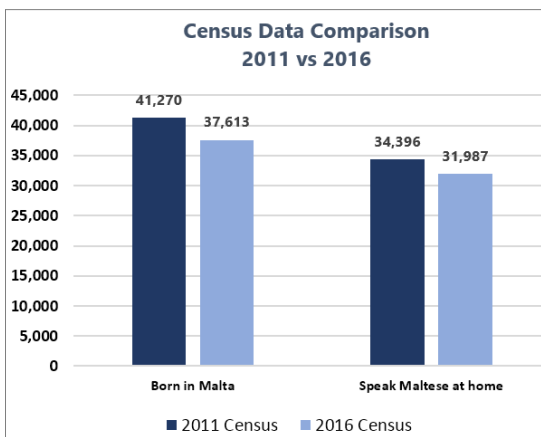
## Australian Census 2016 Statistics

## 9% fewer first generation Maltese

The release of 2016 Census statistics started recently. The initial release includes some data relating to the Maltese population in Australia.

## First generation Maltese

The total number of first generation Maltese (persons born in Malta) at 2016 Census time stood at 37,613. The largest number, just under half, were living in Victoria (47.5%), followed by NSW (38.5%), South Australia (6.6%), Western Australia (3.8%), and the Australian Capital Territory (2.4%). Compared to the figure from the 2011 Census, where there were 41,270 Malta-born people in Australia, this represents a drop of 3,657 persons (8.9%) over a five-year interval or an average of 1.8% per year.



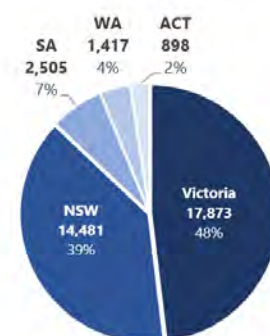
## Maltese language spoken at home

The number of those who stated that they spoke Maltese at home was 31,987. In the 2011 Census the corresponding figure was 34,396. This represents a reduction of 2,409 persons or 8.5% over the five-year period, an average loss of 1.7% per annum.



For a brighter future

**2016 Census**  
Distribution of Malta-born by State



The number of speakers of Maltese was largest in Victoria (52.8%), followed by NSW (38.5%), SA, (4.2%), WA (2.6%) and ACT (1.2%).

More information relating to Maltese in Australia will be released in due course.

## Commitment to the Maltese community – a new scholarship opportunity



Do you know a current year-12 student or someone hoping to return to study next year?

The [Hope Scholarship](#) has been established at the [Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences](#) at Monash University Parkville to help support a new student commencing in 2018. The scholarship will provide \$10,000 annually over four years to the recipient, supporting their study during their undergraduate degree at the faculty. This scholarship will also preference a student who is of Maltese descent, which is defined as either the applicant was born in Malta or has a parent or grandparent born in Malta. Please note that Maltese heritage is a preference only and not a requirement for scholarship eligibility.

## The Faculty

Recognised as one of Australia's most [innovative and awarded faculties](#), the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences is at the forefront of both research and education in our field. We are a specialist campus located in 'the Parkville strip', Australia's premier health and biomedical precinct, which is close to central Melbourne and the

famous cafes and street life of Lygon Street and Sydney Road. With more than 1800 undergraduate and postgraduate students, we attract many high achievers and have educated leaders in our field for the past 130 years.

[Our courses](#) combine work experience and creative teaching methods to expose students to current practices and challenges they'll face as highly qualified pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists.

## Available courses

The faculty offers degrees in both [Pharmacy](#) and [Pharmaceutical Science](#). Commencing students can choose from the Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours) / Master of Pharmacy degree, of which they will receive scholarship support during their undergraduate studies; or alternatively the Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Sciences or Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Sciences (Advanced with Honours) programs, to which the scholarship will cover the duration of the degree.

## Eligibility and Selection

Applications are available for an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or a

holder of an Australian permanent resident visa or holder of a permanent humanitarian visa, who is under the age of 30 at time of application. Additional criteria requests that the applicant has lived in Victoria for at least two-years prior to application, and will be required to submit evidence of their genealogy (if applicable) and a statement on how the scholarship would benefit their education and their vision for the future. Please review [full eligibility and selection criteria for the Hope Scholarship here](#).

## Applications

Applications for this and other merit and equity scholarships must be submitted during your [VTAC application](#) process. Please ensure you have also placed an undergraduate Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences degree within your preferences at Monash University.

## For more information

Please contact Rachel Crooks, Student Recruitment Officer, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences on telephone +61 3 9903 9594 or e-mail [rachel.crooks@monash.edu](mailto:rachel.crooks@monash.edu) for more information on our degrees and scholarship eligibility. 💧



## Malta Consul General for Victoria completes term of office

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MCCV President Mr Victor Borg welcomed those present to the community event to mark the end of the term of office of Mr Victor Grech as Consul General.

Mr Borg briefly spoke about Mr Grech's diplomatic career, having served in various posts overseas, including Brussels and London on behalf of the Maltese government before his posting to Victoria in October 2013. Mr Grech is a senior member of the public service which he joined in 1976.

Mr Borg said that he is always pleased to see a career diplomat posted to the State of Victoria as it raises the status of the Maltese community in Melbourne.

Mr Borg said that Mr Grech impressed our community because he took part in just about every social activity in Victoria. "There is one thing about the Maltese community: if you become Consul General and you can't dance, you'll learn how to dance before you go home because we have so many associations and their social activities every year," he said.

Mr Borg referred to Mr Grech's personal involvement in the Consul-on-the-move programme by travelling to various locations in Australia and New Zealand to accept Maltese citizenship and passports from Maltese citizens living in or near places where there is no Maltese diplomatic or consular presence with the required biometric equipment. This saved these people from incurring significant travel and

accommodation costs that they would otherwise have incurred to obtain these services.

Mr Grech travelled to Western Australia, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory and New Zealand to deliver these consular services under this programme.

Mr Borg wished Mr Grech well on his next appointment. "You certainly showed a lot of effort and wisdom and we always welcomed your counsel from time to time. As a community, we've had a very close

relationship with you and we regard you as one of our own," he said.

Mr Borg said that, on his recent visit to Malta, he caught up with former Consuls General in served in Melbourne, Angele Azzopardi and Charles Mifsud, both of whom spoke very highly of Australia. He said that he is "sure that the same thing will happen with Mr Grech, who will in future recall his time in Australia as one of great experience, meeting another large section of the Maltese community, knowing that we still hold Malta in our hearts and we still believe we are part of the larger global Maltese communities."

Finally, Mr Borg thanked Mr Grech for all his efforts and wished him and his family well in the future.

Next to speak was MSSP Provincial Fr Ivano Burdian, who, on behalf of his MSSP brothers, thanked Mr Grech for the very good relationship that was established and the service that he provided to the Maltese community during his tenure of office. Mr Grech was always ready to help when needed. He invited to visit the MSSP in St Agatha's at Rabat and to maintain an ongoing relationship.

In his reply address, Mr Grech said that for every beginning of a posting commitment there is an end. He thanked the MCCV for holding a farewell reception for him. He said it was unusual to get such a farewell at the end of a posting and the only one he could recall was in Strasbourg.

Mr Grech said that during the term of office it is assisting and guiding people who experience problems that motivates him in carrying out the duties of Consul General. He was looking forward with confidence that he would be able to serve well when appointed to the role.

Mr Grech said that the work of the Consul General is broadly divided into two areas: first, assisting in, and protecting, Maltese national interests and Maltese-Australians, and second, the promotion of trade, investment, tourism, and cultural exchanges between Malta and the host state, in this

case, the State of Victoria.

The first, assisting in, and protecting, Maltese national interests and Maltese-Australians, consists of an ongoing service. He continued on the work of his predecessors to whom he wanted to pay his respects and thank them for the work they had done in this area.

Mr Grech said that he and his staff always go the extra mile to serve the community. During his term of office his office received and processed about 3,500 passport applications, and over 400 Maltese citizenship applications.

Mr Grech then spoke about his role in Consul-on-the-move, a programme which was launched in May 2016 and he was committed to make successful. During his visits to the various locations he delivered about 300 consular services. The programme was well coordinated by the Malta High Commission in Canberra.

To promote trade and investments, as part of the Consular Corps, Mr Grech attended various events organised by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Victoria. These included visits to Gippsland region, Phillip Island, Mildura, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Research Centre in Melbourne.

During his term of office Mr Grech was involved in visits to Melbourne by Opposition Leader, Dr Simon Busuttil, in November 2013 and by the President of Malta, Her Excellency Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca in July 2016.

Mr Grech also assisted the Honourable Bruce Atkinson, the President of the Legislative Council of Victoria, for a 3-day visit to Malta, which was very successful.

Mr Grech recalled his office's support in conjunction with the youth organisation Generation Australian Maltese (GAM) in promoting and showing the popular Maltese feature film, *Simshar*, in Melbourne. He also referred to other cultural exchanges that he promoted during his term.

Mr Grech thanked all those involved in the teaching of the Maltese language. He praised the work of the Maltese Language Teachers Association of Victoria (MLTAV) under the leadership of Mark Bonello and the work of the MCCV led by Edwidge Borg to encourage the learning of our language. He thanked Malta's Education Minister Evarist Bartolo who approved a grant of about 10,000 Euros in 2015 to the MLTAV.

Mr Grech thanked MCCV President Victor Borg for his dedication and energy and his predecessor Prof. Maurice Cauchi, for their support. He thanked the media and the religious orders for their invaluable services to the community. Mr Borg then presented Mr Grech with a small gift as a farewell memento.💧

# MCCV honours members for their contribution to Maltese community

The second part of proceedings at the Consul General's farewell reception held on 18 June at the Maltese Centre in Parkville consisted of the presentation of the MCCV Community Awards 2016.

In 2012 the MCCV established its annual MCCV Community Awards to publicly recognise, and show its appreciation for, the valuable contribution of Maltese people to the enrichment of the Maltese community in Victoria, whether by their contribution to scholarship, education, welfare services, culture, the arts and generally to the wellbeing of our Maltese community.

This year the MCCV honoured seven members of our community who have made a significant contribution to various aspects of our community life. The Awards were presented to the successful nominees, namely:

- **Education & Scholarship: Prof. Maurice Cauchi**
- **Culture: Mr Alfred Cachia and Ms Marlene Scicluna (in absentia)**
- **Welfare Services: Fr Edwin Agius mssp**
- **General services to the community: Mr Vincent Calleja, Mrs Marlene Xerri and Mr Charles Belli**



## PROF. MAURICE CAUCHI

**Maurice Cauchi** was born in Gharb, Gozo in 1936. He studied at the Lyceum and Royal University of Malta and graduated MD in 1961. The following year he proceeded to the UK to pursue further studies and obtained his M.Sc and Ph.D in Cancer Research at the Royal Marsden Hospital, University of London in 1967.

In 1969 Prof Cauchi proceeded to Melbourne, Australia to take up the post of Senior Lecturer in Pathology at Monash University. Later he was appointed Director of Haematology and Immunology at the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne, and Clinical Associate Professor at both the University of Melbourne and Monash University Medical Schools.

In 1992 Prof Cauchi returned to Malta and

was appointed Professor of Pathology, Chairman of the Bioethics Consultative Committee in the Ministry of Health, and Chairman of the Gozo Health Council. After 11 years living in Malta, Prof Cauchi returned to Australia in 2003.

Prof Cauchi has represented the MCCV on various committees both in Australia and overseas. His current membership of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad and his past presidency of the Federation of Maltese Living Abroad are an indication of his commitment and involvement.

Prof Cauchi has also maintained a regular contribution to Maltese newspapers, particularly in relation to issues affecting Maltese living overseas.

For three years, between 1988 and 1991, Prof Cauchi was Chairman of the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria which represents the interests of all Victorian residents born overseas.

Prof Cauchi served as MCCV President for a total period of fourteen years, including the two consecutive terms of two years each ending in 2014. For many years, he has organised and directed the development of the MCCV library at the Maltese Centre, in Parkville, which contains the largest collection of books and other publications about Malta, its history, culture and literature outside Malta.

Prof Cauchi continues to support MCCV initiatives and to serve the Maltese community in Victoria and overseas.

His other community commitments have included: President of the Maltese Literature Group (1984-1986); President of the Federated Maltese Council of Australia (1988-1991); Chairman of the Commission for Maltese Abroad (Ministry for Social Policy, Malta 1992-1994) and Chairman of the Malta Migration Museum (2001-2003) ([www.maltamigration.com](http://www.maltamigration.com)).

For his services to the community, in 1991 Prof Cauchi was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM). In 1992 the Maltese Government awarded Prof Cauchi the *Medalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika* (MQR), the 'Medal for Services to the Republic' of Malta.

Over the years, Prof Cauchi made a significant contribution to scholarship and education and gave a high profile to the Maltese community. He has written and published several books on health, migration and various aspects of Maltese community and culture.

His impressive list of books and publications relating to migration include: *Maltese Migrants in Australia* (1990), *The Maltese Migrant Experience* (1999), *Worlds Apart – Migration in Modern English Literature* (2002), *Maltese Achievers in Australia* (2006), *A Who's Who of Maltese-*

*Background Persons in Australia and New Zealand* (2008), *Under One Umbrella: A History of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria 1958-2008* (2009).



## MR ALFRED CACHIA

**Alfred Cachia** was born in Zebbug, Malta in 1939. At 20 years of age in 1959 he married his wife Victoria (Vicky) and they have four children, 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Alfred is a skilled carpenter and in Malta he specialized in carpentry work in various churches. He also attended the school of arts, design and carving. He is passionate about Maltese culture and folklore.

Alfred arrived in Australia on the 6th January 1963 and was initially employed as a carpenter and joiner. He later specialised in the manufacture of quality and reproduction furniture.

Among the quality furniture that Alfred produced are the altar, the pews and the Bambina niche in St Paul's Chapel in Parkville.

Some 35 years ago Alfred achieved his dream and built his house at Hoppers Crossing in the style of a Maltese farm house. Many community members have enjoyed his hospitality and companionship.

Alfred is extremely competent in the Maltese language and an accomplished poet. For many years, he has been a keen member of the Maltese Literature group, regularly participating in presentations of the group and presenting some of his work.

Alfred is also an accomplished musician. He is a member of the Klabb Għannejja Maltin and regularly takes part in għana sessions playing his folk guitar, which he himself designed and manufactured.

Amongst other hobbies Alfred is a keen motor cyclist and enjoys regular runs in the Victorian Countryside.

During the construction of the Parkville

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## MCCV honours members for their contribution to Maltese community

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Centre he was of great assistance to the planning committee and carried out odd jobs as required.

Alfred has been exemplary and a good role model for many young members of the community.



**MS MARLENE SCICLUNA** (in absentia)

**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.

Marlene was very active in Performing Arts. At the young age of six, she started singing in local Song Contests and won several festivals. She also performed in numerous stage productions in Xaghra directed by Chevalier Julian Refalo Rapa.

Marlene's interest in, and contribution to, Maltese culture started while she was living in Gozo. In the first half of the 1990s she volunteered as a Choreographer for Carnival dances and stage productions in the village of Xaghra in 1994 and for stage productions at the Oratory of Don Bosco in Victoria in 1996.

Between 1993 and 1998 Marlene worked as a Physical Education Teacher at St Francis Primary School, Victoria, Gozo.

In 1989, Marlene was introduced to broadcasting by Joe Borg Ghigo in the weekly PBS Radio magazine from Gozo - *Mill-Gzira ta' Calypso* – formerly known as *Mit-Tokk t'Ghawdex*. She was the presenter for 10 years until 1998.

For six years following her return to Australia in 1998, Marlene was the choreographer for the Young Maltese Australian Dancers, a group of 20 young Australians of Maltese descent, performing Maltese traditional dances at various multicultural events around Melbourne.

In Australia, Marlene settled in Victoria and resumed her career in broadcasting. She started off as a contributor for Maltese Language Programs on SBS Radio and in 2001 became a permanent Broadcast Journalist.

During her 14 years in that role 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.

For 10 years, she was the Senior Producer for the Maltese Language Program, a position she held until the rescheduling of programs on SBS Radio in 2013, when Maltese language programs were reduced from 9 hours to 2 hours per week. She soon returned to SBS Radio for another two years, after SBS agreed to temporarily restore two one-hour Maltese language programs per week until 2015.

As broadcaster at SBS Radio, Marlene interviewed numerous Maltese and Australian personalities, including Presidents and Prime Ministers of Malta and other visiting Maltese politicians, musicians and artists.

She has also presented numerous community events both in Malta and Australia. Marlene attended two Conventions for Maltese Living Abroad in Malta, both as a main speaker and as a reporter for SBS Radio.

In 2011 Marlene co-founded *nisġa*, a not-for-profit organisation set up to promote and enhance Maltese culture and cuisine in Melbourne. *nisġa* organises an annual Maltese Cook Off competition, where 10 teams made up of 3 members cook Maltese traditional dishes.

More recently, Marlene was Director, Executive Producer, Presenter & Editor of *Maltese DownUnder*, a Maltese cultural TV show produced in Melbourne and aired on the community TV Channel 31.

The program showcased Maltese cultural heritage, the arts, music, food, travel, cultural events and sport. Its aim was to inform and entertain its audience through stories that inspire and strengthen the pride of all Maltese Australians.

Some segments were presented in Maltese for Maltese native speakers and some in English for the younger generation of Australians of Maltese descent wishing to know more about their Maltese family heritage. Unfortunately, the program had to be discontinued due to a lack of sponsorship.

### FR EDWIN AGIUS mssp

**Fr Edwin Agius** mssp was born in Malta. He joined the Missionary Society of St Paul as an aspirant at the age of 12 years. He commenced his novitiate in 1961 and was ordained in Malta on the 22 March 1969.

Following his ordination, he was appointed as a teacher at St Paul's Missionary College in Malta.

He arrived in Australia on the 4th February



1971 as an assistant Priest at St Bernadette Parish in Sunshine.

In 1981 he returned to Malta and was appointed as the Master of Novices. He became a member of the MSSP General Council and in 1994 was appointed as the director of St Joseph's Home in Hamrun.

In 1995 Fr Agius returned to Australia initially as an assistant priest and in 1998 became the Parish Priest of St Bernadette Parish in Sunshine.

In 2004 he was appointed Chaplain to the Maltese at Parkville and later the Rector at Parkville. He served for two terms as a member of the Provincial Council.

Since his arrival at Parkville, Fr Agius has been Chaplain for the Maltese Community Council of Victoria and has worked tirelessly in providing religious services to the community. He has given great spiritual leadership and comfort to many members of the Maltese and general community.

Fr Agius is also on a roster for the Royal Melbourne Hospital where he attends at short notice and at all hours of the day.

He has been extremely helpful in providing weekly masses for the MCCV Planned Activity Groups at Sunshine and Parkville. He is constantly in demand to officiate at marriage celebrations, baptisms and requiem masses.

He is also the director of the Spiritual Program and responsible for organising religious activities at St Paul's Chapel for Christmas, Easter, Maltese feast days and days of obligation. He maintains a meaningful contact with Maltese families who seek his counsel from time to time. He is a much-respected member of the community.

Fr Agius attends MCCV Executive and Council Meetings on a regular basis. His contribution is very much appreciated.

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## MCCV honours members for their contribution to Maltese community

*Continued from page 8*



### MR VINCENT CALLEJA

**Vincent Calleja** was born in 1931 in Valletta, Malta and married his wife Lillian in 1953. They had 2 children, Maria and Natalin, 2 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

At the age of 18 years Vincent joined the Malta Police Force, an occupation which he held until his departure for Australia in 1955.

Vincent arrived in Australia on the 10th March 1955. Amongst his occupations, Vincent joined the Australian Post Office as a postman and later promoted to the investigation section, becoming a senior security officer. He retired in 1988 aged 57.

Vincent was a founding member of the Newport Maltese Association together with other prominent Maltese Community members living in the Newport area. For some 22 years Vincent served the Association as a Vice President and held the position of President between 1994 and 2010.

Vince served the Maltese Community Council of Victoria initially as the Social Secretary and for 6 years held the office of Vice President.

Vincent has for some 25 years assisted with organising the Maltese Cultural festival and was heavily involved with the running of Bingo sessions at the Maltese Centre in Parkville.

Vincent and his recently deceased wife Lillian, were a formidable team in raising funds and running activities at the Maltese Community Centre. Their regular visits to the Centre and their involvement in all activities was a clear indication of their commitment and their dedication to the advancement of members of the Maltese community.

Vincent was awarded the Medal for Meritorious to the Community and the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for his outstanding voluntary contributions to the Maltese Community in Victoria.



### MRS MARLENE XERRI

**Marlene Xerri** was born in Hamrun, Malta. After the war her family moved to St Julians. In 1964 her family migrated to Melbourne, Australia, initially settling in Thornbury and later moving to Thomastown.

Marlene's first job was in the notes printing and issue branch of the Reserve Bank of Australia. Later, Marlene moved to Unilever as an invoice clerk. In 1967, she married Andrew and left work in 1968 to start a family. Together they have three daughters.

Late in 1970s Marlene became involved with the Maltese Community Council as a volunteer, working in the office at the old house in Parkville, answering phones and help with Social Security (Centrelink) forms. Later Marlene was employed as a Social Worker Aide, working with all the social workers employed by the MCCV. Marlene also worked on other MCCV projects, e.g. the Home Visitation Program.

In 1990 Marlene enrolled at the RMIT campus in Coburg as a mature age student. In 1994 she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Multicultural Studies.

Marlene worked at Centrelink as a bilingual officer on the Multilingual Call Centre line. She later transferred to the Family Call Centre. She was also employed by the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) as an Interpreter for the Maltese Community.

While working, Marlene remained active within the Maltese Community Council Ladies Auxiliary (LA) as a volunteer, as in the role of Treasurer and later as President.

The Ladies Auxiliary provided support during the Maltese Cultural Festival, Fete, and functions for VIPs visiting the Maltese Centre. The Ladies Auxiliary continues to run weekly bingo session on Tuesdays for the aging Maltese in our community which it is an important social & recreational activity.

Marlene has been President of the Ladies auxiliary for over 20 years.



### MR CHARLES BELLI

**Charles Belli** was born in Msida, Malta in 1932. He was educated at St Aloysius College in Malta. He arrived in Australia in 1954 aged 22 years. He married his wife Doris on the 17th September 1955. They have three children, Raymond, Anthony and Yvonne, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Charles and his wife built their home in West Street, Glenroy, where they raised their family and have resided since. Shortly after arriving in Australia Charles continued with his education and obtained a Certificate of Civil and Civic Industrial Chemistry (Oxford) at RMIT Melbourne and a Certificate of Business Management at Melbourne University.

Charles worked for over 8 years as Production Assistant and later Production Manager with the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation. Later he spent almost 20 years at Port Philip Mills in Melbourne as Dye House Manager and Centre Controller.

Charles served on various sport and social committees in Malta and in Melbourne. For some 30 years he held the position of President of the Broadmeadows Soccer Club and other positions on its executive committee.

At its meeting held in October 2016 the MCCV Executive Committee awarded an MCCV Community Award to Charles Belli for Community Services over a period of many years, including his significant contribution to the establishment and management of the MCCV library.

On Thursday 15th December 2016 MCCV President Victor Borg and Vice President Joe Stafrace attended at the Belli home to personally inform and congratulate Charles Belli of the MCCV Community Award, as they had been advised that he was in a poor state of health. He was extremely pleased and expressed his gratitude to the Council for the award.

Sadly, three days later, on Sunday 18th December 2016, Charles Belli passed away peacefully surrounded by his family.

Mr Belli's widow, Mrs Doris Belli, accepted the presentation of the Award Certificate. 💧

## MHA Monthly Event—May 2017

# Don Giovanni Pietro Francesco Agius de Soldanis

On Tuesday 16 May 2017, Joseph Borg delivered a lecture on Canon Giovanni Pietro Francesco Agius de Soldanis. Better known as de Soldanis, he was a Maltese linguist, historian and cleric from the island of Gozo. He wrote the first lexicon and systematic grammar of the Maltese language and he was the first librarian of the *Biblioteca Publica*, the precursor of the National Library of Malta.

De Soldanis was born on 31 October 1712 in Rabat, Gozo, to Andrea Hagius and Valenzia Sultana. He was baptised in the Parish Church of St George the following day with the surname Agius. He later added de Soldanis, a Latinised version of his mother's surname, Sultana.

In 1729, at the age of 17, he was appointed Canon of the Gozo cathedral by Bishop Paul Alpheran de Bussan, who recognised his intellectual powers and extended him protection and preferment in his ecclesiastical career. De Soldanis was ordained a priest six years later in 1735.

De Soldanis was interested in history, culture, archaeology and the Maltese Language. He had an extensive library and a museum in his house, which contained various old coins and medals, inscriptions, pottery and statues. He wrote several manuscripts in different languages but they were published overseas, as Malta had no printing presses at the time. His *Il Gozo Anticomoderno* did for Gozo what G. F. Abela had done for Malta in 1647.

In 1750 de Soldanis published *Mustafa' Bassa*, dealing with the Conspiracy of the Slaves, which had occurred two years earlier. It landed him in trouble with Grandmaster Pinto de Fonseca, as it criticised the Order and argued for the rights of the Maltese. De Soldanis had to go to Rome to defend himself before the Pope but was forgiven.

In 1757 he graduated in Law at Padua and a year later was allowed to practice as a lawyer by Grand Master



Picture: <http://www.stgeorge.org.mt>



Pinto. He wrote the first grammar of the Maltese language in 1757, in which he hypothesised that Maltese originated from the Punic language. However, this was later disproven. Maltese is now regarded as a Semitic language descended from Siculo Arabic.

De Soldanis also wrote a four-volume Maltese-Latin-Italian dictionary, not published until fairly recently. It is regarded as a major work about the Maltese language, as it presents a unique insight into the life and legends of the time.

De Soldanis was very keen to keep the Maltese language alive. He proposed that his new Latin alphabet should be adopted to teach Maltese, Latin and Italian to facilitate translations. He was

also very critical about the introduction of loan words into the Maltese language.

In 1758 de Soldanis returned to Gozo but moved to Malta in 1763, when the Knight Louis Guérin de Tencin, founder of the library, chose him to become the first librarian of the *Biblioteca Publica* in Valletta. De Soldanis was given a house in Valletta to stay in, plus a stipend of 10 scudi per month. He immediately started to catalogue every book and manuscript in the library, a job that he did exceedingly well.

In 1768 he wrote his last will but rescinded it a year later. He died in 1770 and was buried at St Paul's Collegiate Church in Valletta. ♦



## Maltese appointed Executive Director at National Catholic Education Commission

**F**ollowing a thorough national search and the identification of a number of highly-qualified candidates, the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education announced today, 17 May, that Christian Zahra will serve as the next executive director of the National Catholic Education Commission.

Mr Zahra, 44, was born at Pietà, Malta and migrated to Australia with his family when he was three years of age. He grew up and was educated in Traralgon, Victoria. He holds a Bachelor of Economics from La Trobe University and a Master of Assessment and Evaluation from the University of Melbourne.

He served as a Labour MP in the Australian House of Representatives from October 1998 to October 2014 representing the regional seat of McMillan in Victoria.

Making the announcement, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, Chairman of the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education, said, 'Across a range of spheres – including politics, community development and business – Christian has been a major contributor to Australian society over the past two decades. In this



Mr Christian Zahra

new role, he will help to shape the educational opportunities of the one in five children and young people being educated in the 1,737 Catholic schools across the country.

'As well as spending two terms in the Federal Parliament, Christian has also provided leadership to a number of organisations, both in management and governance, with a focus on improving the lives of people, particularly those experiencing disadvantage. Most recently, he led the Wunan Foundation, which supports Indigenous Australians through a

range of programs, social enterprises and partnerships.

'Christian has always been a strong advocate on behalf of his communities and stakeholders. He will speak clearly and passionately on behalf of Catholic school students, teachers and families in this new role.

Speaking to the Bishops Conference on 17 May, Mr Zahra said, 'It's a great honour for me to be appointed to this important role and I thank the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education for the opportunity to serve.

'Catholic schools are a critical component of the education system in Australia and for 200 years they have made a significant contribution to Australian society.

'At the heart of all Catholic schools in Australia is a unique partnership between the Church, passionate teachers and principals, engaged parents and government. I look forward to working collaboratively with all of these groups so that Catholic schools can continue to make their vital contribution to the education of children and to Australian society more generally.' ♦

## Josephine Zammit Cordina honoured with Malta Television Award

**T**he significant contribution to broadcasting of two Maltese former public broadcasters and actresses, Josephine Zammit Cordina, 81, and Mary Grech, 80, were conferred with the Charles Arrigo Lifetime Achievement Award at the Malta Television Awards held on 6 May 2017.

Josephine is well-known among the Maltese communities in Australia, having presented the *Waltzing Matilda* show broadcast on TVM and Channel 31 in Australia and also the radio show *Boomerang* on Radju Malta for many years. Mary Grech was among the first presenters on MTV when it was launched in 1962 and later on for many years on national radio and TVM.

The MCCV congratulates both Josephine Zammit Cordina and Mary Grech on their achievements. ♦



From left: Mr Harry Zammit Cordina, Mrs Josephine Zammit Cordina and Mrs Mary Grech

## Fr Emmanuel Adami mssp retires in Malta

On 27 May 2017 the Missionary Society of St. Paul and the Maltese Community Council of Victoria co-hosted a function at the Community Centre at Parkville to thank and farewell Fr Emmanuel Adami for his many years of service to the Maltese Community Council in Victoria.

Prior to his farewell reception a special Mass was celebrated at St Pauls Chapel with Fr. Mark Grima the Superior General, Fr Ivano Burdin the Australian Provincial and other members of the MSSP society.

At the reception Fr. Adami was greeted by a large crowd from the Maltese Peruvian Spanish and Australian Community who were anxious to express their gratitude for his work within their respective communities.

MCCV President Victor Borg, MSSP Superior General Fr Mark Grima and MSSP Provincial Fr Ivano Burdin addressed the gathering. They all made reference to the many exceptional qualities of Fr. Adami and thanked him for all his years of dedicated and committed service of the Lord.

Fr Adami completed his novitiate at St Agathas and studied Philosophy and theology at the University of Malta. He was ordained on the 3rd April 1965. He was appointed as a prefect at St Joseph's Home. Between 1967 and 1969 he was assigned to the oratory at St Joseph's Birkirkara.

Fr Adami arrived in Australia in 1969 and served at St Bernadette's in North Sunshine



for a period of 4 years and in Perth Western Australia for 6 months. Between 1974 and 1977 he served at Horsley Park in NSW.

In 1977 he was assigned to Peru as an assistant Priest to administer to the poor and disadvantage of the Parish which had been assigned by the local Bishop to the MSSP.

Some years later, he became the Parish Priest at Areqita. During this time, he experienced and observed the poverty and deprivation of those unfortunates living in the Shanty towns in poor conditions and virtual poverty.

His experience moved him to embark on a special mission to assist the disadvantaged and abandoned children. His achievements in Peru include the establishment of a school, orphanage for badly deformed and mentally retarded children church and medical centre.



With his strong belief in Divine Providence, Fr Adami constantly sought donations from community members to assist in completing his projects and finance the services provided to his adopted children.

In 1989 Fr Adami returned to Australia and has been acting as a Chaplain to members of the Maltese, Peruvian and Spanish communities. His unassuming and caring manner, gentleness and his constant willingness to help, have won him many friends.

We were all sad to bid him farewell and a safe return to Malta on the 5th June.

We trust that he will enjoy his retirement and were pleased to hear that arrangements were to be made for him to visit his old friends, parishioners and children in Peru. We wish him good health and success in his future endeavours. ♦

## Żewġ Djakni Maltin ġew iżuruna

Fid-19 t'April li għadda Bro Giovanni Tabone, minn Nadur, Għawdex u Bro Alex Żammit mill-Mosta, it-tnejn membri tas-Socjetà Missjunarja ta' San Pawl, ġew ordnati djakni mill-ET Mons Isqof Honesto Ongtioco DD, Isqof ta' Cubao, ġewwa l-Katidral ta' Cubao, Manila, l-Filippini. Dan kien jum storiku għall-MSSP, għax din kienet l-ewwel ordinazzjoni li qatt saret fil-Filippini ta' membri MSSP.

Dawn iż-żewġ żgħażaġ kienu qed jistudjaw fil-Filippini, fid-Dar tal-Formazzjoni Internazzjonali li s-Socjetà Missjunarja ta' San Pawl għandha f'Manila. Rev Alex u Giovanni, wara li spiċċaw l-istudji tal-filosofija fl-Università ta' Malta, għamlu sentejn esperjenza pastorali – sena Malta u oħra l-Perù. Imbagħad, fl-2014 marru l-Filippini. Għal dawn l-aħħar tliet snin seggew il-kors tat-teologija fl-Ateneo De Manila, università immexxija mill-Ġizwiti.

L-ghada tal-ordinazzjoni huma ġew l-Awstralja biex jeżerċitaw dan il-ministeru għdid tad-djkonat. Fil-fatt, diġà għaddew hmistax-il gurnata fi-Blacktown, Sydney, fejn is-Socjetà tiehu hsieb il-Knisja ta' San Franġisk, li tagħmel parti miċ-Ċentru Malti ta' La Vallette. Meta spiċċaw minn Sydney, ġew Melbourne. Bhalissa, Rev. Alex qed fil-Parroċċa ta' St Bernardette, North Sunshine, u Rev Giovanni fil-parroċċa ta' St. James the



Appostle, Hoppers Crossing. It-tnejn li huma ser jibqgħu hemm tliet ġimgħat, u wara ibiddu l-parroċċa.

Minn hawn huma jirritornaw lura Manila biex ikomplu l-aħħar sena ta' studju, u jekk Alla jrid, is-sena id-dieħla, għal habta ta' Gunju, jorndaw sacerdoti missjunarji.

Tajjeb li tkunu tafu li t-twaqqif tal-missjoni li s-Socjetà Missjunarja ta' San Pawl għandha fil-Filippini, taf il-bidu tagħha lil Fr. Ivano Burdian, Awstraljan, fil-preżent Superjur Regionali ta' l-MSSP fl-Awstralja, kif ukoll lil Fr. Lonnie Borg, minn Malta, li fil-preżent hu ukoll qed jaqdi l-ministeru sacerdotali tiegħu hawn fl-Awstralja. Din il-missjoni inbdiet fis-sena 1999. Hemm is-Socjetà, barra d-Dar Internazzjonali għall-Formazzjoni tal-membri

il-ġodda tas-Socjetà, tmexxi ukoll parroċċa ġewwa il-provinċja ta' Bataan. In-nies ta' din il-parroċċa jiddependu għall-ghixien tagħhom minn dak li tipproduci l-art speċjalment ross. Nahseb li tiehdu pjaċir tkunu tafu ukoll li f'din il-parroċċa, fejn hemm **Fr Joe Cremona** mssp (*fir-ritratt fuq il-lemin*) bħala kappillan, grupp ta' żgħażaġ Awstraljani mill-parroċċa ta' St. James the Appostle, f'Melbourne, mal-kappillan tagħhom Fr. Jude Pirota, MSSP, diġà marru tlett darbiet, bħala esperjenza missjunarja. (Fr Cremona qiegħed iżur Melbourne bhalissa.)

Fid-Dar tal-Formazzjoni ġewwa Manila, għall-grazzja t'Alla, hemm numru sabih ta' żgħażaġ li qed jippreparaw ruħhom halli għada pitgħada isiru missjunarji. Tul l-ghaxar snin ta' studju li jiehdu, dawn jgħixu, permezz ta' għotjiet mill-benefatturi minn Malta u minn postijiet oħra. Dan isir, fost l-oħrajn, billi wiehed iwaqqaf "Borża ta' Studju". Din tikkonsisti filli wiehed joffri 1,000 dollar darba biss. B'hekk dak il-benefattur ikun jista' jgħid li għen student, biex isir missjunarju. Mhux biss, imma l-istudent, meta isir qassis, jibqa' jitlob għal dak il-benefattur li għenu jasal sa fuq l-altar.

Għal aktar informazzjoni kif tistgħu twaqqfu din il-fondazzjoni tistgħu tikkuntattjaw lil Fr. Norbert fuq [norbertbonavia@gmail.com](mailto:norbertbonavia@gmail.com) jew ċempel +365 21551159 jew +365 79265968. ♦



# Fr Claude Borg mssp passes away aged 91

**T**he Missionary Society of St Paul, the Maltese Community Council of Victoria and the Maltese community in Australia mourn the loss of Fr Claude Borg mssp, who passed away peacefully on Saturday 17th June at the Uniting Mulluana Residential Care, Blacktown in Sydney on 17 June 2017, aged 91 years.

Former chaplain to the Diocese of Parramatta Maltese community, Fr Claude Borg was aged 91 and in his 71st year of profession and 65th year of his missionary priesthood.

A Requiem Mass was concelebrated by nine priests at St. Paul's Chapel in Parkville Victoria on Tuesday 27 June 2017 led by the MSSP Provincial Fr Ivano Burdian, Fr Edwin Agius mssp and Fr Lonnie Borg. The mass was followed by burial at the nearby Carlton cemetery.

Born in Malta, Fr Claude began his journey with the Paulists in 1938. He made his first profession in 1945 and perpetual vows in 1948. He studied both at the Malta Seminary and University and was ordained in Malta on the 22nd December 1951.

Fr. Claude's first assignment was at the Oratory in Birkirkara for 4 years after which he was sent to our fledgling Australian mission in Melbourne in 1956. He was assigned as a Maltese Chaplain at Parkville. He was the first MSSP to be appointed Parish priest of Our Lady of Victories Parish, Horsley Park in 1965 where he cared for his people for 6 years before returning to Malta. In Malta he served the MSSP in different official roles and was available for supply in different places.

Fr Claude returned to Australia in 1980 once again with the Parkville community for 3 years after which he became assistant priest at St Joseph's Parish, Rozelle in Sydney, then under MSSP care. In 1990, he joined the MSSP community at St Francis Assisi Chapel at the La Valette Maltese Centre, Blacktown as a chaplain for the Maltese in the western suburbs of Sydney especially in the Diocese of Parramatta.

While Fr. Claude entered aged care at St Dominic's Blacktown in 2003 and in 2016 in Uniting Mulluana Blacktown, he continued to be involved in caring for the Maltese and others till quite recently. Over the many years of ministry Fr Claude has also been involved with various groups in particular due to his love of liturgy and music the formation of Maltese and other choirs both in Melbourne and Sydney.

In December 2016, Bishop Vincent Long OFM CONV on the occasion of Fr



Claude's 65th Anniversary of Ordination to the priesthood said, "Thank you for your example of priestly dedication and fidelity. Your priesthood is a sign of hope and renewal of God's everlasting love to his people."

Close friend of Fr Claude, John Beale, commented that Fr Claude just got on with the job, "he was a friend to all, everyone adored him wherever he went. He was a very religious man, he had to get on with the Lord's work. He loved music and wherever he went he would create a choir."

Despite his deteriorating health over the past few years he remained as active as he could be and was a witness that we can embrace our journey of aging with vigor and trust in the Lord. He will be fondly remembered as an energetic, jovial and caring pastor by all who knew him and whose lives were touched by him.

[Source: [catholicoutlook.org](http://catholicoutlook.org)]

## Fr Claude Borg—An Appreciation by Fr Edwin Agius mssp

Shortly after his ordination to the priesthood in 1951, Fr Borg was assigned to minister at the MSSP Oratory in Birkirkara. Having its origin under the Salesians since 1910 and taken over by the MSSP in 1928, the Oratory was the place where most of the children of Birkirkara received the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation at the time.

During his four years ministering at the Oratory, Fr Claude contributed so many of



his talents. In addition to the Catechism Classes that he held regularly every week day and Mass and film show every weekend, he initiated a choir, a group of altar servers, stage drama, and various sports activities. He also made a considerable contribution to establishment of St Paul's Brigade and the creation of its uniform. His joyful character with everyone, especially with the young generation, continued to attract more young people to the Oratory.

My five brothers and I attended regularly at the Oratory. At the age of eight years I attended the Oratory at the time that Fr Claude was there. I became an Altar Server and joined the Choir under Fr Claude, who with great difficulty managed to persuade me to go on stage to sing—but he only managed to do this once!

Fr Claude was also very instrumental in my religious vocation. It was to him that I expressed, for the first time, my wish to join the MSSP. Of course, Fr Claude gave me his full support and assurance of God's Love, not just with his kind words but more so by being a role model.

Fr Claude gave extra lessons every Saturday morning in English and Maths to me and four others, who were also intending to join the MSSP (one of them was Fr Frank Cortis who died in Peru four years ago), to help us enter St Aloysius College and continue our secondary education. These lessons increased within two years until I entered as an Aspirant with the MSSP in 1956, at the age of 12. Later that year, Fr Claude was assigned to the MSSP Mission in Australia.

In Australia Fr Claude served the Maltese community in Parkville and Sunshine in Victoria and in Sydney, Horsley Park and Blacktown in New South Wales for many years.

Although Fr Claude and I never worked together in the same ministry, Fr Claude continued to be supportive and encouraging with his energy, his love for the Church and leading by example.

May he rest in peace.

## Appreciation

**Carmen Testa OAM, MQR (1934-2017)**

A prominent member of the Maltese Community in Melbourne, Carmen Testa passed away peacefully with dignity after a long battle with cancer on 11 April 2017, aged 83 years.

Carmen was locally, nationally and globally recognised for her community work. She was the recipient of an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) from the Australian Government, the Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika (MQR) from the Maltese Government, the Victorian Premier's Award, a Senior Citizen's Award, Brimbank's living Treasure, a Multicultural Award, and an MCCV Community Award for her social work.

Carmen was born in Birkirkara, Malta on 8 March 1934 to Michael and Helen Grixti. She had one sister and seven brothers. At aged 18, in 1949, and having to let go of her dream to enter teachers college, Carmen, her mother and five brothers, migrated to Australia to join her father, who had left nine months earlier to prepare for his family a humble house in the suburb of West Sunshine. In her words: "We came to this room with nothing else. And we were so shocked. We came in summer and by winter we lived with mud, mud and more mud. But we were happy."

Against the cultural norm and expectation, Carmen started work in an office at Drayton's Pottery one week after she arrived. In her own words, "I was expected to stay in this paddock all day, doing nothing at all, but I went to the factory and asked Mr Drayton for a job. He said I don't have one, but I was persistent and showed him my school results. He started me the next day."

Carmen Mum worked at Drayton's until she married Frank who followed her ten months after her arrival in Australia. They married in 1953 and moved into the family home built in Glengala Road, Sunshine by Frank and his grandfather. There they raised seven children, welcomed their partners and supported the comings and goings of sixteen grandchildren and their partners and seven great grandchildren.

Carmen's community involvement spanned some 52 years. This involvement began before her children were at primary school as a volunteer helping in various ways. She helped in the primary school running the Mother's Club and Tuckshop. For women back then, there was a language barrier – so she helped out as an interpreter.

While doing all this, raising a family and supporting her own mum and dad



and brothers and sisters, encouraged by Sr Laserian, Carmen managed in 1980, thirty five years after leaving her dream behind in Malta, to realise her dream of becoming a teacher. Mum taught at St Paul's School and Mother of God School.

In 1970 Carmen joined the St Paul's Feast Committee, organising a week of celebrations that continues 46 years later. 30 years ago, she began the Maltese Women's Group, with a membership of 100 women, for housebound Maltese women, meeting weekly and facilitating many monthly day trips, weekends away and in the earlier years with her husband, group trips overseas for those who would not otherwise have had the courage or support to travel.

Following her teaching days, Carmen completed an interpreter's course and became a much called on Maltese interpreter for the Maltese Community.

With her great friends, Carmen delivered the weekly Maltese radio program which reaches, to this day, the Maltese community and keeps them in touch with their language and culture.

A skilful community worker who managed to attract the various community grants needed to resource the many community programs that became available to the Maltese Women's Group. Coincidentally, notification of a grant has just come through.

Carmen was a woman who embraced her life as one that must be lived in the service of others. She described herself 'as a woman doing ordinary things'. Her greatest love and delight was her husband Frank, her children, their partners, her sixteen grandchildren, their partners and

seven great grandchildren.

The relationship between Carmen and her husband was a great example of a long faithful and strong romance that they shared until her last breath. She often claimed that the saying "behind every great man is a woman" was not true for her. She described herself and her achievements as "behind this woman is a great man - her husband". To watch her with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren was to watch strength and love guiding and giving wings to fly.

Carmen's smile shone on all whom she met. Her warm welcoming embrace gathered the dignitary as much as it did the despairing. If she was disappointed in anything, it was when she met unkindness, injustice or bitterness. These had no place in her world.

Carmen was a person who made central in her everyday living, the place of faith and fidelity in action. Her ordinariness was to make extraordinary the lives of the lonely, of the isolated, of the parish and of the wider community. She was the wise woman who saw a need and did not wait for another to answer it.

Carmen was one who lived Ghandi's mantra "be the change you want to see in the world", and Christ's command "Love as I have loved." She was that woman in the gospel who went looking for the lost coin. She went looking for those lost because they could not communicate in English, for them she spent herself translating for them.

She went looking for those lost in the grief of loneliness, for them she spent her time making sure that they were connected to others. Mum went looking for the grief and struggle within families and spent her time whispering peace and wisdom, building bridges where others had tried and failed.

Over the last years, Carmen carried the burdens of her cruel sickness with selflessness, making it easier for those around her to carry the pain of seeing her struggle. On Tuesday 11 April, at 2 am, her husband Frank and Helen with her, Carmen went looking for her last breath, and as she did in her life, without fanfare or drawing attention to herself, she spent her last breath, gathering her life of faithful discipleship and left quietly to her place of rest. May she rest in peace.💧

*This is an edited version of the eulogy written by Mrs Testa's daughter, Sr Doris Testa PhD.*



## Appreciation

**Anthony “Tony” Paul Zarb (1935-2017)**

**T**he Maltese community in Melbourne mourns the sad loss of Anthony Paul Zarb, affectionately known as Tony Zarb. He was a loving husband, loyal brother, dedicated father, proud grandfather and adoring great-grandfather and earned an enduring respect from friends and all who knew him.

Tony was a prominent member of the Maltese community in Melbourne. In 1998 Tony became the president of the Maltese Salesian Past Pupil Association and, for the next eight years, he steered the Association to support the missionary work of the Salesians. He won the respect of the Association members and Bishop of the Solomon Islands.

Born in Sliema, Malta on January 17, 1935 to Vincent and Connie Zarb, Tony was the eighth born child of ten. Only five of the children survived to adulthood. Like most children of his generation our father, Tony, spent his childhood years through WWII. During three years of on and off bombing he sheltered from German and Italian bombs. In 1942 Malta was considered ‘the most dangerous place on earth.’ As a child and adolescent Dad enjoyed sport (usually football – soccer), music, singing solo in the church choir, The Boys’ Brigade and his beloved Salesian Youth Club.

As awkward and shy 12-year-old he met the girl that would later become his wife of 60 years and one week. It was not until they were both 15 that he summoned the courage to ask her out. Thus begun a 67 year journey of love. After a seven-year courtship Tony married Tessie and they lived in Sliema with his mother-in-law. Within three years they had two sons, Avan and Alex.

In 1961 Tony and his wife agreed that they should move to Australia as he thought that this would provide his sons with the best opportunity in life. In March that year Tony and his family, his brother-in-law, Joe, and his mother-in-law, Stella, migrated to Australia with £25 in his pocket. In the same decade they had two other sons, Martin and Adam.

Tony was a hardworking man. He believed that his wife should stay at



home to look after the young children and ensure they had a good education. His children and grandchildren have inherited his work ethic and commitment to family. The family drove to Adelaide, at times visiting two or three times in the one year for a flying weekend visit to spend a few days with Dad’s siblings and their families. Visiting Adelaide over Christmas was a special event. Tony was always there for his mother in law, Stella, and other members of Mum’s family.

As his boys were growing up Tony made every effort to be with his family, despite working two full time jobs. He would drive home every night, between jobs, to have dinner with the family. There wasn’t one jamboree, scout camp or school event that he would miss. He was both proud and protective of his family. When grandchildren and great grandchildren arrived, he travelled interstate and to New Zealand to capture their lifetime events.

Between 1961 and 1969 Tony and Tessie moved to three different houses. Tony worked as a factory worker, cleaner, doorman, kitchen hand whilst an animal technician at the University of Melbourne. Tony made friends with everyone from all walks of life and showed respect to all he met. It seemed that everyone at the University knew him. At his retirement function, there were representatives from nearly every part of the University, including the

Vice-Chancellor, gardeners, department heads and colleagues. He was proud to receive the University Medal as a symbol of his long and faithful 36-year service to the University.

Tony had a great sense of humour and loved to play the odd practical joke. His work colleague and friend Stan bore the brunt of most of his practical jokes over the 30 years working together but other friends didn’t miss out. In 1977, the VFL grand final was between North Melbourne and Collingwood. Two families in our street had their front gardens decorated in corresponding team colours. Dad borrowed a small white coffin and painted black stripes on it. Fortunately, Collingwood lost and our long-time friends awoke with the coffin on their lawn. It remained there for over a week, but due to Dad’s charm, wit and charismatic nature, their friendship continued.

Tony also loved a party or celebration. The traditional lighting of the family home during Christmas was the envy of East Keilor and rivalled Ivanhoe. Most family milestones were celebrated with other family and friends. Tony organised the social events at work and was involved in all family activities.

A founding family of the parish of St Peter’s Keilor East, Tony and Tessie attended all the parish religious and social functions. Tony supported Tessie with the St. Peter’s Social Club for 31 years. Tony loved to sing whether at church, in the home and garden or at parties in front of others.

Tony passed away at the Royal Melbourne Hospital with his family present at his bedside on May 19, 2017 at the age of 82. He will be remembered as a hard working yet generous man who would do anything and everything for not just family and friends but also for those less fortunate in life. We will miss your laughter, wit and wisdom.

May he rest in peace.💧

*This is an edited version of the eulogy written by Tony’s sons Avan, Alex, Martin & Adam Zarb.*

# Maltese-Australian author tops publisher's list

By Prof. Stephen Gatt

**O**n 17 April 2017, Maltese-Australian Dr James Vella-Bardon achieved a lifelong ambition when his novel *The Sheriff's Catch* was signed up by the award-winning Unbound, the UK's largest crowdfunding publisher. Yet brighter days were to follow when opening presales of his work had his novel roar to top spot on Unbound's platform, which included 374 published and unpublished projects.

Unbound's list of authors include the Man Booker Prize-longlisted Paul Kingsnorth, as well as Monty Python legend Terry Jones, who has described Unbound as follows:

Unbound's business model is a simple one, in which a book's financing is partly covered through the private contributions of readers. This is a late revival of the 'subscription publishing' of yore, in which works by Charles Dickens and Voltaire, amongst others, were also financed in this way. Unbound's model slightly differs from the historical crowdfund, in that the first one-third of a novel's financing (£4000 pounds) is crowdfunded, with the remaining two-thirds of financing (£8000) subsequently being covered by Unbound.

So, on Thursday 18 May Dr Vella-Bardon faced the daunting task of having to raise £4000 within three months to ensure that Unbound progressed with the subsequent editing and publishing of his novel.

'I was bracing myself for a long, hard slog' says Dr Vella-Bardon, 'absolutely nothing prepared me for what happened next.'

The young father of two works full-time, and spent much of his free time last year caring for his late mother-in-law who was suffering from Alzheimer's disease. His manuscript was completed against the odds, by working late into the night and by largely being a social recluse. Prior to his project being placed on Unbound's crowdfunding platform, he had no pre-planned media strategy or advertising campaign in place, with his home nation of Malta being suddenly distracted by the announcement of a snap general election.

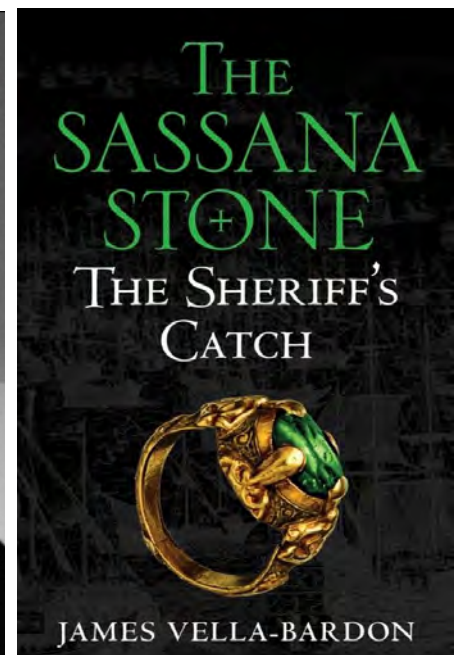
Despite these odds, Dr Vella-Bardon's novel held top spot on



Unbound's platform for two whole days, before dropping to second, and then claiming top spot for yet another day. It still held first spot in the 'fiction' and digital categories for nearly two weeks after the crowdfunding target was reached. This feat is all the more remarkable, when one considers that at the time of launch Unbound had over 374 published and unpublished projects on its platform. By the end of the first day, 46% of the required £4000 was raised, with the whole amount gathered less than 4.5 days later. It was a glorious achievement for Dr Vella-Bardon, who left Malta ten years ago to travel to Sydney where he abandoned his legal background to chase his writing ambitions.

'James has practically dedicated the last decade of his life to this project', said retired advertising stalwart Martin Pisani, one of the novel's many Maltese-Australian patrons, 'and the time it was taking him to release his project had become something of a passing joke. Yet no one was laughing once the extent of his work was revealed for all to see. The amount of research and rewriting he carried out, despite countless setbacks, is just extraordinary. I've read parts of the novel, and it is just great. Both Malta and Australia should be proud.'

*The Sheriff's Catch* is the first instalment of a five-part series entitled *The Sassana Stone Pentology*. The series tells the story of a Maltese-born and



bred protagonist, Abel de Santiago. A rifle in the King of Spain's Army of Flanders, Santiago turns deserter to hunt down his pregnant wife's killers. His mission of vengeance is half accomplished when he is captured and sold as a galley slave, soon finding himself aboard a ship forming part of the Spanish Armada. Following his galley's shipwreck in Ireland, Santiago must somehow elude roaming bands of English troopers who have orders to capture and kill all Spanish castaways.

'To kick the presale campaign off in this way is just fantastic' he said, 'if someone told me that the money would have been gathered in less than a week, I'd have laughed in their face. I've had patrons buying pre-purchases from all over the world, yet I couldn't have done it without the immense contribution of the Maltese-Australian community. I can't thank my Maltese-Australian patrons enough for the wonderful chance to achieve a boyhood dream.'

The budding author is presently working hard with Unbound's editorial team with a view to releasing the novel in coming months. In the meantime presales of the book are still open, and readers can still become patrons of the novel by registering a profile with Unbound and purchasing a copy of the novel at the following web address: <https://unbound.com/books/the-sheriffs-catch>. ♦



# Sharon Spiteri's *Traditional Sweet Recipes from Malta*

By Paul Vella

On Friday, May 5, on my Maltese program on Community Radio 3ZZZ I had the opportunity to interview Sharon Catherine Spiteri, the author of *Traditional Sweet Recipes from Malta*, a lovely hardcover book in full colour. The response from our listeners was great. So we invited Sharon to our Wednesday weekly meeting of Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group, at Merrilands Community Centre. Sharon accepted the invitation to speak to our members and arrived with her husband, Daniele, and some books as well.

In her address to our members, Sharon said that Malta is her place of birth, ancestry line and heritage. She said that, although arriving in Australia at an early age of 8 months old, she was always felt proud of her Island home in the Mediterranean. Her parents always reinforced this pride with many stories about Malta, as she was growing up, experiences they had as children and historical facts that always intrigued and fascinated her. Our nation's history of resilience during World War II and the Great Siege of 1565 are just some examples of the Maltese spirit and true resilience.

Sharon first returned to Malta at the age of 16, her family's first overseas holiday. Apart from being truly impressed by Malta's beauty and its people's kind-hearted nature, her innate need and want of authentic Maltese recipes was very strong. She visited every book store she could find during her search.

She said that her mother was without doubt an exceptional cook. She was extremely fortunate to experience her love of food and her efforts in ensuring good nutrition, quality produce and beautiful dishes. She told us that, although she did not realise it then, her mother inspired her so much with food.

Sharon later returned to Malta where she began her career in the food service industry. Studying at ITS Malta where she gained her qualifications as a Chef (City and Guilds of London) and Diploma in food production and preparation.

Once qualified she worked in Malta Hilton, Melbourne Hilton and the Grand Hyatt Melbourne.

Sharon always found it difficult to acquire authentic Maltese recipes, particularly sweets, that worked well. Although her Mum was a phenomenal cook, she didn't make a lot of sweets, so she only had a few recipes from her that were passed down.

After a lifetime searching for Maltese sweets recipes with limited success,



Sharon decided to produce her own book whilst at the same time displaying the provincial beauty and Old World Charm of Malta within its pages. Her motivation to create this book was to share her knowledge and experience with others. Food is a strong connection to our culture and heritage.

She told us that part of our history and traditions are passed down from



generation to generation. Something of great value that is worth preserving.

"I know this is equally important to others in the community and with Malta being so far away from us here in Australia my main objective was to enable anyone who acquired the book to create a small slice of Malta that feels like home."💧

## Multicultural Memory Lane Café



A multicultural Memory Lane Café event was held on 10 May at the Maltese Cultural Centre in Albion and hosted by the Polish community. The above photo shows the Maltese group who attended on the day.

Memory Lane Café is held every month by Alzheimer's Australia Victoria for five different nationalities: for members of the Polish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Macedonian and Maltese communities who are coping with Alzheimer's and dementia.

These social events go for about two hours from about 10.30 am till 12.30 pm and a light lunch is served by the hosting community.

There is also some light entertainment and people get together to socialize between the different communities.

If there are Maltese people who would like to attend and bring along with them members of the family who are suffering from Alzheimer or Dementia, they may ring the Maltese Community Centre (03) 9387 8922 for more information.💧



## News from the Vatican

## Pope Francis speaks out

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

## Church committed to protecting migrants

**June 11:** Pope Francis has sent a message to the President of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (Parlatino) on the occasion of its 33rd General Assembly. Addressing his letter to Ms. Blanca Alcalá, the Parlatino president, Pope Francis reflects on migration in Latin America and the Caribbean, the theme of the Assembly.

He said the initiative “aims to help and make life more dignified for those who, having a homeland, regrettably do not find in their countries adequate conditions of security and subsistence, and are compelled to migrate to other places.” The Holy Father goes on to highlight three words related to migration: reality, dialogue, and commitment.

Related to reality, he said that behind every emigrant lies “a human being with a history of his own, with a culture and ideals.”

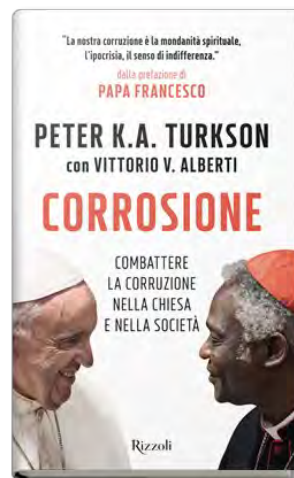
“Dialogue,” he said, “is essential to foster solidarity with those who have been deprived of their fundamental rights, as well as to increase willingness to accommodate those who flee from dramatic and inhuman situations.” Turning to commitment, Pope Francis renewed his call “to stop human trafficking, which is a scourge. Human beings cannot be treated as objects or commodities, for each one carries with him the image of God.”

In conclusion, the Pope urged governments to protect all those who reside in their territory, despite their provenance. “I reiterate the commitment of the Catholic Church, through the presence of the local and regional Churches, to responding to this wound that many brothers and sisters of ours carry with them.”

## Pope Francis writes preface to book on the curse of corruption

**June 14:** Pope Francis has written the preface for a new book on corruption by Cardinal Peter Turkson, former president of the Vatican’s Justice and Peace Council and current head of the office for Integral Human Development. The book explores the origins and devastating consequences of corruption, which the Pope describes as a “curse” and a “cancer” that can consume our lives. In his preface, the Pope describes corruption as the breakdown of

relationships that every human being has with God, with our neighbours and with the natural world around us.



## Origin of all exploitation

He describes it as the worst scourge of societies because it is the lifeblood of the mafia and other criminal organisations. Corruption, he says, is the origin of all exploitation and trafficking of people, drugs and weapons. It is at the heart of all injustice, lack of development, unemployment and social degradation.

## Corruption tempts us all

Pope Francis praises the book for exposing the ramifications of corruption and the way it can tempt all of us in our political, economic, cultural or spiritual lives. The spirit of worldliness can corrupt us all, the pope warns, leading to a hardening of our hearts and indifference to those around us.

The Pope ends his preface with an urgent appeal to all Christians and all people of good will to combat this curse, this cancer which can consume our lives.

## Vatican considering excommunication for corrupt Catholics

**June 18:** Pope Francis has instructed a Vatican commission to draft a new doctrine for excommunicating Catholics convicted of corruption or mafia-related crimes.

More than 50 prosecutors, bishops, United Nations representatives and victims of organized crime came together for a Vatican conference this week to hammer out the Church’s new legal doctrine concerning “the question of excommunication

for corruption and mafia association.”

The new Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, led by Cardinal Peter Turkson, held a symposium on the fight against corruption in the Vatican Gardens. The meeting, which was organised by the Pontifical Academy for Social Sciences, was attended by prosecutors and bishops from around the world.

Among the initiatives that were being considered at the conference, according to the Vatican, was the possible excommunication for corruption. Excommunication, which bans Catholics from participating in the sacraments or communion, is one of the most severe penalties within the church.

In an Angelus message on 18 September 2016 Pope Francis compared corruption to a drug. He said that “Jesus today urges us to make a clear choice between Him and the worldly spirit, between the logic of corruption, of the abuse of power and greed, and that of righteousness, meekness and sharing. Some people conduct themselves with corruption as they do with drugs: they think they can use it and stop when they want. It starts out small: a tip here, a bribe over there.... And between this and that, one’s freedom is slowly lost.”

“Corruption is also habit-forming, and generates poverty, exploitation, and suffering. How many victims there are in the world today! How many victims of this widespread corruption. But when we try to follow the Gospel logic of integrity, clarity in intentions and in behaviour, of fraternity, we become artisans of justice and we open horizons of hope for humanity,” he said.

In a Vatican address delivered on 25 October 2014 Pope Francis had compared corruption to bad breath. Pope Francis condemned corruption claiming it was a worse evil than sin, and compared it to bad breath. The Pontiff was meeting delegates from the International Association of Penal Law in the Vatican.

Pope Francis said: “The scandalous accumulation of global wealth is possible because of the connivance of those with strong powers who are responsible for public affairs. The corrupt one does not perceive his own corruption. It is a little like what happens with bad breath: someone who has it hardly ever realises it; other people notice and have to tell him.”

“Corruption is an evil greater than sin. More than forgiveness, this evil needs to be cured,” he said. ♦





# Hu Hsieb Saħħtek

Professur Maurice Cauchi



## Il-Kanċer tal-imsaren

**H**afna jaħsbu li l-kanċer m'hemmx kura għalih, però dan mhux veru.

Hafna nies illum qed jimxu fit-triq u jmorru għal xogħolhom minkejja l-fatt li kellhom xi kanċer snin qabel. L-importanti huwa li taħsiblu minn kmieni ħalli dan ma jidholx il-ġewwa u jkun tard wisq.

Il-kanċer tal-imsaren huwa wieħed mill-aktar komuni fost il-Maltin, u allura ta' min jgħid xi haġa fuq dan, għaliex hu daqshekk komuni, u x'għandna nagħmlu biex nindunaw li għandna din il-problema.

L-ewwelnett ta' min jgħid li dan il-kanċer huwa aktar komuni f'dawk in-nies li għandhom dieta li hija bbażata fuq ħafna laħam, u li tkun nieqsa minn ikel bħal ħxejjex, ċereali ('cereals'), u ikel ieħor li fih il-'fibre'. Per eżempju, ħobż kannella ('brown bread') fih ħafna aktar fibra minn ħobż abjad. Nies li jippreferu dieta bħal din għandhom tendenza ta' konstipazzjoni u dan jista' jiżviluppa f'kanċer.

Huwa fatt ukoll li dan il-kanċer huwa aktar komuni f'dawk li jpejpu, jew li jixorbu ħafna alkoħol. Huwa ukoll aktar komuni f'dawk in-nies li għandhom aktar milli suppost. Hemm ukoll gebbieda ereditarja, jiġifieri, jekk fil-familja għandek jew kellek qraba li kellhom kanċer, allura għandek xi ftit aktar ċans minn ħaddieħor li jkollok dan il-kanċer ukoll.

Allura x'għandek tagħmel biex tinduna li hemm xi kanċer tal-musrana minn kmieni kemm jista' jkun, għaliex aktar ma tara għalih kmieni, aktar hemm ċans li teqirdu



darba għal dejjem. Il-problema hi li għal bosta xhur, jekk mhux snin, il-kanċer jkun qed jikber bil-mod il-mod mingħajr inti ma tħossx xejn, jiġifieri ma jkunx hemm sintomi ta' xejn. Meta imbagħad jidhol aktar 'l quddiem, nibdew naraw xi demm fl-ippurgar, jew li tiżviluppa anemija mħabba t-telf tad-demm.

Naturalment, meta naraw xi sintomi bħal dawn tkun tehtieg vista għand it-tabib ħalli dan jagħmel l-eżamijiet li jehtieg. Però, kif semmejna qabel, dawn il-visti għandhom jsiru minn kmieni kemm jista' jkun, qabel wieħed jara xi sintomi. Hemm testijiet tal-ippurgar biex wieħed jara hemmx xi ħjiel ta' dmija, li għad li ma tkunx tidher fil-għajn, it-testijiet jkunu jistgħu jagħrfu. L-istess għall-anemija u testijiet oħra, dawn kollha testijiet sempliċi. Għalhekk tkun haġa tajba li kull min għalaq l-erbghin sena u jara xi problema żgħira kemm hi żgħira, għandu jagħmel vista regolari biex

tiċċekkja is-sitwazzjoni tal-ġisem (u mhux biss biex telimina l-kanċer).

F'każi fejn ikun suspett li hemm kanċer tal-imsaren, allura jkun jehtieg test speċjali (imsejjah 'colonoscopy'), fejn it-tabib ikun jista' jara b'għajnejh stess jekk hemm xi felula jew xi sinjal ieħor ta' bidu ta' kanċer. Meta jkun għadu fil-bidu, dan il-kanċer jista' jinqered faċilment. It-tabib jaqta din il-felula u jibgħatha l-laboratorju ħalli jsir dijanjosi preċiża. Test bħal dan għandu jisir regolari speċjalment f'dawk li għandhom tendenza speċjali għall-kanċer, kif semmejna hawn fuq. ♦

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

## Radju 3ZZZ jaghlaq sena jittrasmetti minn Brunswick



**Minn Paul Vella**

**N**har il-Hadd, 18 ta' Ġunju, ir-Radju Etniku Komunitarju f'Melbourne, 3ZZZ, organizza attività biex jiċcelebra l-ewwel anniversarju fl-użu tal-istudios godda fi 309 Albert Street, Brunswick, u fl-istess hin id-29 sena ta' xandir kontinwu.

Ix-xandara u s-semmiegħa ġew mistiedna biex jattendu għal din iċ-ċelebrazzjoni li nżammet fis-sala kbira tal-istazzjon. Persuni prominenti oħra ġew mistiedna wkoll.

L-ewwel kelliemi kien il-President, Manmohan S. Shergill li wara li ta merħba lil dawg prezenti tkellem fuq ix-xogħol b'dedikazzjoni lill-istazzjon u x-xandara jagħtu lill-komunità fil-Victoria, u permezz tal-internet lis-semmiegħa madwar id-dinja kollha.

Wara tkellmet Cr Sue Bolton li kienet qed tirrappreżenta lis-Sindku ta' Moreland. Din fahhret hafna x-xogħol ta' 3ZZZ li jagħmel kontinwament.

Is-Sur Eddie Micallef, President ta' ECCV, fahhar hafna x-xogħol siewi li 3ZZZ jagħmel fil-qasam tax-xandir. Is-Sur Joseph Caputo, Chairperson ta' FECCA, tkellem ukoll u fahhar hafna x-xogħol siewi ta' 3ZZZ.

Imbagħad kien wasal il-hin biex jinqasam il-kejk tal-okkażjoni, li sar mill-President, ta' 3ZZZ, is-Sur Manmohan S. Shergill, is-Segretarju 3ZZZ,

is-Sur George Salloum u oħrajn.

Wara li s-Sur Joseph Caputo għamel diskors tal-konkluzjoni, sar riċeviment fejn kien hemm hafna ikel u xorb.

Żewġ xandara Maltin, il-Convenor Lewis Stafrace flimkien mal-mara tiegħu, Marie, flimkien ma' Paul u Salvina Vella kienu prezenti.

Għadd ta' semmiegħa tal-programmi Maltin kienu attendew: Rosemary u Charles Attard, Iris Sapiano, Joe Bonett, u l-familja Belli: Miriam, Patricia, Victor u Alfred.

Dawn kollha ħadu gost minhabba li saru jafu kif u minn fejn jixxandru l-programmi Maltin. Naħseb li l-Grupp Malti l-iktar li kellhom numru kbir li attendew.

Hemm tliet programmi Maltin fuq 3ZZZ. It-Tnejn (Lewis Stafrace) 5 pm; il-Ġimgħa (Paul Vella) 5 pm; u s-Sibt (wieħed ma' Mario Sammut u l-ieħor "Inservik" ma' Lewis Stafrace, Mario Sammut u Paul Vella) 10 am.

Il-programmi Maltin huma ferm popolari mas-semmiegħa mhux biss tal-Victoria, imma minn madwar id-dinja. Xhieda ta' dan hu n-numru kbir ta' emails u SMS's li nircievu kull ġimgħa fejn jghidulna kemm jieħdu gost bil-programmi u jfahhruhom speċjalment kemm tjebet il-kwalità tal-programmi u kemm saru interessanti f'dawn l-aħħar xhur. ♡

## Community Events Calendar

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

### July 2017

Sun 16 July	Newport Seniors' Christmas in July	Melrose Receptions Tullamarine
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### August 2017

Wed 2 Aug @ 7.00 pm	MCCV Council Meeting	Maltese Community Centre, Parkville
Thu 10 Aug	Reskeon Fathers' Day Luncheon	Firenze Receptions Fawkner
Sun 20 Aug	Newport Seniors' Fathers' Day Dinner	Melrose Receptions Tullamarine



**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**.

## MCCV News

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

### DISCLAIMER

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