Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.

MCCV newsletter

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Is-Soċjetà Missjonarja ta' San Pawl Tagħlaq Mitt Sena

Is-Soċjetà Missjunarja ta' San Pawl, magħrufa bħala l-MSSP, din is-sena qed tiċċelebra iċ-ċentinarju mit-twaqqif tagħha. Kien fl-1910, meta l-fundatur Mons. Ġużeppi De Piro aċċetta l-ewwel zewġ membri fis-Soċjetà, li ġiet approvata formalment mill-Isqof ta' Malta fl-1921.

Min kien De Piro?

Ġużeppi De Piro twieled l-Imdina, Malta, fit-2 ta' Novembru 1877 f'familja nobbli u sinjura, is-seba' wieħed minn disgħat itfal. Bħala żagħżugħ huwa beda jistudja għal avukat, sakemm ħass is-sejħa tal-vokazzjoni għas-saċerdozju. De Piro ġie ordnat saċerdot f'Ruma fl-1903.

Bhala qassis De Piro minn dejjem kellu ġibda speċjali lejn il-missjonijiet u l-ħidma pastorali qalb il-foqra. Ix-xewqa li bdiet tinbet f'moħħu kienet li jwaqqaf soċjetà ta' qassisin u 'brothers' li jwasslu l-Aħbar it-Tajba tal-Vanġelu. Din ix-xewqa saret realtà fit-30 ta' Gunju 1910, meta twaqqfet l-MSSP. L-ispirazzjoni u l-viżjoni ta' De Piro malajr bdew iħallu impressjoni fuq l-ewwel membri tas-Soċjetà, b'mod speċjali l-entużjażmu missjonarju u l-imħabba lejn il-foqra.

L-ewwel missjunarju tas-Soċjetà kien Fra Ġużeppi Caruana li fl-1927 intbagħat l-Abissinja jigifieri l-Etjopja, fejn baqa' sa kemm miet fl-età ta' 83 sena fl-1975. De Piro xtaq iżur din il-missjoni fl-Afrika hu stess iżda Alla kellu pjanijiet oħra għalih meta, ħabta u sabta, sejjaħlu ghall-ħajja eterna fis-17 ta' Settembru 1933 fl-età ta' 55 sena.

Minn grupp zghir ta' 'brothers' u saċerdoti, l-MSSP iffjorixxiet f'Soċjetà li, minkejja żmienijiet diffiċli fil-bidu tas-snin ħamsin, kompliet tikber u tagħti ħajja lill-kliem profetiku tal-fundatur li, ftit qabel ma miet, kien qal li is-Soċjetà tikber biss wara mewtu.

Il-Firxa tal-Missjoni Pawlina

Illum il-membri tal-MSSP ikomplu l-missjoni li fdalhom f'idejhom il-fundatur kariżmatiku tagħhom b'fedeltà u dedikazzjoni f'dinja li dejjem tinbidel u tippreżenta sfidi ġodda. B'impenn missjonarju huma jieħdu ħsieb u jxerrdu t-tagħlim nisrani f'diversi parroċċi, skejjel, ċentri ghaż-żgħażagħ, ċentri għall-emigranti, qalb il-foqra u l-batuti fl-Awstralja,

Tkompli f'paġna 2

Iċ-Ċentru Malti gewwa Parkville mibni fl-1983 għall-komunità Maltija tal-Victoria fuq l-art tas-Soċjetà.

in communion for mission
MSSP100
missionary society of st.paul

Celebration

To celebrate the First Centenary of Foundation the MSSP is organising a program of celebration on

Sunday
28 November 2010

At Saint Leopold — Croatian Catholic Centre, Cnr. Fitzgerald Road & Whiteside Ave, Ardeer

Starting at **2.00 pm** with a short programme presided by Fr Bernard Mangion MSSP, Superior General, followed by Eucharist at **5.00 pm** with His Grace Archbishop Denis Hart as the Principal Celebrant

Everyone is invited.

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Tkompli minn paġna 1

il-Perù, il-Pakistan, il-Filippini, l-Amerka, il-Kanada, l-Italja u, naturalment, Malta.

Is-Soċjetà fl-Awstrajla

L-ewwel qassis tal-MSSP li ntbagħat l-Awstralja kien Patri Wistin Grech li wasal Melbourne fit-2 t'Awissu 1948 flimkien ma' grupp ta madwar 450 emigranti Maltin fuq il-vapur *Strathnaver*.

Tlett snin wara is-Soċjetà xtrat l-ewwel dar, Saint Mary's Mission House f'Drummond Street, Carlton, Victoria, li ġiet inawgurata u mbierka mill-Arċisqof ta' Melbourne, Dr Daniel Mannix. Aktar tard l-MSSP xtrat dar oħra b'pożizzjoni aħjar fuq triq priċipali, Royal Parade, Parkville, fejn illum jinsabu id-dar tal-qassisin u ċ-Ċentru Malti.

Fl-1956 l-MSSP kompliet tinfirex meta Fr Honoratus Galea inħatar kappillan f'Saint Mel's Parish, Swanbourne. Fl-1964 kien imiss lill-komunità Maltija ta' New South Wales li tibda tgawdi mill-preżenza pastorali tal-MSSP meta infetħet id-dar f'South Sydney.

Fl-1971 l-MSSP fetħet l-ewwel Dar tal-Formazzjoni fl-Awstralja, St Paul's Missionary College f'Wantirna South, Victoria, li tbierket mill-Kardinal James Knox, Arċisqof ta' Melbourne.

Sħubija bejn l-MSSP u l-MCCV

Ma hemm l-ebda dubju li l-komunità Maltija fl-Awstralja ma kienetx tkun dak li hi llum mingħajr l-għajnuna u l-ħidma pastorali tal-qassisin tal-MSSP. Matul is-snin ir-relazzjonijiet bejn il-Kunsill tal-Komunità Maltija tal-Victoria (l-MCCV) u l-MSSP komplew jissaħħu, b'wieħed mill-qassisin elett membru tal-Kumitat Eżekuttiv fil-kariga ta' 'Chaplain' tal-Kunsill.

Ma hemm l-ebda dubju li l-komunità Maltija fl-Awstralja ma kienetx tkun dak li hi llum mingħajr l-għajnuna u l-ħidma pastorali tal-qassisin tal-MSSP.

Fil-laqgħat tal-Kunsill t'Awissu 1973 Dun Ġorġ Scerri esprima ix-xewqa tiegħu li l-Kunsill jagħti aktar appoġġ lill-qassisin missjonarji u ħeġġeġ lil dawk preżenti biex jattendu l-knisja ta' St Mary Star of the Sea f'West Melbourne għaċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet nazzjonali ta' Marija Bambina fit-2 ta' Settembru 1973. Il-Kunsill fehem tajjeb din is-sejħa mill-qalb tal-qassis twajjeb u dan l-avveniment annwali malajr sar wieħed importanti ħafna għall-maġġoranza kbira tal-Maltin ta' Melbourne.

L-aħjar simbolu tal-sħubija bejn l-MSSP u l-Kunsill Malti huwa mingħajr dubju il-bini taċ-Ċentru Malti fuq l-art prominenti tas-Soċjetà f'Royal Parade, Parkville, ipprovduta bla ħlas. L-Eżekuttiv tal-MCCV kien avviċina l-qassisin tal-MSSP biex jinbena ċentru għall-Maltin fuq din l-art. Bl-appoġġ ta' Dun Ġorġ Scerri u Fr Victor Shields, Fr Stanley Tomlin, il-Provinċjal tal-MSSP, u l-Kunsill tiegħu f'Malta aċċettaw din il-proposta tal-MCCV u x-xogħol beda biex il-proġett jitlesta fl-iqsar żmien possibbli. Iċ-Ċentru Malti nfetaħ uffiċjalment nhar il-Ħadd 20 ta' Novembru 1983 mill-Premier tal-Victoria, l-Onor. John Cain u tbierek mill-Arċisqof ta' Melbourne Sir Thomas Francis Little.

F'Settembru tal-1978 intlaħaq ftehim biex jinbena dan iċ-ċentru u, skond dan il-ftehim, iż-żewġ naħat wegħdu li jgħinu lil xulxin u jikkontribwixxu l-fondi neċessarji għall-bini. Dun Ġorġ Scerri għall-MSSP u l-avukat Victor Borg għall-Kunsill inawguraw appell speċjali biex jinġabru l-flus biex il-ħolma ta' ċentru kbir u modern biex jaqdi l-komunità Maltija fil-Victoria iseħħ.

Sfortunatament, Dun Ġorġ Scerri, raġel qaddis, kellu jgħaddi minn mewta kiefra meta fl-4 t'Awissu 1980 miet traġikament u bla bżonn meta nqatel minn ħalliel li daħal biex jisraq mid-dar

Mix-xellug, l-Arċisqof ta' Melbourne Frank Little, Joe Bartolo, Viċi President tal-MCCV, Victor Borg, President tal-MCCV, Fr James Bonello, Superjur Ġenerali tal-MSSP u John Cain, State Premier tal-Victoria waqt iċ-cerimonja tal-ftuħ uffiċjali taċ-Ċentru Malti f'Parkville fl-20 ta' Novembru 1983.

tas-Soċjetà f'Brunswick, Victoria. Din l-aħbar kerha ħasdet sewwa il-komunità Maltija fl'Awstralja. Il-qattiel baqa' ma nstabx sal-lum.

Gratitudni u Ċelebrazzjoni

Il-Maltin fl-Awstralja huma grati lejn is-Soċjetà Missjunarja ta' San Pawl ghal dak kollu li għamlet u għadha tagħmel magħhom. Il-Kunsill Malti tal-Victoria dejjem irrikonoxxa il-kontribuzzjoni enormi li l-qassisin missjunarji taw lill-komunità Maltija, kif jixhdu tajjeb d-diskorsi tal-President Victor Borg f'diversi funzjonijiet tal-komunità.

Għandna tassew ghalxiex nifirħu, niċċelebraw u nħossuna kburin bl-egħluq il-mitt sena mit-twaqqif tas-Soċjetà Missjunarja ta' San Pawl. Il-ġid spiritwali li ġiebu magħhom u ferrxu fostna il-qassisin missjunarji huwa ingredjent essenzjali li għen biex għaqqad l-emigranti Maltin flimkien f'art tant imbegħda minn fejn gew. ◻

— minn Dr Edwin Borg-Manché

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MCCV NEWSLETTER

The MCCV Newsletter is published every two months to inform the Maltese community about activities, news and information that would be of interest. Affiliated associations are encouraged to provide contributions including:

- Notices for forthcoming community events
- Brief reports and photos on community events that took place since the publication of the previous newsletter
- Short articles of interest to the Maltese community

Contributions should be forwarded to the Editor either by email at mccvpro@gmail.com or alternatively by post to:

The Editor
MCCV Newsletter
Maltese Community Council of Victoria
477 Royal Parade
PARKVILLE 3052

Contributions must be submitted by the following dates:

- January-February 2011 Newsletter: Friday 21 Jan 2011
- March-April 2011 Newsletter: Friday 18 Feb 2011

Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria

Programm Mużiko-Letterarju

minn Paul Vella

Joe Gauci, Joe Cutajar u Manuel Casha kitarri, Laurie Armato mandolina u Joe Camilleri perkussjoni

Nhar il-Ħadd, 19 ta' Settembru, il-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria organizza Programm Mużiko-Letterarju fis-Sala taċ-Ċentru Malti ta' Parkville. Madwar 75 membru tal-komunità attendew u ħadu gost bil-programm.

Wara li ndaqq l-Innu Malti sar diskors ta' merħba minn Dr Victor Sammut, President tal-Grupp, fejn fost affarijiet ohra fisser il-għan tal-Grupp u ħajjar lil dawk preżenti biex, jekk mhumiex, isiru membri.

Il-kompers Raymond u Mary-Louise Anastasi bdew jintroduċu lil dawk li kienu se jieħdu sehem bil-qari tagħhom.

Maria Catania ppreżentat biografija ta' Ġan Anton Vassallo fejn wara kulħadd kanta "Tifħira lil Malta". Dr Lou Drofenik qrat zewg poeziji li kitbet hi stess: "Lament" u "L-Hena tal-Familja". Imbaghad kien imiss lil Manwel Cassar li qara żewg poeziji, kitba tieghu, "Ilwien" u "Artisti" u wara qara wkoll poeżija miktuba mill-mara tiegħu, Josephine, "Tgħammix". Dr Victor Sammut qralna l-kitba tieghu "Pressjoni Gholja".

Hawn kien wasal il-ħin ghal intervent mużikali li gie provdut minn Manuel Casha, Joe Gauci u Joe Cutajar fuq il-kitarri, Laurie Armato fuq il-mandolina u Joe Camilleri, perkussjoni.

Marie-Louise Anastasi qrat il-poeżiji tagħha "L-Omm Hi l-Imħabba" u wara, Paul Vella qara n-novella tieghu "Id-Darsa ta' Pietru".

Wara ntervent mużikali iehor mill-istess grupp, Michael Xuereb qara l-poeżija tieghu "Lil Ommi". Laurie Armato mhux biss hu muzicista imma wkoll poeta tajjeb u kien imiss lilu biex jaqralna żewg poeziji tieghu "Parodija f'Nofs il-Lejl" u "Ir-Ritratt". Il-poeżija "Minn Fomm il-Għanja" inqrat mill-awtur taghha, Dr Clemente Zammit.

Wara intervall ta' nofs siegha fejn kulħadd ħa kikra tè jew kafè u xi ħaga tal-ħelu, kulħadd reġa daħal fis-sala biex jitkompla l-programm li beda bi ftit mużika.

Frank Bonett jikteb poeżiji sbieh, imma din id-darba għazel li jaqralna poeżija tal-mibki u qatt minsi Dr Guzè Abela, il-fundatur tal-Grupp. Skond Frank Bonett, kien Dr Abela li ħajru biex jieħu interess fil-Malti u jitgħallem jikteb il-poeżija. Il-poeżija li qralna Frank, kienet "Lil Malta".

Wara li Dr Lou Drofenik qratilna zewg poeżiji ohra, "Bikja ta' Omm" u "Il-Kaxxa tal-Hjata", erġajna smajna lil Michael Xuereb li tana l-poeżija "Il-Bidwi". Gużi Camilleri qralna biċċa proża minn tiegħu, "Malta Issa Ingħaqdet ma' l-Ewropa". Joe Schembri qara l-poeżija tiegħu "Praspar li f'Malta Biss Isiru" fejn warajh kien imiss lil Manuel Casha b'zewg poeżiji tieghu "Jien Nafek" u "Il-Feluka"

Wara aktar mużika Maltija smajna lil Albert Agius jaqra l-poeżija tieghu "Talba ta' Xebba" u warajh Dr Victor Sammut qralna poeżija oħra minn tiegħu "Għandi Swimming Pool".

L-aħħar qari li sar kien minn Raymond u Marie-Louise Anastasi fejn qrawlna poeżija ta' George Aquilina (Nofs il-Lejl), "Id-Dota ta' l-Għarusa".

Fl-aħħar tal-programm ingħaqdet magħna l-awtrici ta' kotba tat-tisjir, is-Sinjura Karmen Tedesco, fejn wara diskors qasir ippreżentat żewg kotba ta' riċetti *Ikel Bnin Vol 9 u 10* lill-avukat Victor Borg, il-President tal-Kunsill Malti tal-Victoria, biex jitqegħdu fil-librerija tal-Kunsill. ◻

Mix-xellug Mrs Marie-Louise Anastasi, Dr Victor Sammut, Mr Victor Borg u Mrs Karmen Tedesco biż-żewg kotba preżentati.

Maltese Biometric Passports

Capturing Image and Fingerprints in Australia

As a signatory member of the Schengen agreement, Malta introduced new biometric passports with digital facial imaging and fingerprints scan biometrics recorded on a contactless microchip, also known as *ePassports*.

The digital capture process was implemented first in Malta a few months ago and gradually extended to Malta's representative offices abroad, including Australia recently. The process implies that applicants living in Australia would have to report in person to the Malta High Commission in Canberra or the Consulates in Melbourne and Sydney. Alternatively, applicants may renew their passport while in Malta as close to its expiry date as possible.

At its October meeting, the MCCV Council discussed the implications of the new passport issuing and renewal process on Maltese citizens in Australia living in places other than Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne. Two practical suggestions were made to do away with the need for the applicant to travel to one of these cities to comply with the process.

It was suggested that a High Commission or Consulate officer could travel with the necessary digital capture equipment to the other state capital cities and large towns in Australia.

The other suggestion is for the Maltese Government to enter into an arrangement with the Australian federal government or state governments in Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia, and Northern Territory (or an appropriate government agency, such as, the Police force) to provide the electronic capture services on its behalf. It should be noted that many years ago the Australian Government authorised Australia Post as its agent to receive passport applications and, more recently, capture digital images of applicants for ePassports on its behalf.

At the MCCV Annual General Meeting on 27 October, the Consul-General for Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud confirmed that the digital scanning equipment is not portable. In response to a question, he said that he was not sure whether the Maltese government would consider seeking the assistance of state governments and police agencies and whether the latter would consider entering into arrangements to provide such services. ◻

Appeal for Contributions to the Museum for Migration and Visitors' Centre

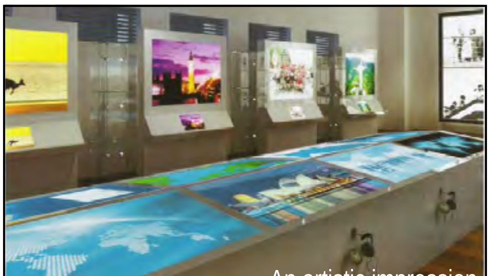
Last January the Emigrants' Commission announced its project to establish a museum about migration from the Maltese Islands to be called *Museum for Migration and Visitors' Centre* and situated at 'Dar l-Emigrant', Castille Place, Valletta.

The cost for the construction required to convert the building into the Museum and the creation of the exhibits is estimated at €1,200,000. The opening of the Museum is scheduled for the third Sunday of January 2012 — Migrants Day.

The Commission first presented the idea of such a museum in 2000 at the Convention of Leaders of Associations of Maltese Abroad and of Maltese Origin, jointly organised by the Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The setting up of the museum was one of the main recommendations adopted at the Convention.

For the past century and a half emigration has been a major social, political, and policy issue in Malta and forms an integral part of the recent history of Malta. The phenomenon impacted whole generations of Maltese over several decades socially, culturally and economically.

People of Maltese origin can be found almost everywhere in the world but mainly in the main destinations where European emigration started as from the middle of the 19th century, including in Northern Africa, England, France, Spain, Turkey, Australia, Canada, the US and South America. The size of the Maltese Diaspora living in these countries and others is estimated to be much greater than the population of the Maltese Islands.


An artistic impression

The goal of this project is to create a Migration Museum as a primary attraction to both visitors to Malta (especially the several thousands of ex-Maltese migrants or their descendants) as well as local residents, given that almost all families in Malta have in some way or other been affected over the years by the phenomenon of migration. It will depict the status of Malta over the past 200 years, explain the existence of Maltese people who left, and their links to Malta with Maltese communities overseas. It will also record how emigration started and developed and how the communities of Maltese emigrants integrated in the various countries of adoption and what they contributed in these places.

Another aim of the museum is to enable the Maltese in Malta and the Maltese communities abroad to better understand the reality of the phenomenon of migration and the value of social inclusion.

The museum complex will consist of:

- **Museum** for the display of the migration material using state-of-the-art technology infrastructure. About 100 visitors at the same time can be accommodated in this area.
- **150-seat Auditorium** for the viewing of a multimedia presentation on Maltese migration and its historical and social effects. It will provide narratives, exhibits, stills, footage, and interactive programs of the Museum, and thought-provoking material about the emigration experience.
- **Roof garden** for the enjoyment of an audio-visual experience from the roof with a magnificent view of the Grand Harbour. Various sites of historical significance and others related to migration will be pointed out with the use of binoculars/video screens linked to an audio commentary in several languages.
- **Museum Shop** with total capacity of about 20 visitors at a time, and a **Cafeteria** to serve 80 visitors.

Appeal for Contributions

The Commission has extensive memorabilia for display in the new museum, including both official and non-official documentation, photos, newspapers from various countries, objects, certificates, personal and general records, stories and letters.

A council has been established to direct and supervise the implementation of the project. It is convinced that among many Maltese families and those of Maltese origin scattered across the globe there would be documentation, objects and memorabilia of great importance that need to be gathered and preserved. The planned museum would be the ideal place where they would form part of the documented history to be archived and exhibited.

The council appeals to anyone who could offer migration related material to the museum for the history of Maltese emigration to be fully represented to contact the council. It is also interested in hearing from anyone who can offer his or her services or provide financial assistance.

The council may be contacted at:

'Dar l-Emigrant', Castille Place
Valletta VLT 1062, MALTA.
maltamigrationmuseum@melita.com,
Tel: (+356) 21222644, (+356) 21232545, (+356) 21240255
Fax : (+356) 21240022.

New MCCV Executive Committee

On Wednesday 27 October 2010, the Maltese Community Council of Victoria held its Annual General Meeting at the Maltese Centre in Parkville.

Outgoing President, Mr Victor Borg, gave a detailed account of the achievements of the MCCV during the past year. He highlighted the MCCV contribution at the Convention of the Maltese Living Abroad held in Malta in March 2010, where the MCCV and its affiliated associations were well represented.

Mr Borg thanked the associations for the support that they provided to the MCCV and the Executive Committee members and MCCV staff for their hard work and commitment

In a reference to the important issue of attracting youth to the MCCV, Mr Borg recognised that past insistence on holding MCCV Executive and Council meetings in Maltese may have disenfranchised our younger generations and needs to change. He stressed that speaking the language should not be a pre-requisite to belonging to the Maltese Diaspora.

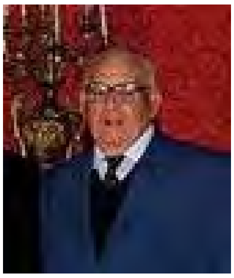
MCCV Treasurer, Mr Paul Borg, delivered a detailed financial report for the past 12 months. The report was approved by the meeting.

Mr Emmanuel Cilia was appointed Returns Officer for the Executive Committee election. As there was only one candidate for each position, Mr Cilia read out each nomination and declared each candidate elected.

The new MCCV Executive Committee for the next two years is as follows

President	**Prof. Maurice Cauchi**
Vice Presidents	**Guy Deguara**
	Victor Borg
Treasurer	**Paul Borg**
Asst. Treasurer	**Georgina Borg**
Secretary	**Edwina Mallia**
Asst. Secretary	**Marilyn Pace**
Welfare Director	**Rosemary Attard**
PRO	**Edwin Borg-Manché**
Chaplain	**Fr Edwin Agius MSSP**

Fathers of PM and President pass away



On 6 September **Luigi Gonzi**, the Maltese Prime Minister's father, diedat Mater Dei Hospital aged 89, less than two years after the passing away of his wife, Ines.

Mr Gonzi, affectionately known as Ġiġi, died at Mater Dei Hospital surrounded by his children, Lawrence, the PM, Margaret, a nun at the Convent of the Good Shepherd, and twins Paulanne and Nationalist MP Michael.

The Nationalist Party expressed its condolences to the Prime Minister and his brother. Nationalist MP Michael Gonzi. It paid tribute to Mr Gonzi and his late wife Ines for their exemplary life and for the way they had, quietly and with dedication, raised a family, with two of their sons serving their country as Prime Minister and as an MP.

On behalf of the MCCV Executive and affiliated associations, Mr Victor Borg, MCCV President extended sincere condolences and deepest sympathies to the PM and his family.

On 7 September **George Abela**, the father of the President of Malta, aged 84, passed away at Mater Dei Hospital with his wife Lucarda and the President by his side. Having lived most of his life in Qormi, George Abela Snr used to be a port worker.

According to a Nationalist Party statement, Mr Abela represented the genuine love of a father towards his children and through personal sacrifices and hard work, he did his utmost for his children to live a better life and be of service to their country.

President George Abela was unable to attend the funeral of the Prime Minister's father yesterday as he was in hospital with his own father who died early yesterday afternoon.

On behalf of the MCCV Executive and affiliated associations, Mr Victor Borg, MCCV President conveyed sincere condolences and deepest sympathies to the President and his family. ◻

Recent Appointments

Malta's Chief Justice **Vincent de Gaetano** was elected Malta's Judge on the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. He replaces Judge Giovanni Bonello, who retired after having sat on the court since its inception in November 1998.

Attorney-General Dr **Silvio Camilleri** was appointed Malta's 22nd Chief Justice. He graduated as lawyer in 1975 and was called to the bar in 1976. He was appointed Assistant to the Attorney General in 1989 and Attorney General in 2004.

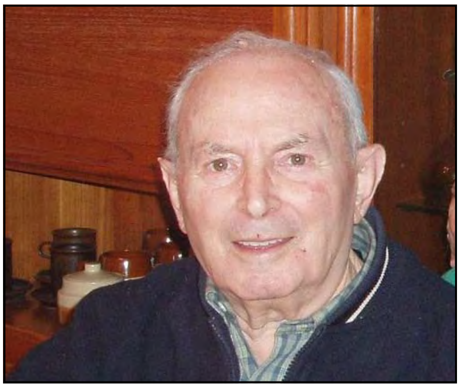
Deputy Attorney General, Dr **Peter Grech**, was appointed Attorney General. Dr Grech graduated Doctor of Laws in 1979 and was called to the Bar in 1980. He was appointed assistant to the Attorney General in 1994 and Deputy Attorney General in 2005. ◻

John Gauci - Telfa kbira ghall-Komunità Maltija tal-Victoria

Nhar il-Ħamis, 16 ta' Settembru, miet **John Gauci** fl-età ta' 83 sena. John kien magħruf ħafna fil-komunità għax-xogħol u l-ħin li ta matul ħajtu. L-iktar li se jibqa' miftakar hu li kien membru fundatur tar-Reskeon Maltese Association.

Kienet is-sena 1976 meta Fr George Xerri, tas-Socjetà Missjunarja ta' San Pawl, ħass il-ħtiega li jorganizza xi ħaga għall-Maltin tan-Northern Suburbs biex jingħaqdu flimkien. Veru li l-Maltin minn dejjem kienu jintegraw sewwa fil-ħajja Awstraljana, imma hu veru wkoll li huma kienu jħobbu jżommu u jgħixu l-kultura Maltija li tellgħu magħhom. Kien għalhekk li Fr Xerri kien bagħat lil Fr Victor Shields, tal-istess socjetà biex jorganizza grupp ta' Maltin u jiffurmalhom kumitat. Dan kien sar fis-sala tal-Knisja ta' San Stiefnu, Reservoir.

Hemm kienu jiltaqgħu hafna Maltin u għalhekk dawn marru bi ħġarhom għal din il-laqgħa. John Gauci kien ġie mħajjar mill-ħabib tiegħu Laurie Bartolo biex imorru u jaraw x'kien se jiġri. John kien mar aktar bħala kurżità, imma kienet sorpriża għalih li meta kien se jiġi ffurmat il-kumitat intalab biex ikun l-ewwel president. Wara



ftit huwa aċċetta li jieħu dik il-pożizzjoni għall-ewwel sena sakemm il-kumitat isir stabbli.

Imma minn sena, għaddew is-snin u John baqa' president tal-għaqda ghal aktar minn 25 sena sakemm irtira minn din il-pozizzjoni. Isem il-ghaqda kien "Reskeon" mfassla minn zewg subborgi minn fejn kienu gew parti kbira tal-membri – REServoir u KEON Park.

Matul is-snin l-għaqda kibret u fost l-attivitajiet li kienu jorganizzaw għall-membri, bħal ballijiet, ħargiet u affarijiet ohra, l-għaqda tieħu hsieb il-Festa ta' Marija Bambina li dejjem organizzaw ghan-nom tal-Patrijiet tal-MSSP u Jum il-Maltin, xalata kbira li kienet tiġbed lejha eluf ta' Maltin, l-ewwel f'Wandong u mbagħad f'Sunbury.

Fl-1996, John Gauci ħass il-htiega li jwaqqaf ghaqda biex tieħu ħsieb l-anzjani, ħafna minnhom membri tal-għaqda li bdew deħlin fl-età. Ir-Reskeon Seniors Group ġie mwaqqaf fl-1996 u tiegħu John kien dam ko-ordinatur ghal seba' snin.

John ħadem ħafna biex jgħin lis-Soċjetà tal-MSSP u liċ-Ċentru Malti tal-Victoria.

John kien ingħata awards, waħda mill-SBS u l-oħra Manuel de Vilhena.

Huwa ħalla jibku t-telfa tiegħu lill-martu Maryanne, lill-uliedu Emmanuel, Rita, Mario u Julie, in-nisa u l-irgiel tagħhom u lill-uliedhom fost ħafna qraba u ħbieb.

Il-kumitati taż-żewġt għaqdiet u l-membri tagħhom attendew bi ħġarhom il-funeral fejn ħdejn it-tebut tpoġġa l-istandard tal-ghaqda. Fl-ewwel laqgħa tal-anzjani wara l-funeral, giet osservata minuta silenzju b'rispett lejh. ◻

— minn Paul Vella

Maltese VCE status in jeopardy

The VCE status of Maltese is at risk. If schools do not present a minimum of 15 students for the 2011 Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) exam, Maltese will be gradually removed from the list of languages offered at that level by the Australian Education Department.

This was confirmed by keynote speaker Mr Frank Merlino, the Principal of the Victorian School of Languages, at a Professional Development Seminar held on the weekend of 25-26 September 2010 by the Federation of Maltese Language Schools (FMLS) at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville.

Mr Merlino spoke about the issue of the small candidature taking up Maltese at senior levels and encouraged the Maltese schools to enrol more students to undertake the National Maltese Continuers examination, offered by the Board of Studies of Victoria. The Seminar was attended by delegates, administrators and teachers from the Australian Capital Territory, South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia and Queensland.

At its monthly meeting held on 6 October 2010, the MCCV Council discussed this issue and urged the Maltese community in Victoria to provide its support in order to ensure that the hard-earned accreditation of the Maltese language as a VCE subject is maintained for our future generations. A recruitment drive aimed at main stream schools is being initiated with the assistance of the MCCV Maltese Language Classes.

To boost the student numbers, adults students interested in learning Maltese are also encouraged to enrol in the subject. **Taylors Lakes Secondary College is offering VCE Maltese Language Classes for adults. Interested students should contact Marisa Spiteri by email to marisa_spiteri@yahoo.com.au or on 0431 067 075.**

To assist in attracting students to sit for the Board of Studies exam next year, the High Commission of Malta announced on 29 September that a **one-off stipend of $150** will be available to individual students sitting for VCE/HSC/SACE in 2011. Further information on the stipend may be obtained from Malta High Commission 38 Culgoa Circuit, O'Malley ACT 2606 – Tel (02) 6290 1847 or email highcommission.canberra@gov.mt.

FMLS Maltese Language Seminar

Addressing the seminar, on Saturday 25 September, Consul-General for Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud, emphasised how important it is for the Maltese living in Australia to retain their language and culture. He said that the Consulate is already assisting the Maltese schools in recruiting more students to attend the Maltese lessons. Mr. Mifsud read out the message sent to the Seminar participants by the Hon. Dolores Cristina, the Minister of Education (Malta). She praised the work that has been accomplished by the Maltese schools in Australia and encouraged them to continue in their provision of spreading the teaching and learning of the Maltese Language and Culture. She also promised the continuation of cooperation and assistance to the FMLS and schools as was proposed at the Convention for Maltese Living Abroad in March 2010.

FMLS Secretary Marthese Caruana read out the message received from the Hon Dr Joseph Muscat, Leader of the Opposition, who visited Australia only few months ago. Dr Muscat said that he experienced himself the great interest in the teaching of the Maltese Language and Culture by the Maltese Community in Australia and he also promised the support of his party.

FMLA seminar participants with Consul-General, Mr Charles Mifsud

At the FMLS Annual General Meeting, Mr Frank Scicluna, President of the Federation, in his report thanked the Minister of Education for offering scholarships to the Maltese living abroad and for the other proposals that the Ministry promised to implement if the future to assist the Federation in the retention of the language and culture of Malta in Australia. Mr Scicluna spoke about the sterling work that has been accomplished by the Federation since its establishment in 2008. The Secretary, Marthese Caruana, and Treasurer, Alfred Flask, tabled their reports and the election was conducted. The President Frank Scicluna, vice President Edwidge Borg, Secretary Marthese Caruana and Treasurer Alfred Flask were re-elected unopposed.

On Sunday 26 September the second professional development seminar since the foundation of the FMLS was held. Workshops were facilitated by Frances Bonnici and Anna Farrugia on the topics of "Planning a unit of Work" for both school age children and adult students and "How to Construct a Lesson Plan'. Both workshops followed the Essential Learning Standard guidelines. The workshops were very well received and the teachers had the opportunity to discuss and share ideas on how to improve their teaching methodology and techniques.

Maltese Language Scholarships

At the Convention of Maltese Living Abroad held in Malta in March this year Education Minister Dolores Cristina announced that her ministry will be offering five scholarships annually to Maltese persons overseas to specialise in Maltese as part of an education degree course at the University of Malta.

To give effect to the Minister's announcement, the Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family in Malta a few weeks ago launched a scheme of five *Xerred il-Malti* ("Spread Maltese") scholarships aimed at Maltese Living Abroad who wish to undertake a four-year course of studies at the University of Malta leading to a degree at B.Educ (Hons) level specializing in the study of the Maltese Language.

The scholarships are aimed at persons of Maltese nationality or descent of the second or third generation, who do not reside in Malta and who wish to increase their knowledge of, and spread the learning of Maltese among emigrants, and also to give them the opportunity to learn the teaching and culture of the language of Malta. The regulations and application forms are available on the Ministry's website at:

http://www.education.gov.mt/xerredilmalti.htm. □

St Mary MacKillop — *the first Australian Saint*

Photo: Casamento Photography

The celebration procession held in Melbourne

Just as Malta celebrated the canonisation of its first saint, St George Preca, just over three years ago, Australia had to wait until 17 October 2010 to honour its first saint – St Mary MacKillop, officially known as *Saint Mary of the Cross (MacKillop)* after her canonisation. This long-awaited event was considered historic and momentous not just for the Catholics but also for the broader Australian community.

To commemorate this unique event, the Sisters of St Joseph in conjunction with the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne hosted an event that brought the community together in celebrating Australia's first saint.

In Melbourne the celebrations started with Mass at 11.00 am at St Patrick's Cathedral in East Melbourne. At 1.15pm the site for the new Mary MacKillop Chapel was blessed. The Mary of the Cross Chapel will be built on the vacant Australian Catholic University site opposite Mary MacKillop's birthplace in the Melbourne suburb of Fitzroy.

At 2.15pm, a colourful procession was held, beginning at the birthplace of Mary MacKillop at the city end of Brunswick Street, Fitzroy and ending at the Royal Exhibition Building where, on 9 May 1901, the newly formed Commonwealth of Australia opened its first parliament.

At 2.45pm, the procession was followed by a festival at the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens with entertainment from multicultural bands and groups, street theatre, interpretative displays of Mary's life and legacy and stalls showcasing the work of a wide range of social service groups.

In the early evening, a prayer service was conducted in the Royal Exhibition Building, leading into a direct telecast of the canonisation ceremony at 7.00 pm from the Vatican.

Who was Mary MacKillop?

Mary MacKillop was born in 1842 in Fitzroy, Melbourne to Scottish parents. From an early age Mary had wanted to be a nun. At just 24 years old she co-founded the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart School in South Australia and in doing so she made a commitment to live in poverty and dedicate her life to educating poor children.

Although at times she was a controversial figure, having been excommunicated for a short period of time from the church, Mary MacKillop completed the final tasks required for Sainthood, when her second miracle from beyond the grave was confirmed by Pope Benedict XVI in December 2009. Her case for canonisation had begun in 1972 but it was only on 19 January 1995 that she was formally beatified. In February 2010, the Pope announced that her canonisation ceremony would take place at the Vatican on 17 October 2010.

Patron Saint of Sex Abuse Victims?

In an article entitled published on the *America the National Catholic Weekly* website on 29 September 2010, Jesuit priest Fr James Martin SJ reported that the full story has now come out that Mary MacKillop was "excommunicated out of 'revenge' in the words of one priest familiar with her life, for her part (and her order's part) in uncovering a case of sex abuse by a Father Keating, in a nearby parish.

MacKillop and the Josephite Sisters had reported the abuse to the vicar-general and disciplinary action was taken against Keating, humiliating him and angering a Fr Charles Horan, who was close to Bishop Sheil. Horan is believed to have harboured a grudge against MacKillop and the whistleblowers in her order, and used his influence over the bishop to manipulate him into throwing the nun out of the church. The precise part that MacKillop personally played in reporting the sex abuse is not known. Bishop Sheil revoked the punishment on his death bed some five months later, according to official accounts.

Fr Martin suggests that "now victims of sex abuse and their families and friends, and all who desire reconciliation and healing in the church, can pray to Mary MacKillop, who understands them perhaps better than any other saint. Perhaps it is providential that this strong woman walks back onto the world's stage at this moment in time."

Commemorative Stamp Issue

Australia Post marked the occasion and recognised the selfless acts of this inspirational heroine in its own way with the release of a new commemorative stamp series on 18 October. The new stamps features a photograph of Mary MacKillop taken during the 1890s, used with the permission of the Trustees of the Sisters of St Joseph. ◻

— *by Dr Edwin Borg-Manché*

The Feast of Maria Bambina

The traditional feast of Maria Bambina in Melbourne was once again organised by Reskeon Maltese Association on behalf of the Missionary Society of St. Paul.

On ***Wednesday 8 September***, Fr Edwin Agius, MSSP, and Fr Hilary Tagliaferro, OSA, on a visit from Malta, concelebrated Mass attended by about 125 members of the Maltese Community at the Maltese Centre Parkville.

On ***Saturday 11 September***, a well-attended *Vittoria Dinner Dance* was held at Firenze Receptions, Fawkner. Entertainment was provided Mario Sammut's Moods Music. Later in the night the Malta-Gozo City of Brimbank Concert Band played marches for the occasion.

On ***Sunday 12 September***, a Mass was concelebrated at the recently renovated St. Mary Star of the Sea Church in West Melbourne by eight priests: Fr Karm Borg, Fr Edwin Agius, Fr Denis Carabott, Fr Emmanuel Adami and Fr Dr Victor Shields, all MSSP, Fr Dominic Degiorgio, Fr Hilary Tagliaferro, OSA, and Fr Niranjan Kanmury, a priest from India.

Afterwards, a procession with the beautiful statue of Marija Bambina was held in the streets surrounding the church, accompanied by the Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society and the St Albans Melita Band. The procession was followed by the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. □

- *by Paul Vella*

Maltese Community Calendar

Date & Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Tuesday 16 Nov at 7.30 pm	Maltese Historical Association	*Impressions on Maltese landscapes through photos*— Talk by Mr Martin Bonnici, the well known Maltese-Australian photographer	Maltese Community Centre 477 Royal Parade Parkville
Sunday 21 Nov at 3.00 pm	Maltese Salesian Past Pupils Association of Victoria Inc	Mass for Deceased Members followed by Afternoon Tea. Please bring a plate to share.	Maltese Community Centre 477 Royal Parade Parkville
Friday 26 Nov 6.30 pm	Klabb Ghannejja Maltin Inc	Mass in Maltese (Quddiesa bil Malti ghall-Erwieh) 6.30 pm Ruzarju; 7.00 pm Quddiesa	Klabb Ghannejja Maltin 4-6 Gooding Street St Albans
Saturday 27 Nov	Klabb Ghannejja Maltin Inc	Social Night Music by Moods Music—DJ Mario Sammut.	Klabb Ghannejja Maltin 4-6 Gooding Street St Albans
Sunday 28 Nov	Missionary Society of St Paul	MSSP Centenary Celebrations *(see details on cover page)*	Croatian Catholic Centre
Saturday 4 Dec	Newport Maltese Association	Christmas Party Music by Moods Music—DJ Mario Sammut.	Maltese Community Centre, 477 Royal Parade, Parkville
Sunday 5 Dec at 2.30 pm	Maltese Salesian Past Pupils Association of Victoria Inc	Family Christmas Party with a special visit from Santa Claus. Afternoon Tea and a light supper will be provided. Please bring a plate to share. Children must be under 12 and registered to receive a gift. To register your child please contact Joe or Marisa Portelli on 9306 4487 or Joe Darmanin on 9337 2915	Good Shepherd Church Hall, 88 Circular Drive , Gladstone Park
Sunday 5 Dec from 6.00 pm	Maltese Association Northern Suburbs Inc	Christmas Carols Dinner Dance—End of Year Break-Up Celebration . Members are free. Please bring sweets. Booking essential. Music by DJ Domenic. Contact Giacinto Cassar on 9436 7014 or Alfred Montebello on 9092 3791	Maltese Association Northern Suburbs, 11 Cromwell Street, Glenroy
Sunday 12 Dec at 5.00 pm (Mass)	Maltese Salesian Past Pupils Association of Victoria Inc	Mass followed by Social Night with a Christmas Theme. Cost $30 members and $35 non-members. Music by the live band, Encore. Contact Joe or Marisa Portelli on 9306 4487 or Joe Darmanin on 9337 2915	Maltese Community Centre 477 Royal Parade Parkville
Friday 17 Dec from 6.30 pm to 11.30 pm	Maltese Association Northern Suburbs Inc	Celebrate Christmas—Dinner Dance Cost $35 members and $45 non-members. Music by Moods Music—DJ Mario Sammut. Contact Giacinto Cassar on 9436 7014 or Alfred Montebello on 9092 3791	Ferraro Receptions, 14 Onslow Ave, Campbellfield
Friday 31 Dec	Newport Maltese Association	New Year's Eve Dinner Dance Music by Moods Music—DJ Mario Sammut.	Lakeside Reception 65 Melton Hwy Taylors Lakes