



MCCCV newsletter

477 Royal Parade
Parkville
Victoria 3052
Australia
Phone: (03) 9387 8922
Fax: (03) 9387 8309
Email: mccv@alphalink.com.au
Web: mccv.alphalink.com.au
Editor: Dr Edwin Borg-Manché

No: 106

March - April 2011

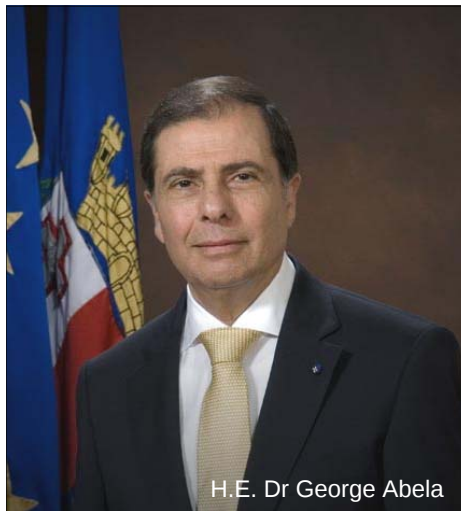
President of Malta to make State Visit to Australia

On 1 February 2011 the Malta High Commission in Canberra announced that the President of Malta, His Excellency Dr. George Abela, will be visiting Australia on an official State Visit, accompanied by the Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Tonio Borg. The President will be welcomed by the Australian Governor-General in Canberra on 21 March 2011. He will be visiting Melbourne two days later.

The Maltese community in Australia is looking forward to welcoming the President in our midst. To us Maltese living on this continent, the visit of the President provides us with a unique opportunity to reconnect with our mother country and to honour the incumbent of the highest public office on the island.

Dr. Abela was elected as the eighth President of the Republic of Malta on the 4 April 2009 by a unanimously approved Parliamentary resolution proposed by the Prime Minister, Dr Lawrence Gonzi, and seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, Dr Joseph Muscat.

Dr Abela's nomination marked an important historical development and a new level of political maturity in Malta's constitutional history. For the first time a President was elected by the unanimous vote of both political parties represented in Parliament. Perhaps more significantly, it was also the first time that the Government of the day nominated a candidate for the Presidency someone who belonged to the opposition political party with different political ideologies.



H.E. Dr George Abela

As the Prime Minister had remarked at the time, the nomination of Dr Abela was a historic moment which reflected unity and which had been welcomed by most of the people. Dr Gonzi said that it was high time to appoint someone from the "other side" who can bring people closer together.

In parliament Dr Gonzi said Dr Abela was nominated for the Presidency because of his qualities and abilities for the Office. Throughout his life he had demonstrated integrity and honesty in different spheres of life. He loved his country and he loved his family, in what was a continuation of the values of the Maltese people championed by the Fenech Adami presidency. Dr Abela also championed human dignity, solidarity, work as the ingredient which gave dignity to the human being and he also gave deserved importance to Maltese culture, young people and sport. □

Consultation with Maltese Community on Bill to set up Council for Maltese Living Abroad

On 14 January 2011 the Malta High Commission in Canberra published an Information Paper prepared by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Tonio Borg, relating to the establishment of a Council for Maltese Living Abroad and the Maltese Cultural Institute.

The paper, reproduced on page 5, contains the main principles of a draft Bill on the Council of Maltese Living Abroad and the establishment of the Maltese Cultural Institute. The paper is intended to serve as a basis for a consultation process on the proposal with the Maltese community.

The High Commission has invited all community organisations and associations to participate in this consultation process and to submit their comments, proposals and suggestions to the Malta High Commission in Canberra by March 2011.

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria welcomes the issuing of the paper and the consultation process. The Minister is to be commended on following through on his announcement at last year's Convention. The setting up of a Council by law will mark a historic watershed in the Maltese Government's relationship with the Maltese Diaspora, raising it to a higher level. □

In this issue

• The President's Column	2
• Malta plays humanitarian role	
• News from Council Meetings	3
• Dr George Abela—a brief profile	4
• Establishing a Council for Maltese Living Abroad	5
• Lillian Calleja awarded OAM	6
• Maltese Historical Assn Event	
• Publications with a Maltese Connection	7
• Natural Disasters in Aus & NZ	8



The Maltese Community Council of Victoria
has the pleasure of hosting a Welcome Reception
in honour of the President of Malta

On Wednesday 23rd March 2011 at 6.00 pm

Venue: Taylors Lakes Reception Centre, 65 Melton Highway, Taylors Lakes

Donation: \$25.00 per person (includes finger food and drinks)

Tickets from the MCCCV Parkville office on (03) 9387 8922

The President's Column

The Presidential Visit

It has been announced that the President of Malta, HE Dr George Abela, will be making an official visit to Australia in March 2011. During this visit he will be coming to Melbourne. Dr Abela has a special connection to this city, having spent some years growing up with his family in the suburb of Fitzroy during his childhood.

What is the significance of such a visit? The President is the head of the Maltese social structure as well as of government. He is the representative *par excellence* of the State of Malta and the Maltese people, and therefore, the Maltese living in Australia should feel honoured and privileged when their President decides to visit our shores.

Perhaps a more significant aspect from the point of view of Maltese living abroad is the fact that such a visit strengthens ties between the mother country and the country of adoption. It gives further meaning to the term "Greater Malta" which includes Maltese in Malta as well as those living abroad. He is our President representing us as Maltese citizens.

Accompanying the President will be the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon Dr Tonio Borg. It is our intention, as the Executive of the MCCV, to take this opportunity to meet with the Minister to discuss issues which are relevant and important to the Maltese community in Australia.

The MCCV has the pleasure to host a welcome reception in hour of the President. This will be held on Wednesday, 23 March 2011 (see details on page 1). It is expected that many Maltese would be eager to take this opportunity to meet with the President, an occasion which does not happen very frequently.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MCCV NEWSLETTER

The MCCV Newsletter is published every two months to inform the Maltese community about activities, news and provide 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 and short articles of interest to the Maltese community.

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

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

Contributions must be submitted by the following dates:

- May-June 2011 Newsletter: **Friday 15 April 2011**
- July-August 2011 Newsletter: **Friday 17 Jun 2011**

Malta plays humanitarian role in Libyan crisis



After the rulers of Tunisia and Egypt were removed by popular movements, Libya experienced a full-scale revolt in February 2011 with the unrest reaching the capital Tripoli, where according to some reports thousands of protesters have lost their lives after being shot at by the Libyan Armed Forces.

Eastern Libya, including the second largest city of Benghazi, is said to be firmly in control of the opposition, with the rebels organising themselves into a functioning government.

According to a media release issued by the Malta High Commissioner in Canberra on 1 March 2011, Euronews reported that, as part of a full scale international operation, over the previous seven days at least 8,000 foreigners with more than 50 different nationalities between them including fifteen Australians, (among them personnel from the Australian Embassy in Libya), and five New Zealanders, were evacuated from Libya and brought to Malta. The Maltese government promptly set up a command centre to manage the crisis. Some of the persons evacuated did not have travel documents.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Tonio Borg said: "The more difficult areas are the oil fields in the desert, and I say this because there is not just one but there are a lot of installations... So those are more difficult to evacuate and we have not evacuated everyone."

Malta's Prime Minister Dr. Lawrence Gonzi said a quick conclusion to the operation would be essential. "We are foreseeing a scenario where it will be absolutely vital for us to provide basic essential needs for

the Libyan people in Libya."

At its monthly meeting held on 24 February, the MCCV Executive Committee discussed the current crisis in Libya. The Committee sent the following message of solidarity and support to the President of Malta, the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister:

"At its monthly meeting held last Thursday, the MCCV Executive Committee discussed the current crisis in Libya and expressed its grave concern about the potential adverse impact that the turmoil prevailing in that country may have on the population and Government of Malta.

Through local radio and TV networks as well as the internet, the Maltese community in Victoria has been following closely the horrific situation unfolding in Libya. We are all anxiously monitoring further developments.

Meanwhile, we have been reading the latest news reports about the many expatriate workers from several countries being evacuated from Libya by sea and air via Malta to be repatriated to their respective countries. We cannot but feel proud that Malta is again admirably playing a critical role that it has always been famous for in history, showing generosity, hospitality and compassion towards other fellow human beings in time of need by facilitating their safe evacuation.

On behalf of the MCCV Executive Committee, I wish to convey to you our message of solidarity and support and to assure you that our thoughts and prayers are with you and all our brothers and sisters in Malta in this difficult time." □

News from MCCV Council Meetings

FEBRUARY 2011 MEETING

The following items were discussed at the Council Meeting held on 2 February 2011:

Visit of the President of Malta

The Council welcomed the announcement of the forthcoming official visit to Australia by the President of Malta, Dr George Abela, who will be in Melbourne on Wednesday 23 March 2011. He will be accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Tonio Borg.

Home Visitation Scheme

The Council is keen to set up again a home visitation scheme where those who live alone can be visited by persons selected by the Council so as to maintain contact and see if they require any assistance. All associations are requested to help identify such persons within their community who might require such assistance, now or in the near future, so that a register is built up and suitable enquiries made.

Order of Australia Award

The Council congratulated Mrs Lillian Calleja on the award of the Medal in the Order of Australia (OAM) on Australia Day 2011 for services rendered to the Maltese community. Lillian has been a hard worker helping the Council for many, many years. She has been actively involved particularly with the Cultural Festival children concerts over the years.

Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Fund

It was also decided that it would be a good idea to commemorate the ideals exemplified by the late Bishop Joe Grech by setting up a Fund, as proposed by Mr Christian Zahra, a former Federal MP, to encourage young Maltese-background persons to follow in his footsteps. In particular we would like to encourage Bishop's Grech ideas of tolerance, multiculturalism, love of Maltese culture, etc. The aim of the Fund is to raise sufficient money to be able to have an annual scholarship which would enable the selected person to go to Malta for a few weeks to have a closer look at Maltese culture. A suitable committee is being organised for this purpose.

Migration Museum Fund

Setting up a migration museum in Malta is seen as an important priority. The aim is to have a centre where information can be obtained about Maltese migration to all parts of the world. Without such a centre, our story, the story of migration will soon be lost. Associations will be asked to contribute to this fund to the best of their ability. A Dinner dance is being organised by the Council to help raise funds for the Migration Museum Fund. It will be held on Sunday 6 March 2011 at the Maltese Centre in Parkville from 12 noon.

Youth Issues

George Grima, addressed the Council on the needs of Maltese-background youth. He is in the process of setting up an advisory system to help those requiring advice about obtaining and retaining a job etc. The aim of the service is to increase employment and career prospects, to create opportunities of finding a career path that meets the applicants areas of interest. □

MARCH 2011 MEETING

The following items were discussed at the Council Meeting held on 2 March 2011:

Australian Census 2011

Later this year the 2011 Australian Census is due to take place. It is important that Maltese register their use of the Maltese language at home in their survey forms. The Council plans to remind the Maltese community of this during Maltese language radio broadcasts.

New MCCV Website

The PRO, Edwin Borg-Manché, reported that work on the new MCCV website is well advanced and the website is expected to be completed by the end of March.

VCGR Declaration Renewals

The Treasurer, Paul Borg, reported that the MCCV renewed its declaration that it is still a community or charitable organisation for the purposes of the *Gambling Regulation Act*, administered by the Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation. This declaration allows the MCCV to conduct raffles, bingo sessions, fundraising events and sell lucky envelopes, subject to the regulations. Any affiliated associations are urged to check their status and renew their declaration as soon as possible. Information Packs and Application forms can be obtained from www.vcgr.vic.gov.au, under application forms, community and charitable gaming, or by contacting the Minor Gaming Unit on 9651 3630 or by email to the following address: minor.gaming@vcgr.vic.gov.au.

Introduction to Catholic Faith

Fr Edwin Agius advised that he had been approached by a number of Maltese individuals who, for some reason, had not been baptised by their parents and now wished to be assisted to get baptised and introduced to the Catholic faith. He said that the MSSP is willing, open and delighted to assist these individuals and their families. Anyone who is interested may contact Fr Agius on (03) 9387 7433.

Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Fund

Former Federal MP, Mr Christian Zahra, addressed the Council about his proposal to set up the Fund. The Council decided to set up a Foundation to commemorate the life and ideals of the late Bishop Grech by encouraging youth of Maltese descent to appreciate what he stood for. Bishop Grech was always proud of being Maltese and kept strong links with Malta. He was also most interested in the welfare of young persons whom he was always ready to help in any way he could. The purpose of this Fund is to provide, on a yearly basis, a scholarship to enable one or more young persons to visit Malta, to appreciate at first hand Maltese culture, history and traditions.

A committee charged with establishing the Fund was elected consisting of: Prof. Maurice Cauchi (MCCV President), Mr Christian Zahra, Fr Edwin Agius MSSP, Mr George Saliba, Mr Paul Borg, (MCCV Treasurer) and Edwina Mallia (MCCV Secretary). Contributions to this fund should be directed to the MCCV with a note to the effect that these should be directed to the "Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Fund". □

H.E. Dr George Abela — a brief profile



The President of Malta, His Excellency Dr George Abela

DR GEORGE ABELA was born in Qormi, Malta on 22 April 1948 and is the son of a registered port worker. He was educated at the Lyceum and the University of Malta where he first obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in English, Maltese and History, and later on, his law degree. He then studied European Law and obtained his Magister Juris Degree in 1995. He also holds a Diploma to practise as a lawyer before the Ecclesiastical Tribunals in marriage annulment cases.

Dr. Abela worked in private practice for thirty-three years specialising in Civil, Commercial and Industrial Law. He acted for twenty-five years as the legal consultant of the General Workers' Union and he represented the workers' interests, affiliated in four separate trade unions, in the negotiations concerning the Air Malta rescue plan in 2002. He also represented port workers in the port reform of June 2007, hailed by the European Commission as a model in social dialogue to be followed by other member states. He also served as legal advisor to the

Medical Association of Malta and other house unions.

For many years, Dr. Abela has been deeply involved in the administration of sports in Malta, particularly in football. He first served as a treasurer in his village football club, Qormi F.C., and later on as its President. In 1982, after serving as Vice-President, he was elected to the post of President of the Malta Football Association, which position he held for ten years.

During his presidency and under his leadership, the local football association witnessed major changes at its administrative and technical level. Large infrastructural investments were made in the resurfacing of the turf pitch at the National Stadium Ta' Qali, which became wholly managed for the first time by the football association; new training grounds with turf pitches were built; floodlights were installed both at the National Stadium and in the adjoining training areas; a physiotherapy clinic and a fully equipped gymnasium were also opened.

Foreign full time coaches, assisted by top Maltese coaches, were engaged to take charge of the National teams and courses in coaching and refereeing were held under the auspices of the European and international football bodies. The players of the National team were engaged for the first time on a full-time professional basis and the international matches of the Maltese team started to attract the wide support of the Maltese sporting public once again. Football nurseries all over the island were inaugurated. Dr. Abela represented the local Association in many committees of UEFA. He also sat as an arbitrator in the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Furthermore, Dr. Abela was also involved in the Kerygma Movement, where he acted for some years as Chairman for the Campaign – Solidarity Through Sports, in aid of Philanthropic Institutions.

In 1992, after ten years in the top echelons of the Maltese football, Dr. Abela was elected as Deputy Leader of the Malta Labour Party in charge of Party Affairs. In 1996, the Malta Labour Party won the general election. Subsequently, he was appointed as the legal consultant to the Prime Minister and invited to attend cabinet meetings.

Dr. George Abela served for a number of years as Director of the Central Bank of Malta and as Executive Director for the Bank of Valletta p.l.c. He was also a member of the Electoral Commission responsible for the running of the general elections in 1987. He actively participated in the Malta E.U. Steering and Action Committee (MEUSAC) in pre-accession negotiations for membership in the European Union, where he formed part of the core group focusing on the legal and social aspects of membership. After membership, he sat again on MEUSAC as the Labour Party representative.

Dr. Abela married Margaret nee' Cauchi on the 23 May 1976 and they have two children: Robert who is a practising lawyer by profession, and Maria, who is a Communications graduate and specialising in "Canto Lirico" at the *Conservatorio Giuseppe Verdi* in Milan, Italy. □

Establishing a Council for Maltese Living Abroad

Information Note for Consultation

As part of the outcome of the 'Convention of Maltese Living Abroad' held in March 2010, the Government of Malta committed itself to the setting up of a public institution to safeguard the interests, rights and aspirations of the Maltese living abroad. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Tonio Borg, expressed his intention to give this institution a legal basis through the enactment of a Bill in Parliament.

By means of this Information Note, the Government of Malta is seeking to provide the general guidelines of the intended legislation with a view to initiate a consultation process among Maltese Communities living abroad and seek their views and recommendations.

To this end, High Commissioners and Ambassadors of Malta will be consulting representatives of Maltese communities abroad and by the end of March 2011, seek their views on the principles of the legislation to be proposed. In addition, one may also submit suggestions and recommendations directly to the Ministry's website on email

doris.d.zammit@gov.mt

The aim of Government is to set up the Council as an advisory body. It will be chaired "ex officio" by the Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs from time to time, since Maltese communities abroad are covered by the Minister's portfolio. The Minister will not enjoy a right to vote in the Council.

The Council will include a number of members representing Maltese Communities abroad. These will be chosen according to strength in numbers of these communities. Consequently, it is obvious that the Maltese Community in Australia will have an adequate representation as well as those in Canada and in the United States.

One cannot ignore the relatively large number of Maltese who reside in European countries particularly now that Malta is a member of the European Union. The aim is to give adequate representation to Australia/New Zealand, Canada, United States of America, and Europe.

It is obvious that there will be some Maltese Communities without direct

representation. However, the council members will be in duty bound to safeguard the interest of all Maltese who live abroad.

The members of the council are to be appointed by the Prime Minister in accordance with certain criteria. Thus, wherever in any of the countries mentioned above there exists a federation of the various Maltese associations, its opinion will be actively considered; where there is no such federation the opinion of the community council of that town, region or state is to be sought. Where none of these institutions exist then consultations will take place with Maltese organizations who operate in the area.

Since shift and changes may occur regarding where Maltese communities choose to settle, changes in this scheme of representation may take place. However, this has to be done through the publication of a legal notice which has to be laid on the Table of the House of Representatives.

Besides representatives from Maltese Communities, the council will have other members who are appointed by the Prime Minister after consulting the Leader of the Opposition. These are to be chosen from among persons who reside in Malta or have been living abroad or are familiar with the interests, rights and aspirations of the Maltese Communities abroad. The number of overseas members will always be greater than that of the other members.

All members of the council have to be Maltese citizens although they may hold a citizenship of another country.

The main objectives of the council will be to promote the quality of life of the Maltese Communities abroad and their individual members, to strengthen their ties with the political, cultural, economic and social milieu in Malta, to safeguard adequately the interests of the Maltese Communities and their members, to facilitate the preservation of a cultural and linguistic identity of the Maltese Communities, to promote the Maltese culture abroad particularly the teaching of the Maltese Language as well as to improve the integration of the communities in their adopted countries

and their effective participation in their localities. Moreover, the Council will be responsible for analysing and verifying the problems which Maltese Communities encounter, including those regarding living and working conditions, professional and educational training, as well as recognition of qualifications obtained in Malta. The council also is to put forward any proposal, suggestion or recommendation on any legislation or administrative measure. It will be responsible for promoting and encouraging studies and research on issues which affect the Maltese Communities and persons of Maltese descent around the world, and even provide adequate support to achieve this objective.

The council is to be consulted on any new legislation affecting the interests of the Maltese living abroad and may also contribute to such legislation.

The council will be responsible to advise the Minister regarding any bill or issue which can affect the interests of the Maltese abroad, including any transmissions of programmes for Maltese living abroad.

Any council meeting can also be held through video and/or audio conferencing or other means of communication. However, once a year the council has to meet in Malta. Government will provide adequate financial assistance so that overseas members will be able to attend such council meeting.

The council has to present an annual report on work carried out to the Clerk of the House and this will be laid on the Table of the House of Representatives and discussed by the Standing Committee of Foreign and European Affairs.

The Bill will provide the means so that, independently from the council for Maltese Living Abroad, a Cultural Institute will be set up so that financial and human resources within the Ministries of Culture, Education and Foreign Affairs will be amalgamated in one institution to promote Maltese Culture Abroad. □

Lillian Calleja awarded OAM on Australia Day

On 26 January 2011, Australia Day, **Lillian Calleja** was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for her service to the Maltese community of Victoria, Australia. Mrs Calleja will officially receive the honour at a ceremony in April.

The Order of Australia is an order of chivalry established by Queen Elizabeth II in 1975 with the purpose of acknowledging Australian citizens for achievements and service.

Lillian Calleja was born in Valletta, Malta on 15th April, 1931, the eldest child of 14 children to Michael and Teresa Pace (both deceased). Lillian grew up during the Second World War and, as a young teenager, was in charge of her siblings.

After the war Lillian went to school to learn dressmaking and helped her family financially by making wedding dresses and teaching children how to be seamstresses. In her 17th year she met and then married Vincent Calleja in 1953. In 1954 she gave birth to a daughter Maria and on 9 February 1955 they migrated to Australia. In 1956 Lillian had another child, Natalin, married to Raymond with two sons, Adam and David.

On their arrival in Australia they lived with Lillian's father in Newport, Victoria and were well known for the help they gave to the migrants when they arrived with no family or accommodation. Lillian and her father would welcome migrants in their home until they could find suitable accommodation.

Since 1956 Lillian has worked tirelessly for the Maltese Community, performing in small operettas and shows in Brunswick Town Hall and being involved in organising Dinner Dances in local Masonic Hall in Newport. Whilst doing this, she worked five days a week and, with the help of her husband, raised two children.

Between 1978 and 1981 Lillian was the Vice President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria. In 1981 she resigned from Vice President to take up a position of Teacher's Aide at the Sunshine Technical College assisting Maltese children in day-to-day education-related problems and communicating with to their parents about these problems. In 1989 she was awarded with the "Official Award for 10 years of Distinguished Service to the School" by Ms Joan Kirner, Minister of Education.

For the past 50 years Lillian has been a volunteer member of numerous organizations such as Community Development, Social Activities, Fund Raising, Culture, Young Talent, Aged Care, Overseas Missions and Religious Organizations. The Missionary Society of St. Paul in Parkville, Victoria nominated Lillian to receive the blessing and



Mrs Lillian Calleja

Communion from his Holiness Pope John Paul II at the Flemington Race Course during the Pope's visit to Australia.

Lillian has worked very hard with great enthusiasm and sheer determination to provide welfare and organized social activities for its members, and her aim was with other to raise funds for our Community Centre in Parkville.

As a member of the Maltese Cultural Festival Committee, Lillian took under her umbrella the task of organizing the Children's Concert and to her credit these concerts have gone from strength to strength to date. Lillian has searched and developed the talent of some of our younger generation with the Maltese Community and some of them have actually made a name for themselves in the entertainment world, in fact in 1990 Lillian was awarded the Manuel de Vilhena Award for her dedication and outstanding work in teaching our young the song and dance aspect of the entertainment world with great success.

In 2001 Lillian was awarded the "Citizen of the year" by the City of Brimbank in recognition of the outstanding community contribution which she had made over many decades.

In 2004 Lillian was awarded the Victoria Multicultural Commission Victoria's Award for Excellence in Multicultural Affairs.

Lillian will turn 80 this coming April 15 and is still very active especially in the social activities in the Newport Maltese Association and as the Maltese Multicultural Festival Co-Coordinator for the Children's Concert. □

Maltese Historical Association's February Event

On Tuesday 15 February 2011 the Maltese Historical Association held its first presentation for 2011. The speaker for the evening was **Fr. Victor Buhagiar** and the topic was *Fireworks in Malta: their Evolution*.

Fr Buhagiar had a fascination with fireworks since he was a young boy and this has not gone away as the audience could see the passion he still has for fireworks. Most males in his family were involved in the making of fireworks for the festa of the village where he was born, Siggiewi. He explained in great detail the techniques used to make the different types; how other chemicals were introduced in the combination of the potassium, sulphur and nitrate to produce colour in fireworks. It took several death tragedies when firework

factories blew up for the Maltese to realise that more safety precautions were needed while manufacturing fireworks. Fr Buhagiar demonstrated how petards are made using cardboard cylinders.

The presentation ended with a film clip showing a fantastic display of fireworks where new techniques in the art of pyrotechnics could be seen.

Next presentation will be held on Tuesday 19 April 2011 at 7:30pm at the Maltese Centre in Parkville. The speaker for the evening will be **Associate Prof. Claudia Sagona** and the topic is *Traces of Mitras on the Maltese Islands*. Dr Sagona visits Malta quite frequently to conduct archaeological diggings. Everybody is welcome to attend. — *Frances Bonnici*

Reskeon Maltese Association

GET TOGETHER

At the **Maltese Centre, Parkville**
On **Sunday, 20 March 2011, 2 pm**

Members of both Groups
are invited to attend

*We will remember Maltese actress
Vitorin Galea and meet her family*

Phone Phyllis Vella 9395-3103
Or Salvina Vella on 9460-4404

Maltese Ex-Services Association of Victoria, Inc.

Award of George Cross 69th Anniversary Commemoration

At the **Maltese Centre, Parkville**
On **Sunday, 10 April 2011, 10.45
am**

Publications with a Maltese Connection



Charles Daniel Saliba: *Ħtif ta' Ajruplani fil-Mediterran. Il-Hames Każi ta' Malta*
BDL Publishing 2010
Hardcover 176 pp.

Bejn wiehed u iehor mis-sena 1970 sal-2000, kull xahar, x'imkien fid-dinja, b'mod partikolari fil-Mediterran, kien hemm żewġ atti ta' piraterija

tal-ajru. Ħafna minn dawn kienu jsiru biex jingabru somom kbar ta' flus, għal għanijiet personali jew politiċi. Izda minn dawn il-każijiet il-ħtif tal-ajruplani evolva f'idea aktar moderna fejn l-ajruplan innifsu jiġi użat bħala missila. Ghalkemm illum l-atti ta' piraterija huma ħafna aktar rari, il-konsegwenzi tagħhom huma ħafna akbar. Il-biża' mill-atti ta' piraterija għadu jinħass f'kull livell, kemm miċ-ċittadini komuni kif ukoll min-nazzjonijiet. Għalhekk huwa importanti li nanalizzaw dawn l-atti ta' piraterija li saru fil-bidu, li kważi kważi ħafna minnhom illum jidhru innocenti, għaliex jgħinuna nifhmu l-motivi u l-mekkaniżmu wara l-ħtif tal-ajruplani u b'hekk jgħinuna nevitawhom jew niddefendu lilna nfunna minnhom.

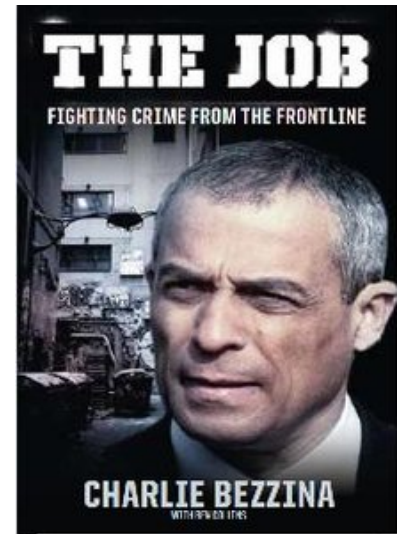
Dan il-ktieb jagħti din l-analiżi billi jikkonċentra fuq ħames ajruplani maħtufa li llandjaw jew telqu mill-Ajruport Internazzjonali ta' Malta, fil-qalba tal-Mediterran.

L-għan originali kien li jiġi mistharreġ għaliex ċertu postijiet madwar jew fil-Mediterran kienu sugġetti għall-atti ta' piraterija tal-ajru aktar minn oħrajn. Izda fir-riċerka fl-eluf ta' kliem li nkiteb u ntqal fuq dawn il-każi, l-awtur sab li ħafna mir-rakkonti kienu inkompleti jew foloz u għalhekk l-ewwel għan kien li jōhrog il-verità bl-użu ta' sorsi ppubblikati, intervisti ma' persuni differenti, gazzetti kontemporanji lokali u barranin, rapporti, diskussjonijiet ma' esperti tas-sigurtà, rapporti tal-pulizija, procès-verbaux, rapport tal-esperti tal-qorti, stqarrijiet fl-istampa u korrispondenza uficijali. Armat b'din l-informazzjoni, l-awtur ried jipprova li s-sigurtà u l-istabbiltà fil-Mediterran, u għalhekk fl-Ewropa wkoll, ma tistax tintlaħaq jekk il-problemi fis-sigurtà reġjonali ma jiġux indirizzati. Hemm rakkont ta' kull ħtif mill-bidu kwiet tiegħu sakemm tispiċċa d-drama, u kull wiehed gie analizzat fid-dawl tal-problemi reġjonali kontemporanji li mmotivaw lill-pirati. L-awtur jirrifletti wkoll fuq il-bidliet li saru fir-reġjun tal-Mediterran li wasslu biex in-numru ta' ħtif ta' ajruplani jonqos. Barra minn hekk dan il-ktieb juri wkoll l-akkwisti straordinarji li għamel il-Perit Dom Mintoff, il-Prim Ministru ta' Malta indipendenti friska, li nnegozja personalment it-tmien ta' tlieta mill-hames ajruplani maħtufa mingħajr telf ta' hajja.

Dan il-ktieb jinsab ukoll għall-bejgħ bl-Ingliż: **Hijacking in the Mediterranean. The Five cases of Malta.** Għal aktar informazzjoni ara www.charlesdanielsaliba.com jew www.bdlbooks.com

Charlie Bezzina: *The Job— Fighting Crime from the Frontline*

Slattery Media Group
2010
Paperback 288 pp.



Charlie Bezzina was one of Victoria's top homicide detectives. In his 17 years in the Homicide Squad, he investigated more than 300 suspicious deaths, including 150 murders - among them the crimes of serial killer Paul Denyer, the killing of Melbourne gangland figure Alphonse Gangitano, the Silk/Miller police murders, the baffling disappearances of former games how model Jacquie Ramchen and Sarah McDiarmid, and the death of former Test cricketer David Hookes.

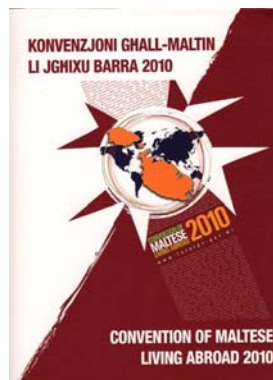
This is the never-before-told story of Bezzina's rise from a sheltered childhood in a Maltese family in Melbourne's western suburbs, to a widely respected senior detective who served Victoria Police with distinction and unquestioned integrity for 37 years, culminating in his acrimonious and highly controversial departure from the force.

Brimming with exclusive insights that only a seasoned detective can provide, *The Job* is an explosive and intriguing account of what it takes to be a criminal investigator at the highest level.

In the Foreword to the book, prominent barrister Philip Dunn, QC, refers to Charlie Bezzina as having grown up “in the western suburbs, the son of doting Maltese parents. The early chapters describe the background and influence that made him the man he is, encapsulating his entry into the police force, training at the police academy and his early postings, ultimately to his becoming a senior Homicide Squad investigator.”

Mr Dunn thoroughly recommended this book “as a revealing insight into not only ‘the job’, but the fascinating and dedicated man who did what the title also said — who fought crime from the frontline.”

KONVENZJONI GĦALL-MALTIN LI JGĦIXU BARRA 2010



Il-Ministeru tal-Affarijiet Barranin għadu kif ippubblika id-diskorsi u l-karti li ġew pprezentati matul il-Konvenzjoni għall-Maltin li Jgħixu Barra li saret f'Malta f'Marzu 2010.

Il-volum li jinkludi indiċi, fih 612 paġna.

Natural Disasters cause severe devastation in Australia and New Zealand



FLOODS IN QUEENSLAND AND VICTORIA

The severe devastation caused by extensive floods in large parts of Queensland during December 2010 and January 2011 and in the western and central regions of Victoria during January 2011 made world news headlines. Pictures of the flooded towns, overflowing rivers and stories of acts of bravery and personal tragedies filled the airwaves and the print and electronic media for days and weeks.

In Queensland, the floods were a result of heavy rainfall caused by Tropical Cyclone Tasha that combined with a trough during the peak of a La Niña event. The 2010 La Niña weather pattern, which brings wetter conditions to eastern Australia, was the strongest since 1973.

The floods affected an area of Queensland as large as France and Germany combined. Three-quarters of the state of Queensland was declared a disaster zone. Thousands of people were forced to evacuate to safety in at least seventy towns and over 200,000 people were affected. Thirty-five people lost their lives. Direct flood damage was initially estimated at around A\$1 billion, with the indirect impact on the Australian economy estimated at about A\$30 billion.

Generous donations have been pouring into the Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal Fund, which at the time of writing has reached A\$225 million.

In Victoria, high intensity rainfall between in mid-January 2011 caused major flooding across most of the western and central parts of the Australian state of Victoria. Several follow-up heavy rainfall events including Tropical Low Yasi caused repeated flash flooding in affected areas in early February in many of the communities already affected by January's floods. More than 51 communities were affected by the floods and thousands had to be evacuated to safer grounds.

The floods devastated farms with 51,700 hectares of pasture and 41,200 hectares of field crops flooded and 6,000 sheep drowned. Initially damage was estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars, however the damage was later revised at up to A\$2 billion. The Bureau of Meteorology described the flood as "the worst flood in western Victoria in their history as far as our records go in terms of the depth of water and the number of places affected." □



MAJOR EARTHQUAKE IN CHRISTCHURCH, NZ

A 6.3-magnitude earthquake struck the city of Christchurch, the second-most populous city in New Zealand's South Island at 12:51 pm on 22 February 2011 local time causing widespread damage and multiple fatalities. The earthquake was centred 2 kilometres west of the town of Lyttelton and 10 kilometres south-east of Christchurch. In September 2010 the same city was rocked by another 7.1 magnitude earthquake, which had caused significant damage to the region but no fatalities.

It occurred on a single fault-line, which apparently has no underground connection to the four-part Greendale fault responsible for the September quake. It generated a significant number of its own aftershocks, many of which are considered big for a 6.3 quake. Over 200 aftershocks were experienced in the first week, the largest measuring magnitude 5.9, occurring just under 2 hours after the main quake.

At least 161 people have been confirmed dead and more than 200 people have been reported as missing as at the time of writing, making the earthquake one of the deadliest natural disasters in New Zealand's recorded history. The Government declared a national state of emergency for the first time in New Zealand's history. It is estimated that the earthquake could cost insurers US\$12 billion.

Buildings collapsed around Cathedral Square in central Christchurch. Of the 1,000 buildings within the Four Avenues of the central city, only 600 were safe to enter. Christchurch Cathedral lost its spire, the tip of which had also fallen in earthquakes in 1888 and 1901, but much more fell during the latest earthquake. Police believe up to 22 people died in the collapse of the cathedral's tower.

Christchurch Hospital was partly evacuated due to damage in some areas, but remained open throughout to treat the injured.

The six storey Canterbury Television (CTV) building collapsed leaving only its lift shaft standing, which caught fire. The building housed the TV station, a medical clinic and an English language school.

A Maltese national who lives in Christchurch, George Spiteri, said in an interview on the Maltese Program of SBS Radio that he and his family had survived the quake. He described the terrible experience "like someone pulled the carpet from under your feet." At the time of the quake, like everyone else, he was in a state of shock and waiting for news from his many friends who worked in the CTV building which had collapsed. He was unsure whether his large restaurant in the city had suffered structural damage. □