



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2009

It is now 15 years since the inception of the meals service to the Maltese community. To the initial pioneers of the service and all those who have played some part in its progress over the past decade and a half, I salute you on behalf of the multitude of aged clients that have benefited from the countless hours you have contributed. From its humble beginning MACASA has come a long way, but the service will need to expand to cover the community's future needs.

Building on the Community Information and Strategic Planning sessions of 2008, earlier this year a sub-committee was formed to specifically to conduct 5 year and 10 year plans to predict the changes required in MACASA's structure. Ross Parrott has carried out a valuable population study, looking at current and projected figures of the ageing Maltese-born in South Australia. From these projections we can estimate that the peak for those reaching 65 years and over will occur somewhere between the years 2019 and 2024. Based on this we can expect the need for our services to increase by 2 to 3 fold. The plans for the future will require constant monitoring by the management committee to ensure that MACASA meets its goals. As part of this preparation for the future, the management committee has created a new position in the administrative area; namely a Personal Assistant to the Manager.

By far, the major event for MACASA in the past 12 months has been the shift from Croydon RSL to the Cheltenham Community Centre. After a fairly lengthy negotiating process between The Charles Sturt Council and MACASA, the physical relocation actually came to fruition; the kitchen moved in May and the offices some six weeks later in June. The one-off direct allocation of funds in 2008 to upgrade our kitchen finally got put to use.

We are indebted to the City of Charles Sturt for allowing us enter in partnership with them. In particular, the board recognises the significant part played by our guest speaker Mr. Henry Inat, General Manager City Services Division; his role in mediating a compromise between the two stakeholders was pivotal in cementing this partnership.

The Cheltenham Community Centre, with its ready-made multicultural mix under the management of Alison Wall, also allows us meet our HACC funding requirements to provide a meals service to other cultures besides our own. In the short time that we have been here, Alison has supported our staff with the settling-in process.

The management committee has decided that only one major fund-raising event will be conducted each year. This year we held a very successful Quiz Night, which was enjoyed by all who attended, so much so that we will probably make this a regular event on the calendar. The Movie night was replaced by this event.

Mid-year we reviewed our Constitution to bring it in line with modern-day standards and the relevant changes were voted for and agreed upon at a General Advisory meeting to which paid members were invited to attend.

Through necessity the following policies were developed: Volunteer Recognition Policy, Disability Action Plan and a Heat Policy.

Every year MACASA conducts a Carer's day, and this year we took a busload of carers on a very enjoyable day's outing to Monarto Zoo. Apparently so much interest was shown by those in the community that we could have taken another busload. We apologise to any of those who missed out.

I would like to thank Mr. Henry Inat for being our guest speaker at the 2009 AGM.

MACASA would once again like to thank the Maltese Guild for sponsoring our Health Information program for the past 12 months. And thanks to those who donated cash, gifts, and to those who gave their expertise and valuable time as volunteers.

A special thanks to the wonderful kitchen staff and volunteers, both those who help in the kitchen and those dedicated drivers.

And finally, I take great pleasure as chairperson in thanking my tireless fellow board members for their tremendous contribution to the management of the MACASA organisation.

Robert Vining
Chairperson
7th October 2009