

ANZAC Memorial in Malta taking shape

The first phase of the pedestal construction, that is the concrete core, of the ANZAC Memorial in Malta is now complete, according to Mr Nicholas Bonello, Chairman of the ANZAC memorial committee. "The plaster models of the figures were tried in place today, and one can have an idea of what the memorial will look like when the bronze figures are put in place. The preparations for the other phases, i.e. marble and bronze castings, can now be taken in hand," said Mr Bonello.

The ANZAC Memorial being erected in Malta will be the first ANZAC monument outside Australia and New Zealand, except for Gallipoli in Turkey. The aim of the Memorial is to commemorate and honour the many Australian and New Zealand troops who died in the prime of their lives at Gallipoli during World War I and in battles that took place in Europe, particularly France, during World War II, when Malta featured prominently. About 300 soldiers

from Australia and New Zealand are buried in Malta.

Artist Ġanni Bonnici's work was chosen from the five entries in the memorial design competition held in October 2005, and he was awarded Lm500 in prize money. According to Mr Bonnici, the two figures, which the memorial incorporates, would be life-size, or larger, and made of bronze, while the rest would be constructed from local materials. The idea behind his design was not to represent war and weapons, but rather the humanity that defended it and those who lost their lives fighting for their country. Not only soldiers perished but their families suffered, so Mr Bonnici chose to incorporate a man and a woman in the memorial. Keeping it simple, so that its interpretation would be open to the viewer's imagination, the artist said he wanted to represent the negative and depressing aspect of war and not the victory element. □

L-Isqof t'Ghawdex se jżur l-Awstralja



Fi ftit ġimgħat oħra l-komunità Maltija fl-Awstralja se jkollha l-pjaċir tilqa' fostha l-Isqof t'Ghawdex, l-E.T. Monsinjur Mario Grech fl-ewwel żjara pastorali tiegħu f'dan il-kontinent. Huwa mistenni jasal Sydney fit-30 ta' Settembru u jżur Melbourne mil-15 t'Ottubru, qabel jitlaq lura lejn Għawdex fl-1 ta' Novembru.

Il-Kunsill tal-Komunità Maltija tal-Victoria qed jorganizza riċeviment ta' merħba ad unur tal-Isqof Mario Grech nhar il-Ħamis 20 t'Ottubru 2011 fis-7 ta' filgħaxija fiċ-Ċentru Malti f'Parkville.

Monsinjur Grech, li tweled il-Qala, Għawdex, laħaq saċerdot f'Mejju 1984 u nħatar Isqof t'Ghawdex mil-Papa Benedittu XVI f'Novembru 2005, meta rtira l-Isqof Nikol Cauchi.

Aktar dettalji dwar l-avvenimenti tal-Isqof Grech f'Melbourne jinsabu fl-aħħar paġna ta' din in-'newsletter'. □



Left: The construction of the ANZAC memorial pedestal is completed.
 Right: The winning memorial model design by artist Ġanni Bonnici.

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The President's Column

Diabetes: Scourge of ageing Maltese in our community

What precisely has happened in the last 50 odd years that has turned this condition into a veritable scourge? The whole western world, but particularly Maltese people are afflicted more and more frequently with diabetes. Statistical data relating to whole populations show that around 10 per cent of persons overall suffer from this condition. But much more relevant is the fact that as we grow older we are more likely to become targets for this condition. In fact, by the age of 60 it would not be an exaggeration to say that half of us will have diabetes.

Like most diseases, the causes for diabetes are both genetic and environmental. We Maltese have certain genes which make us more susceptible than many other races. We cannot help that: we cannot choose our parents! On the other hand, there is a strong environmental component that allows the genes to express themselves, allowing diabetes to make its appearance. Top of the list is a diet rich in pasta, bread, cakes, pastizzi and sugars, which puts an unbearable strain on our body's capacity to digest properly. Added to this and equally important is our reluctance to do any exercise whatsoever. It has been proven that exercise is the one most important factor (together with diet) to prevent diabetes from developing.

There is no need to emphasize the dire effects of this disease which has now reached epidemic proportions. Advanced cases result in problems with vision, eventually leading to blindness. Other patients suffer from kidney disease. There is always the danger of damage to blood vessels from what is known as 'atherosclerosis', which consists of accumulation of fatty substances, including cholesterol in the arteries. This in turn leads to a reduction of blood supply to the tissues. Sometimes this leads to 'gangrene', that is death of tissues, particularly toes and even the whole foot.

Diabetes can remain undetected for a long period of time because for several years there are no symptoms. Damage is, however, accumulating and eventually some of the above symptoms make their appearance, by which time the damage is done and there is nothing that can be done to undo it.

It is, therefore, essential not to wait until major symptoms appear before one takes preventative action. There is no excuse for not doing this, because diagnosis is relatively easy. Testing for the levels of sugar in the urine, or even in the blood, is now a very simple matter which takes a couple of seconds. In more advanced cases, testing for protein in the urine is also useful because it indicates kidney problems.

So the recommendation is not to delay: have yourself examined early. Remember that the chances of getting diabetes at the age of 60 is around fifty-fifty, and much

higher if other members of the family also have been diagnosed with diabetes.

Can you prevent getting this disease at all? Unfortunately we cannot change our genes, our inheritance is what we are, but we certainly can take steps to delay the inevitable by taking certain precautions.

The most important thing is to drastically cut down on our intake of food, particularly those dishes most dear to us Maltese, pasta, fats, sugars, pastizzi. This could be difficult but not impossible.

Secondly, and crucially, we have to change our habits and increase the amount of exercise we do every day. Television is the biggest enemy here: To be a couch potato is the best invitation for disaster. Go for a half-an-hour brisk walk every day: that will definitely have a beneficial effect on your health.

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria is currently having discussions with Victoria University to find ways in which this message is passed on to the general Maltese public. In a preliminary survey carried out by the MCCV it was found that the prevalence of this condition among Maltese in the 60-75 age group was nearly 60 per cent. This emphasizes the need to ensure that all persons of Maltese background are well aware of this condition from as early an age as possible.

In conjunction with Victoria University, the MCCV is undertaking a familiarisation program aimed particularly at persons of the second generation who are now approaching their middle age and therefore have reached a stage where diabetes is likely to become manifest. It is hoped that research in this area will be of benefit to the Maltese community in Victoria.

Prof. Maurice Cauchi
MCCV President

Contributions to 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 to it.

Contributions should be forwarded to the Editor either by email at pro@mccv.org.au or alternatively by post to:

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

Contributions must be submitted by the following dates:

- Nov-Dec 2011 Newsletter: **Friday 28 October 2011**
- Jan-Feb 2012 Newsletter: **Friday 6 January 2012**



Notes from MCCV Council Meetings

AUGUST 2011 MEETING

The following items were discussed at the Council Meeting held on 3 August 2011:

MCCV President's Visit To Malta. MCCV President, Prof Maurice Cauchi, met with the President of Malta Dr George Abela during his recent stay in Malta. He also met with Dr Tonio Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Dr George Vella, Shadow Minister of Foreign Affairs, to discuss the proposal relating to the proposed establishment of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad and other issues. It seems the government has yet to resolve the difficult issue of finding a fair manner for choosing representatives from Maltese communities around the world to sit on the Council. Prof Cauchi said that on this issue and on the setting up of the Maltese Cultural Institute (the latter now falling within the portfolio of the Parliamentary Secretary for Culture and Tourism, Dr Mario de Marco), there is total agreement between the government and the opposition.

Migration Museum. Prof Cauchi had discussions with Fr Alfred Vella who confirmed that things have started happening with regard to the development of the museum. When Prof Cauchi met with Dr Tonio Borg he discussed the issue of the donation that had been promised by the government to the Emigrants Commission and the Minister assured him that the donation is expected to be made soon.

Gozo Bishop's Visit To Melbourne. The MCCV will be holding a Welcome Reception for Bishop Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo, at the Maltese Centre in Parkville on Thursday 20 Oct 2011.

Study On Diabetes. An initial study on Diabetes within the Maltese community is currently being conducted. The information is needed to support the request for a study grant. A survey form has been sent to all Affiliated Associations. It is also available from the Maltese Centre or by downloading it from the MCCV website.

Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Fund. Further donations were made to the Fund by Mr Alfred Zarb: \$100.00; Fr Karmel Borg: \$500.00; Mrs Phyllis Vella – Reskeon Maltese Association: \$150.00; Mr Paul Vella – Reskeon Seniors Group: \$150.00.

Honorary Consuls Meeting In Malta. Victor Borg attended the Honorary Consul Conference in Malta in late June. Some 100 Honorary Consuls from all over the world attended the conference. Issues discussed included: shipping issues, financial issues, briefings and a request for a handbook to be prepared for all Honorary Consuls.

MCCV Community Awards. A draft set of criteria for the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Community Awards has been prepared by Georgina Borg and was read out at the meeting by Maurice. The issue of who should be entitled to nominate is still to be discussed and agreed. A view was expressed at the meeting that it would not be appropriate to allow self-nomination. First awards are expected to be organised by June-July 2012 to be awarded in September 2012.

Contribution To Maltese Community. The MCCV acknowledged the voluntary work done within the Maltese community by three recently deceased prominent members of our community: Dr Edgar Gatt, Mr Joe Abela and Mr Domenic Bonello and their significant contribution to the Maltese community in Victoria.

Two Guest Speakers:

Professor Mario Garrett, a Maltese migrant to America and a psychologist and Professor at the School of Social Work at San Diego State University, California, USA.

Dr Helen Light spoke about her project relating to the collection and preservation of ethnic community artifacts that document the immigration history of Victoria stored in shared museum storage facilities.

SEPTEMBER 2011 MEETING

The following items were discussed at the Council Meeting held on 7 September 2011:

Diabetes Study. Since the last Council meeting Prof. Maurice Cauchi had another meeting with staff from the Australian Community Centre for Diabetes (ACCD) of Victoria University. 177 people responded to the short survey done to get some idea of the prevalence of diabetes among the Maltese in Victoria. According to this small sample, 43% of females and 62% of males who responded to the survey suffer from the disease. The respondents are predominantly in their 70s and 80s. Prof. Cauchi said that most people in this age group, who have diabetes, have been educated and coached about the disease. He said that the younger generations, 50-year-olds and younger, should be the focus of any future diabetes awareness campaigns. The conduct of the survey will be taken over by Victoria University as part of the study.

Teaching of Maltese. Prof. Cauchi met with representatives from the Victoria School of Languages (VSL) in relation to the future of the teaching of the Maltese language at VCE level. The challenge is that unless a minimum of 15 students sit for the Maltese VCE exam, the accreditation of Maltese will be lost. This year there are 20 students studying Maltese at the required level: 6 in Victoria, 11 in South Australia and 3 in NSW. This means that Maltese will continue to be accredited for another 3 years. A meeting is being held on 17 October 2011 at 7.00 pm at the Taylors Lakes Secondary College on *Saving the teaching of Maltese in Victoria* with Mr Frank Merlino Principal of VSL and Mr Charles Mifsud, Consul-General of Malta, as the guest speakers. Associations are urged to assist in encouraging the younger generation of Maltese to take up the study of the language.

Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Scholarship. As the Fund has now received donations exceeding \$26,000, by June 2012 an amount of at least \$500 will be earned on these funds. The MCCV would like the Associations to assist in publicising this scholarship among young Maltese under the age of 35 years so that they can start preparing themselves by taking more interest in Maltese history and culture in order to meet the selection criteria for the scholarship by the middle of next year. Mr Charles Mifsud, Consul-General of Malta in Victoria, and Prof. Richard Divall, well known for his keen interest in Maltese history and culture, agreed to join the scholarship selection panel.

FMLA Elections. The MCCV and many of its affiliated associations belong to the Federation of Maltese Living Abroad (FMLA). As members, they will be entitled to vote in elections for a new FMLA committee in December 2011. There are two ways of voting. Each association may cast its vote directly or, alternatively, send their proxy vote to the MCCV Executive, who will vote on their behalf. The second alternative would be preferred to ensure that our collective votes influence the composition of the elected FMLA committee in the interests of the Maltese community in Australia and of the FMLA itself. Prof. Cauchi stressed the importance that affiliated associations exercise their right to vote at the election.

Problem Gambling. In the Welfare Director's report the issue of problem gambling, which is causing heartache in our community, was raised. Associations are urged to be more responsible towards those attending their events, particularly when organising bus trips to casinos and 'pokie' venues by at least including alternative activities to gambling. Many families in our communities are suffering hardships because of problem gambling.

Condolences to MCCV Treasurer. The MCCV and its affiliated members conveyed their sincere condolences and deep sympathies to the MCCV Treasurer, Mr Paul Borg, on the passing away of his much loved wife, Nellie. Mr Borg expressed his heartfelt thanks to the members of the Executive Committee and the associations for their kind support in this difficult moment.

Maurice Blackburn to address next Council Meeting. Representatives from the law firm of Maurice Blackburn will address the next Council meeting on 5 October 2011 on special legal services that they offer to ethnic communities.

Reskeon Maltese Association celebrates its 35th anniversary

By Paul Vella

On Sunday 14 August 2011, Reskeon Maltese Association celebrated its 35th anniversary and Reskeon Seniors Group its 15th anniversary with a lunch at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville. Close to 170 attended. The celebrations started with a Special Mass celebrated for us by Fr Dr Victor Shields MSSP at St Paul's Chapel. Fr Shields was the instrument in the founding of our Association in 1976 and he related how it came about while delivering the Homily.

The singing during Mass was lead by Manwel Farrugia, accompanied by his wife, Margaret, playing the organ. Readings were done by Paul Vella, Sally Bartolo and Theresa Cachia, while the Sacrificial Offerings were done by Victor and Lina Pulis, and Caesar and Phyllis Vella. After Mass, the association members went to the hall in the Maltese Centre for the celebratory lunch.

MC for the afternoon was Vice-President, Mr Joe Cutajar. He welcomed all those present, especially the distinguished guests: Fr Dr Victor Shields, MSSP; MCCV President, Prof. Maurice Cauchi and Mrs Agnes Cauchi; MCCV Vice-President, Mr Guy Deguara and Mrs Mary Deguara; MCCV Vice-President, Mr Victor Borg and Ms Lourdes Buttigieg; Honorary Life Members of Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group Inc., Dr Clemente Zammit and Mrs Mary Zammit; Life Member of Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group, Mrs Anne Gauci; Life Member of Reskeon Maltese Association Mr Laurie Bartolo and Mrs Theresa Bartolo; the Reporter and Cameraman of "Waltzing Matilda" Mr Joe Montebello and Mrs Mary Montebello; the Convenor and Broadcaster of the Maltese Programs on 3ZZZ, Mr Emmanuel Brincat and Mrs Mary Anne Brincat.

Apologies were received from the Consul General of Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud and Mrs Anna Maria



Reskeon Maltese Association President, Mr Caesar Vella, (centre) leads the cutting of the celebratory cake.

Mifsud; MSSP Rector at Parkville, Fr Edwin Agius; Fr Denis Carabott, MSSP; MCCV Hon. Treasurer, Mr Paul Borg and Mrs Nellie Borg.

The afternoon started with a brief history of Reskeon, delivered by President and Co-Ordinator, Caesar Vella. He spoke of the early days of Reskeon as well as the names of the first committee, with special mention of the late Mr John Gauci, first President and Mr Laurie Bartolo.

This was followed by a short speech by the President of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Prof. Maurice Cauchi, who said that Reskeon was always one of the hard working associations in the Maltese Community.

A powerpoint DVD on Reskeon prepared for us by Dr Clemente Zammit, was run all afternoon on the big screen. Music was in the hands of capable DJ Mario Sammut "Moods Music".

It was good to have with us our member and friend Mr Edwin Baldacchino and his son, Joseph, who sang a few songs for us.

A special message for the occasion by the Prime Minister of Malta, Mr Law-

rence Gonzi, and another message from the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Joseph Muscat, were read.

The afternoon finished by the cutting of the Anniversary Cake that carried the logo of Reskeon. President Caesar Vella and his wife Phyllis, invited Mrs Anne Gauci, wife of the late Mr John Gauci, first President of Reskeon, to cut of the cake. During the cutting of the cake, both committees of Reskeon Maltese Association and Reskeon Seniors Group were around the table.

The event was filmed by Mr Joseph Montebello of "Waltzing Matilda for the same program.

The Association thanks all those who helped to make this event such the success it was, especially those who worked hard in the kitchen: Phyllis Vella, Salvina Vella, Sally Bartolo, Joe Galea and Madeleine Vella among others, especially those who helped as waiters and those who stayed behind to help with the cleaning. Thanks also to all those members who showed appreciation to the committees who prepared this event. □

Maltese Community mourns the loss of Dr Edgar Gatt

On Saturday 2 July 2011 the Maltese Community in Melbourne lost one of its prominent members when Dr Edgar Gatt passed away aged 89 years. Dr Gatt migrated to Australia in 1966, where he practised as a general practitioner and anaesthetist mostly in the western suburbs of Melbourne between 1966 and 1990.

Dr Edgar Anthony John Gatt, MD, Ph.C, General Practitioner and photographer, was born in Hamrun, Malta on 8th June 1922 and educated at the Lyceum.

In 1941 Edgar Gatt was called to serve his country when he was conscripted on the army and posted to the Royal Army Service Corps (RASC) from 1941 to 1942. He was transferred to the Royal Malta Artillery (RMA) as a gunner from 1942 to mid 1943, when he was released from active service and transferred to class 'W' Army Reserve. He was awarded the Africa Star, 1939-45 Star and 1939-45 Medal and the National Commemorative Medal (50th Anniversary) in recognition of "service rendered in defence of the Island Fortress of Malta".

In 1943 resumed his medicine studies at the Royal University of Malta, where he



Dr Edgar Gatt during a visit to Malta

graduated in Pharmaceutical Chemistry in 1945 and as Doctor of Medicine in 1949. He continued his medical education in the UK specialising in anaesthesia. He joined HM Overseas Medical Service and worked as an anaesthetist in Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia between 1952 and 1963.

Dr Gatt served as President of the Maltese Ex-Services Association, RSL Sub-branch, for three years between 1996 and 1999 and in 2005-06. In that role he effected a number of reforms in the Association's constitution leading to its incorporation. He

then continued to serve for a few years as Immediate Past President and member of the committee.

Dr Gatt's main hobby was always photography. He attended the School of Art in Valletta in the pre-war years. He was Vice-President and President of the Melbourne Camera Club, which involved him in teaching new members in the "Introduction to Photography" course run twice yearly. He was Director of International Portfolios for the Australian Photographic Society and editor of the Newsletter of the Victorian Association of Photographic Societies. He has also served as President of the Victorian Association of Photographic Societies.

In 1995 Dr Gatt was the recipient of the Manoel de Vilhena Award in 1995 for his "Wonderful Contribution to Maltese Culture in Australia".

Dr Gatt married Queenie (Regina) Gatt, Ph.C. in 1952 and has four children: Charles, Rosemarie, Robert, and Raymond.

(Thanks to Mr E Spiteri, President, Maltese ex-Services Association for his contribution to this article.) □

Maltese Community loses an active member with the death of Joe Abela

By Victor G. Borg

On Sunday 3 July 2011 the Maltese Community in Victoria suffered the loss of one of its very active members when **Joe Abela** of Glenroy passed away at the age of 73 years.

Joe married his wife Doris on 14 September 1958 in Malta and they arrived in Australia on the Feast of Maria Bambina (8 September) in 1963.

Joe Abela was a well known member of the Maltese community in Melbourne, as a result of his extensive and valuable contribution to its well being. His several contributions include:

- Founding the St Catherine Association and serving as its President for many years;
- Establishing the Malta-Gozo Band and serving as its President for a long time;
- Membership of the Hadfield Maltese Association for many years;
- Membership of the Committee of the 'Tini Idejk' project that



Joe Abela

raised funds for the construction of the Maltese Centre at Parkville;

- Membership of the St George Preca Memorial Committee

In his various capacities Joe was always at the forefront of helping people of a Maltese background.

Joe is survived by his widow Doris and their six children.

The MCCV extends its condolences to Doris and her family. Joe shall be sadly missed but we will remember him in our prayers. □

Farewell, Nellie!

On behalf of the affiliated Maltese associations, the President and Executive Committee of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria extend their sincere condolences and deepest sympathies to their colleague Paul Borg, MCCV Treasurer, and his family as well as to Nellie's daughter, Madeleine, and her side of the family on the passing away of Mrs Nellie Borg on Sunday, 28 August 2011, aged 75 years.

Nellie was the fifth surviving child born to Carmelo and Melita Borg of Blanche Street, Sliema. She attended Sliema Primary School until the age of 14, when she assumed her role of assisting with the running of the family household – specifically, Nellie attended to the laundry duties on behalf of the family, which included 10 brothers and sisters.

Nellie migrated to Melbourne Australia in January 1962, at the age of 26 years. Six months later, Nellie gave birth to her only child, Madeleine.

In 1981 Nellie married Paul Borg who has served the Maltese Community Council of Victoria as Treasurer for almost fifty years. Nellie herself has been a quiet



Helen "Nellie" Borg

assistant to the community, aiding Paul in the background on many of the community projects undertaken over the years.

Nellie's daughter Madeline, and stepchildren Darryn, Simon, Tracey and Joanne will fondly remember a tender hearted woman, who always wore a smile and was forever keen to play a hand of rummy or go to bingo. Her 17 grand children and 5 great grand-children will particularly miss their Nanna's cooking, endless supply of sweets and little games.

Nellie will be sadly missed but will never be forgotten by all who knew her. Strieh fil-Paci, Nellie. □

'They booked their place in Maltese history'

By Brian Zammit

Many Maltese men and women, from all walks of life, have had an impact on the course of Maltese history, some not as well known as others. This was the topic of Mr Albert Agius' talk to the Maltese Historical Association on 16th August 2011, where he sketched the lives of a number of prominent men and women.

Albert explained that the motivation for his talk came from an editorial in *Lehen is-Sewwa*, a popular Maltese weekly, written at the time of the death of Count Prof Preziosi who was, and still is, recognised as a very prominent Maltese citizen. The editorial spoke of the greatness of a people's civilization. It argued that this is measured by how much it appreciates the great people of the country and by how it is grateful towards those who dedicate their lives to the benefit of humanity and to the progress of knowledge and science.

Albert started with **Glormu Cassar** who was the leading architect at the time when Valletta was founded; many of the buildings, including St. John's Co-Cathedral and the auberges were designed and built by him. **Fra Diegu**, whose real name was Guglielmu Bonanno, was a lay brother with the Franciscan Order who dedicated his life to helping vulnerable young women and orphaned children.

The Most Noble Professor **Sir Luigi Count Preziosi** attained fame in Malta and



Mr Albert Agius delivering his talk

overseas for his work in the care and cure of eye disease. In 1924, he devised an operation to save the sight of many unfortunates; it's still referred to worldwide as 'Preziosi's Operation'. Apart from his professional activities, Preziosi was a leading politician, serving as President of the Senate in 1932 and President of the National Assembly in 1947.

Monsignor Mikiel Azzopardi dedicated his life to helping children and the sick. He is also notable for the role he played in persuading many people to accept that disabled children had a right to respect and dignity. But he is perhaps most famous for founding Dar tal-Providenza in Siggiewi.

Blessed Adeodata Pisani was not born in Malta but in Naples, Italy in 1806 and lived there until she was 17 years of age when, due to difficult circumstances, she and her mother settled in Malta. She became a nun when she was 21 and she renounced her personal wealth,

including a substantial sum to be distributed among the poor. Maria Adeodata wrote various works, the most well-known of which is a collection of her personal reflections titled *The mystical garden of the soul that loves Jesus and Mary*. She died in 1855; after a simple funeral, she was buried in her monastery's crypt. The Maltese ecclesiastical authorities brought her case to the attention of Pope Leo XIII who declared her Venerable in 1898. Unfortunately, the process for her beatification was interrupted due to various factors and it was not until May 9, 2001 that she, along with Dun Ġorġ Preca and Nazju Falzon, was beatified by Pope John Paul II at the Floriana Granaries.

Antonio Sciortino, born at Ħaż-Żebbuġ (1879-1947), must rank among the best of Malta's internationally known artists. He studied and worked extensively overseas, in Rome and in the British Academy of the Arts, where he served as director from 1911 to 1936. Sciortino is renowned for many sculptural works. One of his most famous bronze sculptures is *Les Gavroches* which is inspired by Victor Hugo's novel, *Les Misérables*. Sciortino was commissioned to sculpt the statue to Christ the King, commemorating the Eucharistic Congress in 1913. He also sculpted the monument to the Great Siege, which is opposite the Law Courts in Valletta.

Manwel Dimech was born in 1860 in a slum dwelling in Triq San Ġwann, Valletta. His early years were marked by hardship and he was imprisoned for much of his young adult life. But while in prison, he had educated himself and, at the beginning of 1898, he started his own language school and published a weekly newspaper, *Il-Bandiera tal-Maltin* (The Flag of the Maltese). Dimech henceforth devoted his life to advocating social change and he made many enemies. In 1914, the British colonial government had him arrested and exiled for life for 'agitating the Dockyard workers against the government because he had anticlerical and socialist principles'. He left his wife and three children behind in Malta, and died in exile in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1921.

Nerik Mizzi (1885-1950), one of the most important political leaders of his time, was another who suffered greatly at the hands of the British colonial authorities. Contrary to what many people think, he was not anti-British. He was passionately pro-Maltese and he opposed colonial dominance over Malta by a power which had no affinity with Latin or Mediterranean culture. At various times, he was court-martialled, imprisoned, interned and eventually exiled to Uganda during WWII. Nevertheless, Nerik Mizzi became Prime Minister in 1950, but died just three months later, the only prime minister of Malta to die in office. □

Great concert by young Maltese Australian Tenor

On Sunday 21 August 2011 Christopher Busietta (right), a young Maltese Australian tenor, gave a great concert at a jam-packed St Paul's Anglican Church in Canterbury, a suburb in the east of Melbourne. He was accompanied on the piano by Amir Farid. The impressive concert program included arias and songs by Mozart, Beethoven, Léhar, Sutherland, Rofe, Donizetti, Schubert, Barber, Britten, Massenet, Tchaikovsky and Verdi in English, German, Italian, French and Russian.

Christopher Busietta completed his Bachelor of Music at the Melba Conservatorium of Music in 2006 in Melbourne, Australia, studying voice with tenor Peter Mander. In 2008, he won the 2009 More than Opera German-Australian Operatic Grant and has since based his professional career in Germany, performing with Staatstheater Wiesbaden, Staatstheater Aachen and currently Stadttheater Augsburg.

Christopher is the son of Joseph Busietta, a Chartered Accountant, who had migrated to Melbourne in the fifties.



Christopher's grandfather, Carmelo (Memé) Busietta, was Malta's leading water polo player of the 1920s and an Olympian who, with a view to having Malta participating in the 1928 Olympic Games in Amsterdam, contributed to the formation of Malta's Amateur Athletic Association, its affiliation to the international federation governing swimming (FINA) and the establishment of the Malta Olympic Committee. □

L-Isqof Joseph Grech imfakkar mill-GLM

Minn Paul Vella

Il-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria, żamm programm ta' proża u poezija biex ifakkru il-mibki u qatt minsi Isqof Malti, Mgr Joseph Grech, Isqof ta' Sandhurst. Dan inżamm nhar il-Ħadd, 31 ta' Lulju fis-Sala taċ-Ċentru Malti ta' Parkville, fis-2 pm. Madwar 50 ruħ attendew u kulhadd deher li ha gost b'dak li ġie pprezentat.

Fost dawk prezenti kien hemm xi familjari tal-Isqof Grech. Kien hemm iż-żijiet tiegħu, is-Sur Jim Vella u s-Sinjura tiegħu, Tessie; binhom, Ray Vella u s-Sinjura tiegħu, Debbie; u n-neputija tagħhom, Elizabeth Burger. Konna onorati wkoll bil-prezenza ta' Fr Karm Borg, habib kbir tal-Isqof Grech.

Fost oħrajn kien hemm ukoll il-President tal-Kunsill Malti tal-Victoria, Prof. Maurice Cauchi u s-Sinjura tiegħu, Agnes, kif ukoll il-Viċi-President tal-istess Kunsill, is-Sur Gejtu Deguara u s-Sinjura tiegħu, Mary. Nixtiequ niringrazzjaw lis-Sur Deguara tal-ghajnuna tiegħu. Prezenti wkoll kien hemm il-President tar-Reskeon Maltese Association, is-Sur Caesar Vella, u s-Sinjura tiegħu, Phyllis.

Naturalment fost oħrajn kien hemm il-membri tal-Grupp, avolja kien hemm xi ftit apoloġiji minn dawk li ma setgħux jattendu.

Il-programm beda biex Paul Vella ta merħba lil dawk prezenti, speċjalment lill-familjari tal-Isqof Grech. Wara li Fr Karm Borg fetaħ il-programm b'talba, Paul ipprezenta fuq l-iskrin il-kbir, video, xogħol ta' Dr Clemente Zammit, "Bishop



Parti minn dawk li attendew flimkien mall-familjari tal-Isqof Grech u Fr Karm Borg

Joseph Grech — Farewell" li ntlaga' tajjeb hafna fost hafna ċapċip. Wara, Paul introduċa lill-President tagħna, Dr Victor Sammut, li għal darb'oħra ta merħba lil dawk prezenti u tkellem fuq l-Isqof. Il-Viċi-President, is-Sinjura Marie Louise Anastasi, tkelmet fuq l-Isqof Grech. Il-Prof. Maurice Cauchi ġie mistieden biex ikellem lil dawk prezenti fuq "Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Fund". Dan il-fund jinkoraggixxi zghazagh ta' dixxendenza Maltija li jimxu fuq il-passi tal-Isqof Grech u jinghataw scholarship (għal tnejn) kull sena biex ikabbru fihom il-kwalitajiet u l-valuri li kellu l-Isqof Grech fil-ħajja tiegħu. Kien hawn li l-President tal-Grupp, Dr Victor Sammut, f'isem l-istess Grupp ipprezenta ċekk bhala donazzjoni għal dan l-istess fund.

Wara dan beda l-qari ta' proża u poeziji fejn smajna lil Laurie Armato, Michael Xuereb, Maria Catania, Guzi Camilleri, Manwel Cassar u Paul Vella jaqraw xogħol tagħhom fuq l-Isqof.

Meta spicċa l-qari, Paul ipprezenta Omelija li hu kien irrekordja għall-programm tiegħu fuq 3ZZZ, li kien għamel l-Isqof Grech fil-Festa tad-Duluri fil-Knisja ta' St. Mary Star of the Sea, West Melbourne, fis-sena 2009.

Il-programm inghalaq billi Fr Karm Borg rega' ġie mistieden biex jitellem fuq l-Isqof Grech. Fr Karm kien ilu jaf lill-Isqof Joe minn Malta meta kien għadu jistudja. Huwa kompli jaqsam magħna l-esperjenzi li kellu miegħu meta l-Isqof kien ġie l-Awstralja, pass pass ta' meta sar Isqof u sa fl-aħħar meta kien sar Isqof ta' Sandhurst u sakemm huwa miet. □

Quddiesa Annwali tal-Emigranti u r-Refuġjati

minn Paul Vella

Il-Ħadd, 28 t'Awwissu, nżammet il-Quddiesa Annwali tal-Emigranti u r-Refuġjati għas-sena 2011 fil-Kattidral ta' St Patrick's, East Melbourne.

Għaliha jattendu hafna nies minn nazzjonijiet differenti. Kważi kollha jigu bil-kostum tagħhom u anki jiehdu sehem fiċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet permezz ta' kant u żfin tradizzjonali tagħhom.

Il-Maltin li attendew ma tantx kienu numerużi. Jien ma tantx nagħti t-tort lill-komunità Maltija. Jidher li ma kienx hemm komunikazzjoni biż-żejjed dwar dan avveniment lill-istess komunita permezz ta' avvizi fuq il-programmi Maltin tar-Radju. Ta' min ighid ukoll li fl-istess hin kienet qed tiġi ċcelebrata l-festa ta' Santa Liena.

Il-Kattidral kien kważi mimli. L-ewwel intqal ir-Rużarju b'lingwi differenti fejn persuna minn kull nazzjon tghid is-"Sliema"



Dawk li rraprezentaw lill-komunità Maltija

bil-lingwa tagħha u mbagħad kulhadd jirrispondi il-"Qaddisa" bil-lingwi differenti tagħhom. Is-Sinjura Phyllis Vella, Segretarja tar-Reskeon Maltese Association, hadet parti fir-Rużarju billi rraprezentat lill-komunità Maltija.

Imbagħad saret il-Purċissjoni ta' qabel il-Quddiesa fejn kien hemm hafna bandalori

ta' nazzjonijiet differenti. Is-Sur Alfred Ascjak irraprezentat l-komunità Maltija billi garr bandalora Maltija bis-salib tal-Kavallieri, li hi ferm antika u għandha storja warajha.

Il-Quddiesa ġiet iċcelebrata mill-Arcisqof ta' Melbourne, Denis Hart, DD. Erba' membri mill-komunità tas-Samoa tellghu il-Vangelju billi haduh sal-artal.

Il-President tar-Reskeon Maltese Association u s-Sinjura tiegħu, Phyllis Vella, ġew mistiedna biex jiehdu sehem fit-tluġ tal-Offerti waqt il-Quddiesa.

Wara l-Quddiesa, ingabru xi ftit Maltin li kienu prezenti biex jiehdu ritratt ma' l-istatwa tal-Madonna u l-bandalora Maltija.

Naħseb li l-komunità Maltija għandha għalfejn tiringrazzja lis-Sur Alfred Ascjak li ha hsieb kollox waqt din il-Quddiesa u dejjem ihabrek għal xi avveniment bhal dan. □



Community Events Calendar

For up-to-date and more detailed information,
please visit our website at www.mccv.org.au

Date	Event	Location	Suburb
Sat 17 Sep	Social Event - St Helena Maltese-Australian Social Club	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Sun 18 Sep 11.00 am	Mass celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Philermo Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order	Newman's College Chapel, Melbourne University	West Melbourne
Sun 18 Sep 2.00 pm	Lejla Muziko-Letterarja - Grupp Letteratura Maltija Ink.	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Tue 20 Sep 7.30 pm	Annual General Meeting Maltese Historical Association (Aust.) Inc.	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Sun 25 Sep 10.30 am	Multicultural Fair - St Mary Star of the Sea	St Mary Star of the Sea Church	Melbourne
Wed 28 Sep 6.30 pm	MCCV Executive Committee Meeting	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Sat 01 Oct 6.00 pm	Springtime Dinner Dance Maltese Salesians Past Pupils Assn of Victoria	Firenze Receptions	Fawkner
Sun 02 Oct	Annual General Meeting - Newport Maltese Association	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Wed 05 Oct 7.00 pm	MCCV Council Meeting	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Fri 07 Oct 6.00 pm	Feast of Our Lady of Grace - 30th Anniversary	St Mary MacKillop Church	Keilor Downs
Sat 08 Oct 7.00 pm	Feast of Our Lady of Grace - 30th Anniversary	St Mary MacKillop Church	Keilor Downs
Sun 09 Oct 2.00 pm	Feast of Our Lady of Grace - 30th Anniversary	St Mary MacKillop Church	Keilor Downs
Sat-Sun 15-16 Oct 7.00 am	Pokies Weekend at Albury - Maltese Salesians Past Pupils Assn of Victoria	-	Albury, NSW
Sat 15 Oct 2.30 pm	Holy Mass by H.G. Mgr Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo	Our Lady of Ta' Pinu Shrine	Bacchus Marsh
Sun 16 Oct 9.00 am & 2.30 pm	Holy Mass by H.G. Mgr Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo	St Joseph the Worker Parish	Reservoir
Mon 17 Oct 9.30 am	Holy Mass by H.G. Mgr Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo	Rosary Home	Keilor Downs
Tue 18 Oct 10.00 am	Holy Mass by H.G. Mgr Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo	21-31 Collins Ave, Altona East	Altona East
Thu 20 Oct 10.30 am	Holy Mass by H.G. Mgr Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo	St Bernadette's Aged Care	Sunshine North
Thu 20 Oct 7.00 pm	Welcome Reception for H.G. Mgr Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Fri 21 Oct 7.30 pm	Holy Mass by H.G. Mgr Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo	St Bernadette's Parish	Sunshine North
Sat 22 Oct 4.30 pm	Holy Mass by H.G. Mgr Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo	St Joseph's Church Parish Centre	Springvale
Sun 23 Oct 9.00 am	Visit to St Patrick's Cathedral by H.G. Mgr Mario Grech	St Patrick's Cathedral	East Melbourne
Sun 23 Oct 6.00 pm	Dinner in honour of Bishop Mario Grech - Gozo Assn of Victoria	Luxor Function Centre	Sydenham
Mon 24 Oct 10.30 am	Holy Mass by H.G. Mgr Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo	St Peter Chanel Parish	Deer Park
Mon 24 Oct 5.00 pm	Evening with H.G. Mgr Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo for Maltese Priests	St Joseph the Worker Parish Church	Reservoir
Wed 26 Oct 6.30 pm	MCCV Executive Committee Meeting	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Thu 27 Oct	Social Event - Newport Maltese Association	Maltese Centre	Parkville
Fri 28 Oct 5.00 pm	Holy Mass by H.G. Mgr Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo	Maltese Bocci Club	Ardeer
Sat 29 Oct - Fri 04 Nov	7-day Trip - Maltese Salesians Past Pupils Assn of Victoria	-	-
Sat 29 Oct 7.30 pm	Farewell Mass by H.G. Mgr Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo	St Joseph the Worker Parish	Reservoir
Wed 02 Nov 7.00 pm	MCCV Council Meeting	Maltese Centre	Parkville