



FMLS 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



This year's Federation of Maltese Language Schools INC. (Australia) AGM took place on the 13 September at 6.00 pm on ZOOM. The following nominations for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer were received and uncontested. I am pleased to announce the following members elected onto the committee for the year 2022/2024 year. **President – Edwidge Borg, Vice President – Miriam Friggieri, Secretary – Annemarie Thind, Treasurer – Alfred Flask**

We are very pleased to welcome a new committee member Annemarie Thind. Patricia Grech was voted to stay on the Committee to assist as Assistant Secretary and PRO. The meeting was well attended with Teachers/coordinators and advisors attending the FMLS zoom meeting.

SNAP SHOT OF STUDENTS ATTENDING MALTESE LANGUAGE CLASSES

The following are the schools affiliated with FMLS and all benefit from their financial status with the FMLS. MAA Canberra & Queanbeyan Maltese and Culture school, MCCV Maltese Language Classes adult online; the new MCCV school age face to face classes held at Caroline Springs George Cross FC Function Room; Skola Maltija Sydney adult/school age, face to face/ online classes; Maltese Language School of NSW adult/school age online classes; Skola Maltija Mackay adult face to face classes and Dwejret il- Malti face to face/online classes. The school reports gave an insight on activities the schools had undertaken throughout year in attracting students both school age and adults to learn Maltese. Figures indicate that more females than males want to learn Maltese or else continue to improve on what was learnt during interaction with older members of the family. A snapshot taken of students learning Maltese throughout the year was a total of 253 students. Students learn about the Maltese Culture through language learning.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Some Teachers undertook courses such as the Faculty of Education, University of Malta - Expanding the Horizons in Teaching: Professional development for teachers of Maltese as a Foreign Language. The course was presented by Prof Antoinette Camilleri Grima and Dr Jacqueline Zammit and financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Malta. The course was fully subscribed. Annemarie Thind is nearing completion of a Master of Education at the University of Wollongong. Pauline Bonanno has completed a short course, Teaching and Learning Remotely, delivered by Macquarie University School of Education in partnership with the NSW Federation of Community Language Schools (NSW FCLS). Naomi Sant is nearing completion of a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary) from the Australian Catholic University.

RECRUITMENT AND SUPPORT

Lisa Bright was appointed School Administrator of the Maltese Language School of NSW in February 2022. Lisa took over from Miriam Friggieri who was interim administrator. The school runs 6 classes. Lorraine Stafford joined the MCCV Maltese Language Classes as a Tutor. The school now runs 4 classes. To provide supportive environments in Schools, assistance is always needed to update systems with consistent teaching practices through the hurdles that are faced, such as pandemics, bureaucracy or other elements. There is a need for continual personnel support to continue to change the process by modifying curriculum and improving the way teachers instruct and Principals lead. Structure and resources are important factors in the journey and all need human resource support. Therefore the FMLS encourages the Maltese Community to support the FMLS and the schools in your state by taking part in our teaching activities as there is still a potential for schools to engage new teachers to provide more class options.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS

Links to teaching apps and links as well as a PowerPoint "How to get your adult Learners talking Maltese: 15 tricks you should try" is attached.

Edwidge Borg
President FMLS
malteselanguageschools@yahoo.com

Executive Committee: President – Edwidge Borg (VIC). Secretary Annemarie Thind (NSW), Treasurer - Alfred Flask (ACT). Vice President Miriam Friggieri (NSW), All Correspondence to be addressed to: The Secretary, FMLS INC. Email: illawarramalteseaustralians@gmail.com and & cc to: The President: malteselanguageschools@yahoo.com