

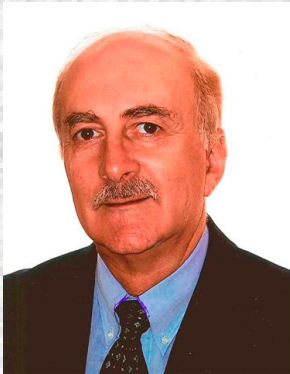


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## The MABPAVian Monthly

### A Message From the President

December 2006



2006 has been another year full of challenges and achievements for MABPAV. As the year draws to a close I would like to extend my thanks to our Committee and the talented and successful members who have contributed to our calendar of events and creating such a vibrant Association.

During the course of the year we established regular contacts with the Melbourne International Chamber of Commerce, The Ethnic Chamber of Commerce, The Maltese-Canadian Professional & Business Association, The Maltese-Australian Chamber of Commerce and Culture - Malta, along with our sister Associations in Adelaide, Canberra, Sydney and Perth.

No doubt the highlight of the year was the Welcome Dinner Dance organised for the Maltese Athletes who participated at the 18th Commonwealth Games, held in Melbourne in March. This event attracted 700 guests and sold out months in advance. Much positive feedback was received after the event and I'm sure all who were in attendance would agree it was a most enjoyable evening.



Shortly after this event a Business Lunch and National Business Seminar were held in Melbourne attended by the former Malta High Commissioner, Dr. I. Fsadni and the Maltese Foreign Minister, Dr. Michael Frendo. Representatives from all the states attended the seminar, held as part of the "Enhanced Co-operation Initiative" aimed at promoting greater commercial ties between Malta and Australia.

Our membership is growing at a steady pace and we have started to attract second generation Maltese-Australians as members of our Association.

The Maltese Diplomatic Corp has been of great assistance to MABPAV and this year we said farewell to Dr. Clemente Zammit as Consul General of Malta for Victoria on his retirement. We thank Dr. Zammit for his support of the Association. Similarly we thank Dr. I. Fsadni, the Malta High Commissioner, who also concluded his term this year. We welcome their successors, Ms. Angele Azzopardi and H.E. Mr. F. Tabone and look forward to involving them in our future functions.

MABPAV is ready for the coming year - looking to reach new targets and to meet all the challenges ahead.

The MABPAV Committee wishes each and every member of MABPAV a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2007.

**Herbert Portanier**  
President



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### Upcoming Events Australia Week Exhibition in Malta 21-27 January 2007

The Maltese-Australian Chamber of Commerce & Culture are holding an Australia Week Exhibition in Malta during the week of 21-27 January 2007. All our members are invited to participate in this exhibition and they have made a special arrangement for all MABPAV members. This exhibition is also being supported by The Australian High Commission in Malta. This is a golden opportunity to exhibit your products or services in Malta for a very small outlay. You will also gain exposure to markets in the EU, North & Central Africa and the Middle East. This is an offer that requires your undivided attention as there is an opportunity to network to new markets. As an International Freight Forwarder with direct airfreight & sea freight services to and from Malta, our president, Mr. Herbert Portanier has instructed his agent in Malta to participate at this exhibition. He is also taking this opportunity to extend reduced freight rates to any MABPAV member who wishes to freight samples or products from Melbourne to Malta. Any member who wishes to participate should contact Herbert Portanier 03 9335 2499.



### Upcoming Events: Spanish Chamber of Commerce Christmas Fiesta Wed 6 Dec 2006



All MABPAV Members are cordially invited to join the Spanish Chamber of Commerce to celebrate Christmas on Wednesday 6 December 2006 at the Melbourne Supper Club, 161 Spring Street, Melbourne.

You will be able to savour some Spanish wines & beers, as well as some delicious tapas. The 'get together' will provide an opportunity to network and meet other business people. If you like to attend this special evening please contact the Spanish Chamber directly on 02 9362 3168 if you need further information.

### Upcoming Events: MABPAV Annual Christmas Luncheon Sunday 3 December 2006

Support for the upcoming MABPAV Annual Christmas Luncheon has been overwhelming and we are now fully booked. Just a reminder to all those who are attending would you please arrive at the dock by no later than 12 noon. Should you require further information including a children's menu, please contact Carmen Borg at [Carmen@cbprom.com](mailto:Carmen@cbprom.com)

### Members Spotlight: Malcolm Debono

**Organisation Name:** M. Debono & Associates Pty Ltd

**Contact No.:** 0404 047 551

Malcolm is director of his Mortgage Brokering company which he set up in October 2002. Prior to this, he worked for 21 years in the local finance industry and before that he worked for 12 years in banking Overseas. He is accredited with a number of different banks and lenders which enables him to work with his clients to select competitive products to meet their individual needs. The range of products covered include Owner Occupied Home loans, Investment Loans, Equity Loans, re-finance and Consolidation loans. He sources the majority of his business from personal referrals, mostly previous clients and strongly believes that, to be successful, a business must provide a professional, flexible and friendly service which meets clients' needs. Malcolm is a Fellow of the Financial Services Institute of Australasia (F.Fin) and a Full Member and Accredited Mortgage Consultant of the Mortgage Industry Association of Australia. Malcolm is also our current Vice-President of MABPAV.



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)

Any Questions / Feedback please email: [xerrifamily1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:xerrifamily1@optusnet.com.au) or call 0407 823 633