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[www.mabpav.com.au](http://www.mabpav.com.au)

# The MABPAVian

Letter from your President - Damien Digby

November 2008

Dear MABPAVIAN's & friends,

Well it's a little hard to believe that a year has passed since I became President of your association & what a challenging but rewarding year it has been. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a heart felt thanks to the many members & friends who have given my family & I so much support during & after my father's passing in July. Joe Digby, a loyal & dedicated member of MABPAV, had been a committee member for the last 3 years & the seat he has vacated on our committee will be difficult to replace. It's also great to see so many members supporting the Charity Dinner for the Sunshine Palliative Care Unit being held in his honor later this month. There are still some seats available if you can attend.

A thank-you needs to go out to the MABPAV committee. In a challenging year with many bumps in the road they have gone above & beyond to support your association. The committee has been working hard behind the scenes to move forward on the vision & plans that were heralded during my opening comments after I was elected last October. Over the last 12 months I am very proud to report that we have grown our membership by almost 20% & that attendance to our Networking Nights has doubled since their conception 18 months ago. The caliber of our speakers & the professionalism in organizing & running these events is improving each time & although we did have a void in the middle of the year, the pace is definitely picking up in the last quarter of the calendar year leading up to Christmas. Our networking nights will continue to give our association the rhythm & regular contact necessary to really grow the association & your on-going support has been very encouraging.

Our upcoming AGM is the most important event for the future of your association so please make every effort possible to attend. I would personally like to encourage as many of you as possible to nominate for joining our committee at our upcoming AGM. Without a strong committee it would be impossible to continue to grow & improve our association. Although it only really takes an hour per month I would ask you to ensure you can commit to the full year as this year we had a number of seats vacated that has put increased pressure on those that remain.

I'm looking forward to giving you all a blow-by-blow account of all our events during the last 12 months & some of the plans I would like to execute if I am again given the opportunity to be your President for another year.

Thank-you all so much for giving me the opportunity to lead MABPAV over the last 12 months. I would also like to say a special thank-you to Herbert Portanier for his availability, guidance & advice during the year. It would have been much more difficult without it...

Regards,

Damien Digby

## New Members

We are pleased to announce new Members who joined our association over the past 12 months

- Alexander Attard - Crash IT
- Charlie Digby—Digbys Fashion
- George Portelli— Bank of Valletta
- Joe Calleja— Apex Group
- Ray Azzopardi— Telstra Corporation
- Joe Cumbo— Allstone Restorations
- Clare Darmanin— Holman, Fenwick & Willan
- Vince Vella— Department of Defence
- Michael Ebejer— Elynwood P/L
- Josephine Spiteri— Elynwood P/L

There details can be found on our Website at [www.mabpav.com.au](http://www.mabpav.com.au).

EDITED & PUBLISHED BY DARREN XERRI

If you would like to be featured in the Members Spotlight please email your Name, Organisation, Picture or Logo and Details (less than 100 words) to [xerrifamily1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:xerrifamily1@optusnet.com.au).

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## The MABPAVian

### A Year in Review

November 2008

#### Networking Nights

We have had two very successful Networking Nights this year with prominent Speakers providing their time to speak to our Association in their chosen areas

Property Developer, Investor, Entrepreneur Mr. John Hendriks, Managing Director of Windsor Homes and Australian Property & Finance Group spoke about Property Investment and provided us with tips and traps for potential Entrepreneurs wanting to invest in the property market.

Professor Maurice Cauchi Author of "Maltese Achievers in Australia" spoke to us about the impact Maltese-Australians have had in the Australian community and his inspiring journey researching this topic. He also gave us an insight into his upcoming new book.

Mr. Greg Hearn CFP is the Authorised Representative Garvan Financial Planning spoke to us about the value a Financial Planner brings to people planning their financial future. He also discussed the facts and commitment required to starting a Self Managed Superannuation Fund and the importance of Estate Planning.

Mr. Eric Gauci is the Head of Westpac Commercial & Business Banking - Northern Region. Eric provided an intriguing presentation on the sub-prime credit crisis in the USA and the repercussions to the Australian Financial industry & interest rates locally.

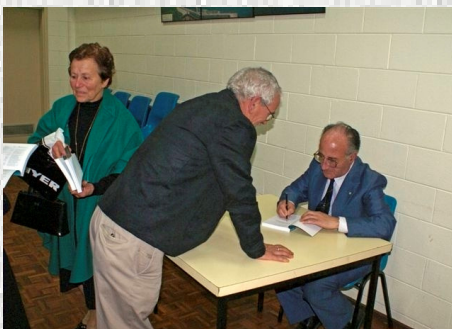


#### Meeting with His Excellency, Mr. Jurek Juszczuk – Australia's High Commissioner to Malta.

In March, His Excellency, Mr. Jurek Juszczuk - Australia's High Commissioner to Malta rearranged his Diary to speak to MABPAV Members at the Maltese Community Centre.

Mr. Juszczuk spoke about his role in Malta and how he is working with Maltese and Australian Companies wanting to work and do business with each other.

Mr. Jurek Juszczuk extended his own personal invitation for Australian based companies looking at exporting to Malta to utilize his sphere of influence as a launching pad. This may extend to establishing contacts & appointments within government & business circles to personally attending product or service launches.



#### Professor Cauchi's Book Launch new Book 'A Who's Who of Maltese-Background Persons in Australia & New Zealand'

In June MABPAV was involved with the launch of Professor Maurice Cauchi's new book 'A Who's Who of Maltese-Background Persons in Australia & New Zealand'. Professor Cauchi signed copies of his book and was gracious with his time talking to members and visitors of the night.

As he did at our Networking night, Professor Cauchi shared some wonderful stories about some of the prominent Maltese Australians mentioned in the book.

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## Sunshine Hospital Palliative Care Unit Charity Fundraiser in memory of the late Joe Digby

MABPAV was well represented with more than 20 members & their partners at the recent charity dinner held in memory of the late Joe Digby on October 25<sup>th</sup>. A fantastic night was had by all & over \$10,000 was raised on the night from ticket sales, a memorabilia auction & donations. A generous donation of \$500 was received from MABPAV. Proceeds will go towards the purchase of special mattresses & various other devices used to make a patients stay more comfortable.

Damien, Josephine & the Digby family wish to extend a very special thanks to everyone at MABPAV for their support of this very worthwhile cause.

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## Upcoming Events

### Annual General Meeting

A reminder that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) is set for the Thursday 27th November 2008. The AGM is always a difficult meeting as our constitution states that 25% of the members must attend. So please diarize this evening as your attendance and commitment to MABPAV counts.

Please complete the attached Proxy Forms and return via fax or mail as indicated on the top of the Newsletter

### Details of the AGM

Date: Thursday 27th November 2008

Time: 7pm Registration and Refreshments and 7:30pm Start

Location: The Offices of BR Wellington, Level 2, 112 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne

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