



# MerHbA

Maltese Historical Association (Aust) Inc  
(Ghaqda Storika Maltija (Awstralija) Inkorporata)

No 5/2011

November Newsletter

## This Month:

Our next talk will take place at the Maltese Community Centre, 477 Royal Parade, Parkville at 7.30pm on Tuesday September 15, 2011. Our speaker for this month is Professor Mario Garrett and his topic is

### 'The Maltese Diaspora – From Australia to America and in between'



Professor Mario Garrett was born in Cospicua, Malta. In 1973, as a result of the breakdown of negotiations between the Labour Government under Dom Mintoff and the British Government on the lease for using Malta as a military base, his family was posted to England. They settled near Wiltshire on the western side of England. At the age of 13, this was a traumatic move for Mario and all the family. Professor Garrett obtained his first degree – BSc (Hons) at the University of East London. He completed his PhD on Loneliness at the University of Bath. After finishing his studies in 1988 he returned to Malta where he worked at the United Nations Institute on Ageing. Professor Garrett started the training courses at the UN institute and launched their publication BOLD. He later moved to Las Vegas in Nevada, then Albuquerque in New Mexico and currently lives in San Diego California. He is currently Professor of Gerontology at San Diego State University and Director of the University Centre on Ageing. Professor Garrett has published extensively in his field of expertise.



## Best Wishes!

*'Il-Milied it-Tajjeb'.*



*The committee of the Maltese Historical Association would like to wish you and your loved ones a safe and holy Christmas and a 2012 filled with peace, good health and happiness. We look forward to seeing you all again in February*



## Last Month:

Dear Members

The Annual General Meeting of the Maltese Historical Association was held on 20 September. The Minutes of last year's AGM were passed. The activities organised by the committee during the year were outlined in the president's report. Apart from the bi-monthly presentations, we also organised an excursion for members to view the Vienna Exhibition at the National Gallery and the Language Immersion Morning for students studying the Maltese Language.

Members of the committee participated in the Commemoration of the George Cross and Operation Pedestal at the Shelter of Peace. The Association was also represented on ANZAC Day Commemoration in Malta. Another committee member also gave a photographic presentation on Malta at the Mill Park Public Library on Malta Day. This presentation was also shown to the members after the AGM. The Financial statements of the association were also passed.

This year, elections saw a change in the MHA committee. Dr Brian Zammit and Mrs Pauline Zammit decided not to nominate for positions on the committee. I thank both Brian and Pauline for their excellent contributions to the Association over the years. The new committee is as follows:

President: Frances Bonnici

Vice President: Emmanuel Cilia

Treasurer: Mario Bonnici

Secretary: Position Vacant

### Committee Members:

Charlie Portelli	Marija Cilia
Nino Xerri	Agnes Cauchi
Lewis Zammit	Maria Catania

I wish to thank Agnes and Maria for joining the committee and I am sure that their contribution would be a great asset to the association.

The committee will continue to organise the bi-monthly presentations as well as extra activities as opportunities arise. We will continue to provide our members with an interesting program for 2012. We hope that the members support the committee by attending the presentations and publicising our meetings to other people with an interest in Maltese history.

Frances Bonnici  
President - MHA

## Congratulations to Dr Edwin Borg-Manché



On Tuesday 25 October 2011 during address to the Maltese community at the Welcome Reception hosted by the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Tonio Borg, announced the appointment of Dr Edwin Borg-Manché as the new Honorary Consul for Malta in the State of Victoria. Dr Borg paid a special tribute to the outgoing Honorary Consul, Mr Victor Borg, who had served in that capacity for almost three decades.

## NOTICE

### Message from Professor Maurice Cauchi President of MCCV

The MCCV is compiling an email list of all those who are interested in being informed directly of activities held at the Centre as well as receive the MCCV Newsletter electronically. All those interested should send an email to MCCV ([admin@mccv.org.au](mailto:admin@mccv.org.au)) indicating their wish to be included.

## Il-Pitirrossi



The robin (Il-pitirros) is probably the best-known of all migratory birds in Malta. At Christmas time, it can be seen on many greeting cards. Its red breast stands out strikingly against a white, snowy background.

It has a cheerful song, a handsome appearance and is so friendly that it will often hop on to a windowsill inside a house, to feed on nuts or even a piece of cheese, when it gets to know you.

The robin measures about 140 millimetres from beak to tail and has a wingspan of about 180 millimetres.

Robins choose many different places for their nests. As well as bushes they will choose holes in walls or trees. They have been known to choose an old rusty pan, a letterbox, an old car and even a pulpit.

Their nests are bulky and made of moss and grass and lined with hair and feathers. Both the cock and the hen help to make the nest and take turns sitting on the eggs to hatch them. They both rear their young.

Five or six eggs are laid around March and these are white, speckled with pale red. They take about two weeks to hatch.

Robins chiefly feed on insects, including spiders and fleas, but they also eat worms, berries and seeds.

## **FIT & FED FROM THE CENTRE OF THE MED 4** **DIABETES AND MALTESE CUISINE**

- OUR GUEST SPEAKER IS **ANN PANTELLERSCO**, A QUALIFIED MALTESE DIATECIAN WHO WILL SPEAK ABOUT HOW THE MEDITERRANEAN DIET CAN HELP CONTROL DIABETES
- **ANTON CAMILLERI**, A MALTESE CHEF WILL DEMONSTRATE HOW TO CREATE A TRADITIONAL & HEALTHY MALTESE MEAL
- VICTORIA UNIVERSITY'S AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR DIABETES WILL ALSO BE PARTICIPATING. THE UNIVERSITY'S MOBILE GATEWAYS VEHICLE WILL BE SET UP AT THE FRONT WITH INFORMATION ABOUT DIABETES AND MANNED BY UNIVERSITY STAFF VENUE: MALTESE COMMUNITY CENTRE 477 ROYAL PARADE, PARKVILLE
- **DATE:** FRIDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2011 **TIME:** 10.30AM TO 12.00NOON  
(FOLLOWED BY A TRADITIONAL MALTESE LUNCH)
  - COST: \$15.00 PER PERSON
  - FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO BOOK CONTACT THE MALTESE CENTRE ON: 9387 8922
  - ATTENDANCE MUST BE PRE-BOOKED AND PAID

## Interesting Websites

Check these out:

- 1] [www.malteseabroad.org](http://www.malteseabroad.org) - the website of the Federation of Maltese Living Abroad, formed following the Convention of Maltese Living Abroad held in Malta in 2010.
- 2] <http://www.maltain360.com/#110001632> - this Heritage Malta website takes you on a virtual tour of a number of historically significant sites (courtesy of Joe Borg).

### Reminder

Memberships for 2011-2012 are now due. These remain unchanged at \$10 for singles and \$15 for couples. Please see Mario Bonnici at our next meeting or mail your cheque to:

59 Binnak Drive  
Watsonia  
VIC 3087.

#### Prospective members:

All Welcomed

Please note that you can download a membership form from our website [www.mha.org.au](http://www.mha.org.au) Or

you are always welcomed to attend any of our lectures and obtain a hard copy from Mario Bonnici.

### BANK OF VALLETTA PLC

Australia Representative Office:  
16 Watt Street Sunshine Vic 3020  
Tel 9311 3222 Fax 9311 3216



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9.00am to 1.00pm and 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Uffiċċju Rappreżentattiv  
L-Ewwel Bank Rappreżentattiv Malti fl-Awstralja



Claudia Zammit - Senior  
Travel Consultant  
170 Warrandyte Road  
North Ringwood Vic 3134

+61 3 9876 4166  
Toll free: 1300 885 805  
Fax: 03 9879 0471

[Claudia@signaturetravel.com.au](mailto:Claudia@signaturetravel.com.au)

