

# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

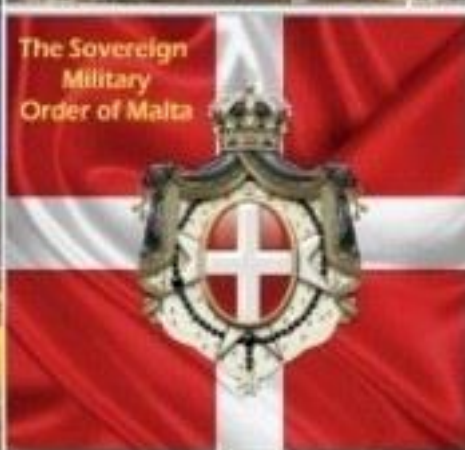
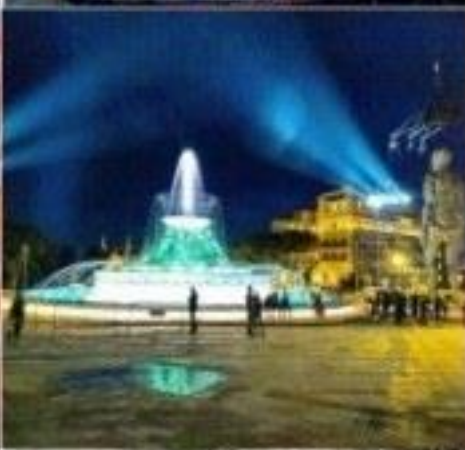
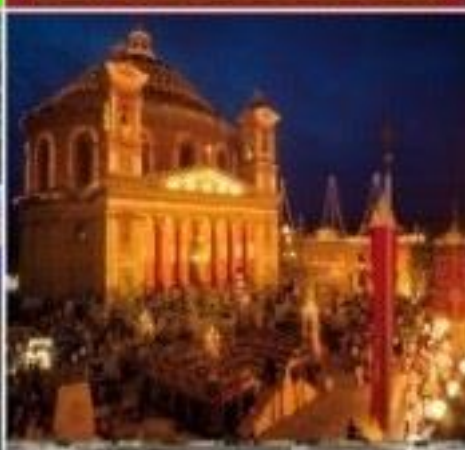


The journal of the Maltese Diaspora

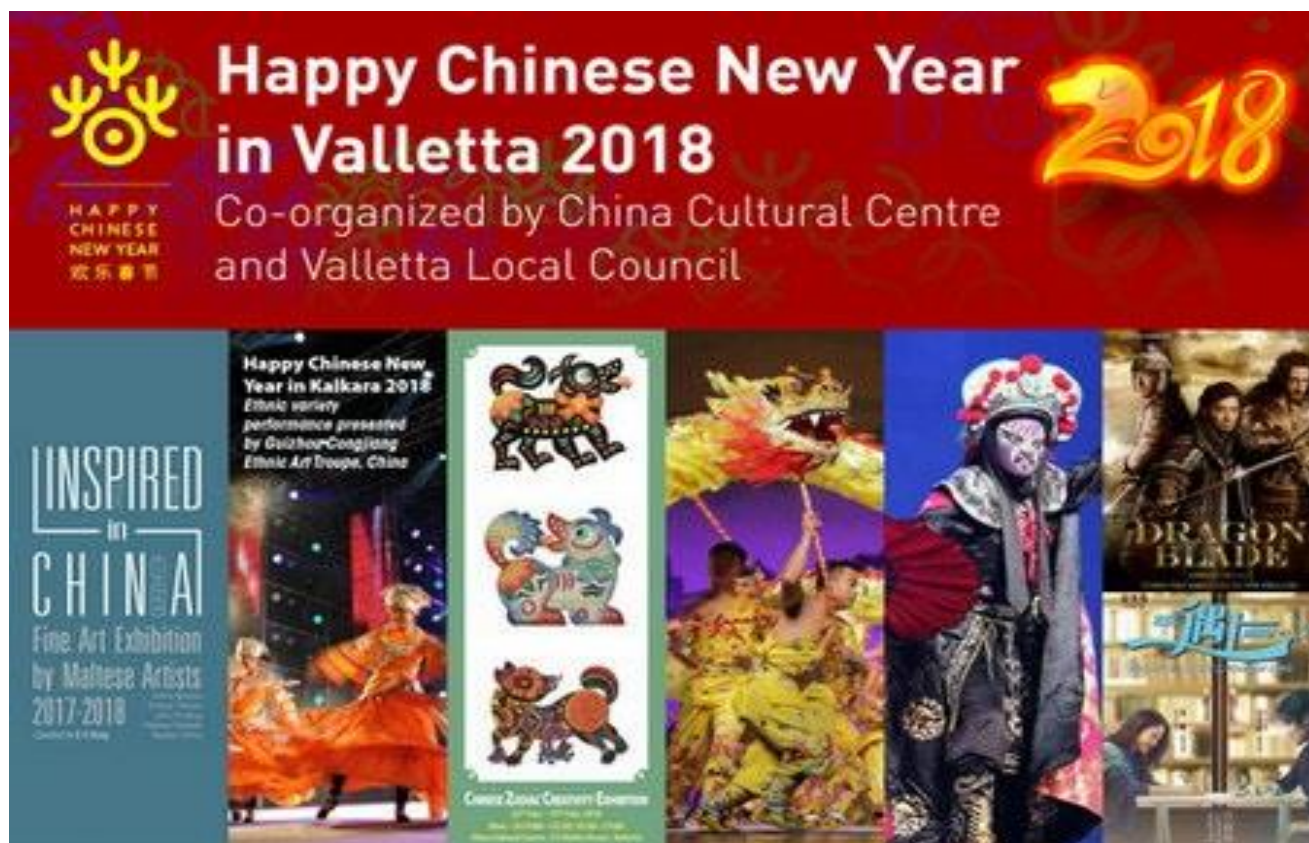
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HAPPY AUSTRALIA DAY - 26 JAN 2018



Top (L to R): Australia Day - Maltese American Benevolent Society Inc. Chinese New Year. Middle: Traditional costume - Maltese Bus - Mosta Church. Bottom: Hobz biz-Zejt - Triton Fountain - Knights of Malta



The poster of 2018 Happy Chinese New Year in Valletta showcases the planned activities. [Photo/Chinaculture.org] A news conference for the 2018 Happy Chinese New Year in Valletta was held Jan 12 in the China Cultural Centre in Malta, kicking off this year's celebrations for the Chinese Lunar New Year in the country.

Wang Yanjun, director of the China Cultural Centre in Malta, briefed the audience on the 2018 Happy Chinese New Year in Valletta, a major event co-organized by the China Cultural Center and Valletta Local Council.

Wang said with the joint efforts of both nations, the celebrations during Chinese Lunar New Year have developed into one of Valletta's annual events, contributing to the mutual understanding and cultural communication between China and Malta.

During the celebration, 18 major activities will be staged, including livestreaming, exhibitions, film screenings, a parade, a temple fair, a Chinese ancient poetry reading and other festival celebrations by Chinese artists. On Feb 13, the Malta Carnival, with an outstanding history of 483 years, will welcome its first Chinese art troupe, the Zhejiang Wu Opera Troupe, to give performances for the Maltese people.

The Chinese Zodiac Creativity Exhibition, an event featuring woodblock printing, paper-cutting and shadow play about the 12 Chinese zodiac animals attracted a lot of local visitors on Jan 12.

The Journal of the  
MALTESE DIASPORA

**Maltese  
e NEWSLETTER**



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Maltese-Canadian Museum - Toronto  
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Facebook: [facebook.com/frank.scicluna.3/](https://facebook.com/frank.scicluna.3/)  
Website: [ozmalta.page4.me/](http://ozmalta.page4.me/)



## **PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER: Official inauguration of 'Inspired in China' Fine Art Exhibition by Maltese Artists at the Parliament building**

Reference Number: PR180108, Press Release Issue Date: Jan 19, 2018

Exchanges amongst people help to establish and renew acquaintances, and seed opportunities for collaboration, fruitful cooperation which certainly contributes to the well-being of people", said the

Speaker of the House of Representatives Anglu Farrugia at the inauguration of the Inspired in China Art Exhibition by Maltese Artists 2017-2018, as part of the Happy Chinese New Year Celebrations. Speaker Anglu Farrugia noted that this art exhibition coincides with two very important occasions, the Happy Chinese New Year and Valletta 2018 as the European Capital City for Culture.

Speaker Farrugia said that cultural exchanges such as the experience of Maltese artists through this series of 'Inspired in China', brings together the Chinese and Maltese cultures. Art is a medium through which peoples gain a better understanding of one another and such encounters become life-long experiences. In translating the experience into art, the artist transposes one's own memories and time into tangible works of art which is an artistic achievement.

In his concluding remarks, the Speaker referred to the long-standing friendship between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Malta, and held that the friendship amongst the Chinese and Maltese people is founded on mutual respect and trust, aware that they belong to the one family of mankind – humanity and the international community of nations.

Mr Jiang Jiang, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, referred to the long-standing history of friendly exchanges between China and Malta. Since its inception in 2007, the Happy Chinese New Year in Valletta festivities have deepened cultural cooperation and friendship between the Chinese and the Maltese. The Chinese Ambassador noted that the joyful festivities of the Happy Chinese New Year in Valletta 2018 are unveiled in the Parliament of Malta - demonstrating the reservoir of friendly sentiments of the Maltese people towards China, something, he deeply values. He added that he looked forward to the Chinese New Year and felt confident that both the Chinese and Maltese people will keep on working together, as close as one family, to further prosper in the years ahead.

Prof Alexiei Dingli, Mayor of Valletta, and Wang Yanjun, Director of China Cultural Centre in Malta also addressed this event. The Guizhou Congjiang Ethnic Art Troupe, China, entertained the guests. The public is invited to view the exhibition at the Parliament building Foyer, till Wednesday, 28 February 2018.



## V18: 110,000 people attended biggest cultural celebration Malta has ever seen



PHOTO: DOI - Omar Camilleri

Around 110,000 people attended the events held on the opening of Valletta's stint as European Capital of Culture, the government said in a statement this morning.

People were treated to spectacular shows in four of Valletta's most popular squares while other attractions and productions were staged along the route from one place to the next.

The night came to a close with an open-air concert by DJ Tenishia and the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra at St George's Square.

Around 1,000 artists and 450 production team members took part in yesterday's shows, described as the biggest artistic event Malta has ever seen.



The government said it had received very positive feedback about the event, including from European commissioner for Culture Tibor Navracsics and some delegations from some 20 European cities that have been or will be European capitals of culture.

Saturday's events were also covered in the international press, with stations like RAI, SKY, Euronews, RTL and Central China Global Network (CCGN) all reporting on the

festivities.

Justice and Culture Minister Owen Bonnici and V18 Parliamentary Secretary Deo Debuttista thanked the Valletta 2018 Foundation and all artists and crew who took part in the event and its transmission on TV.

They also thanked the Cleansing Directorate, which cleaned up Valletta's roads during the night. Some 400 other events will be held throughout the year as part of the V18 cultural program.

**LET'S  
UNITE  
OUR COMMUNITY**  
fairness – justice – respect



***Maltin imbegħdin,  
f'Malta magħqudin***

*Slogan of the Convention of  
Leaders of Associations of  
Maltese Abroad and of Maltese  
Origin 2015*



## Malta Carnival 2018

9th - 13th February 2018

Carnival in Malta is synonymous with 5 days of complete madness, bright colours, competitions, events and fun. Carnival is celebrated right before the start of Lent. It starts off on a Friday and goes on till Tuesday, before Ash Wednesday. This year's Carnival will be celebrated between the 9th and the 13th of February 2018, the festivities always takes place 7 weeks before Easter Sunday and children have a couple of days off from school as most families head for Valletta which bursts with parades, music, floats and people in costumes.

Carnival celebrations in Malta can be tracked back to the 1400s. The Knights of the Order of St. John celebrated Carnival in grand style and introduced strength competitions and carnival balls to Maltese traditions. The tradition of Carnival survived throughout all these centuries. Nowadays, Carnival is marked by a competition of colourful, gigantic floats accompanied by parades of dancers dressed up in grotesque masks and costumes. The main parades are held in Valletta and Floriana.

Have you heard about  
the new Maltese TV show?



Maltese Down Under

screens on c31 (channel 44)

Sundays @ 4pm  
with a repeat  
Tuesdays @ 3pm

Anyone around the world can watch the  
show via LIVE stream on  
[www.c31.org.au](http://www.c31.org.au)  
as well as on demand via  
[www.c31.org.au/series/1313](http://www.c31.org.au/series/1313)

[www.facebook.com/MalteseDownUnder](https://www.facebook.com/MalteseDownUnder)  
[maltesetv@gmail.com](mailto:maltesetv@gmail.com)

Carnival balls and parties are organised in various localities around Malta and Gozo. For 5 days in a year, anyone can dress up, cover his face with a mask and fool around the streets.

Many young people gather in Nadur ( a small village in Gozo) during the weekend. Carnival in Nadur takes on a different aspect of merriment from the one celebrated in Valletta. Carnival in Nadur is not televised and religious institutions often protest on the events that take place in this small village. However, Carnival in Nadur is not organised by any committee but is just a spontaneous gathering of people.

The Maltese take up any valid excuse to indulge in food, and associate particular food with yearly traditional events. A visit to Valletta or to any confectionery in Malta during Carnival will introduce you to the traditional 'Prinjolata'. This is a special cake, in the form of a bell made up of sponge, cake, almonds and eggs. This is then coated with meringue and decorated with chocolate and cherries. Prinjolatas are usually very big and are then sold by weight from street vendors, but one can also buy mini sized prinjolatas as a souvenir. All around the Maltese Islands there are various balls and many of the Villages have their own carnival celebrations. MALTA CARNIVAL 2018 PROGRAMME TBA



### VALLETTA18 TURNOUT IS A SIGN OF NATIONAL PRIDE

**Prime Minister Joseph Muscat  
said that the public was  
satisfied with V18 opening activities  
and that the organisers  
deserved praise –  
but what stood out the most was  
the sense of national pride**

## RIEĠA' ĠEJ IL-KARNIVAL



Photo: [visitmalta.com](http://visitmalta.com)

....u Frar reġa' jinsab magħna  
Jitkessaħ u jxoqq il-ghadam,  
Il-bjar kollha fis ifuru  
B'hekk ir-raba m'ghadux mghaddam!

Izda dan kollu jintesa  
Kif ifeġġ il-Karnival  
U n-nies tilbes u toħroġ  
Bil-kostum lebsin it-tfal!

U terhilha lejn il-misraħ  
Sabiex tgawdi l-Parata;  
Maskeruni, żfin u briju  
U tilgħaq il-Prinjolata.

Dawn il-festi ilhom magħna  
Sa minn żmien il-Kavallieri;  
Niesna għalhekk lilhom tistenna –  
Għidu lili x'jiġifieri!

Għaliex jiena minn tal-ewwel  
Illi noħroġ bil-kostum  
Nippreżenta xi serata  
U sa tard bil-lejl indum.

Għax għalkemm bdejt nikber sewwa  
Mhux darbtejn insiru tfal!  
Ejjew mela niddevertu  
La dawn jiemi il-Karnival.

Mhux sa noqgħod insemmihom  
L-irħula tagħna l-Għawdxin;  
In-Nadur iżda għandu habta  
Li jiġbed għadd ta' Maltin

Li ma' niesna lkoll jithalltu  
Fuqhom jittfegħu l-kostum  
U mat-toroq jiġru w jaqbzu  
Sa ma l-folla mqajma ddum!

Fiz-Żebbuġ lili ssibuni  
Nippreżenta l-Karnival  
Fil-misraħ quddiem il-Knisja  
Jiddevertu l-kbar u ż-żgħar!

Din is-sena waslu kmieni  
Dawn il-jiem tal-ferħ u bluha;  
Jalla fil-fond jibqgħu diehla  
Ta' dawki li qalbhom muġugħa!

Tinsewx li kif jisbaħ l-ghada  
Ikun sawm u astinenza;  
Illum mela niddevertu  
Wara, żmien ta' penitenza!

**Kav Joe M Attard 2018**  
**Victoria Ghawdex**

## Maltese in UK will get special 'settled status'

### 31,000 Maltese live in the UK



Maltese living in the UK will have to apply for a special status after Brexit, according to a proposal by the British government.

The measure affects all EU citizens living in the UK, who will be granted "settled status" as part of a mutual agreement Britain hopes to reach with the EU.

In a Talking Point appearing in Times of Malta today, British Secretary of State for exiting the EU, David Davis, says the proposal intends making it "simple" for settled EU citizens to stay in the UK after Brexit. There are three million EU citizens living in Britain, including 31,000 Maltese. Another 1,000 Maltese students attend universities in Britain.

There are one million UK nationals living across the EU, including some 9,000 in Malta, whose rights Britain wants the EU to protect. Reaching an early agreement on the status of citizens settled in the respective countries has become a must for British and European negotiators as the UK wants to opt out of the free movement of people principle after Brexit. Britain is proposing a cut-off date, allowing all EU citizens settled in the country to apply for the special status granting them full residency rights.

Acknowledging that Brexit has caused considerable uncertainty among Maltese living in the UK, Mr Davis says the proposal will not impose immigration conditions on their residency

## Pope Francis marries couple in “impromptu” ceremony aboard papal plane



**(CNN)**As far as Catholic weddings go, it's pretty hard to beat being married by the Pope. On an airplane.

But that's what happened Thursday 18/01/2018 when Pope Francis married two flight attendants in an impromptu ceremony on his papal plane some 36,000 feet over Chile.

Vatican officials say it marks the first time a pope has married a couple on a papal plane.

It all started when the pair, Paula Podest

Ruiz and Carlos Ciuffardi Ellorriaga, began chatting with the pontiff when they were seated next to him during a group photo shoot. The plane was ferrying the Pope on a short flight from Santiago to the northern city of Iquique.

Crew members Paula Podest and Carlos Ciuffardi celebrate after being married by Pope Francis.

Crew members Paula Podest and Carlos Ciuffardi celebrate after being married by Pope Francis.

Pope Francis asked them if they were married and the couple told him they had been scheduled to be wed when the 2010 Chile earthquake hit, destroying the church where they were to tie the knot.

Life went on for the two flight attendants, who had met at work -- Podest is Ciuffardi's boss -- and have two children: Rafaela, 6, and Isabela, 3. They were married civilly, with the legal documents to prove it, but they'd never had a formal wedding ceremony before an official of the church.

The excited couple explained to CNN and other journalists on the papal plane that it was Francis' idea to marry them. He first asked them, "Are you sure?" They responded, "Okay!"

According to the couple, Pope Francis blessed their rings and then said "we need a witness." Ciuffardi turned around and asked his boss, the CEO of the airline, to serve as witness.

Then the Pope asked his cardinals to draft the paperwork, Ciuffardi said. One cardinal aboard the flight drafted the wedding certificate on a sheet of paper from the airline by hand. The document was signed by Pope Francis, the couple and the witness.

Pope Francis gave the bride a white rosary and the groom a black rosary.

At one point the Pope asked Ciuffardi, "Is she still the boss?" Ciuffardi laughed and answered, "Yes, she is."

Ciuffardi told reporters that the Pope told them, "This is the sacrament that is missing in the world, the sacrament of marriage. I hope this motivates couples around the world to marry."

Podest was a bit quiet during the interview because she was still in shock. Both she and her new husband said they were overwhelmed with emotion.

The couple plans to celebrate with coworkers in Iquique and then have a "tiny honeymoon," said Ciuffardi. They fly back home Friday -- with a remarkable story to tell.

### MALTESE PEOPLE SCATTERED ALL OVER AUSTRALIA



This journal keeps me updated what is happening in the communities around the world. I was pleased to learn that the Maltese in Australia do not live only in Melbourne and Sydney but Maltese people are also found in Brisbane, Gold Coast, Adelaide, Mackay, Townsville, Cairns, Rockhampton, Canberra, Perth and in many other regions and even in Tasmania.

I never miss an edition and I keep all on a USB and every now and then I go through them. A legacy to our future generations.

JohnOsborne (Micallef) – WA

## Invitation to foreign visitors to take the opportunity and visit Malta this year

In his speech inaugurating Valletta 18 at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta Mayor Professor Alexiei Dingli said the very title Valletta 18 creates new opportunities for the city's inhabitants and will attract thousands of visitors to Valletta. The year's events will raise the capital city's profile to international levels. The activities planned will not only recall Valletta's glorious past history but more importantly will provide an indication of where the country and its people are heading. He said that today, Valletta has become a global city, a blend of different cultures as can be clearly seen not only through its architecture but through the people who are the soul of the city.

### **"From a hidden jewel, Valletta has been successfully transformed" – Jason Micallef**

Fondazzjoni Valletta 2018 Chairperson, Jason Micallef, said that from a neglected city that was gradually deteriorating, it has been successfully transformed as a capital city teeming with life and activities, a city fully aware of its local and international potential. He said Valletta was a hidden jewel but from this year onwards it will no longer remain hidden.

Micallef said the Foundation has prepared to offer events at international level in all arts sectors.

He said that Valletta will never again be allowed to deteriorate because there is a need for cities to be connected, be accessible, will have security and cleanliness and will be sustainable as well as resilient. He said that Valletta 18 will be an exciting new start leading to even greater things.

### **"Valletta had almost become an archaeological site ... but now we strongly believe it has a new lease of life" – Deo Debattista**

Parliamentary Secretary for Valletta 18, Dr Deo Debattista, said this is an event for all the people of Malta and Gozo from all areas and not just from Valletta. He said the city had gone through a quiet phase and had almost become an archaeological and historical site and had lost its past vivacity. However, today one begins to believe that Valletta can spring back to life because it is embarking on a renaissance which began in 2011 when the past administration nominated Valletta to the European Commission.

### **"2018 will be an exciting year ... Project Valletta 18 has already become a success story" – Owen Bonnici**

Minister for Culture Dr Owen Bonnici said that Valletta 18 has already attained a feeling of success, even before the start of 2018. From a state of abandonment over many years, the situation has changed drastically. He explained a number of projects completed, including the Manoel Theatre, the facade of Palazzo Ferreria, Palazzo Verdellin and St John's Co-Cathedral.

He added 2018 will see many exciting capital project developments during which there will be the inauguration of a National Museum for Arts, MUŻA, a project to be enjoyed by future generations. Another ambitious project is that of placing Malta on the UNESCO map formally.

### **"The hallmarks of this Maltese and European festive occasion will be authentic ones." – Joseph Muscat**

Prime Minister Dr Joseph Muscat said that culture is people and that Valletta 18 will offer authenticity. He said the country will not be inventing the wheel or be claiming exaggerations or showing a picture of not as we really are. Everything will be authentic.

He said Valletta 18 gives us an opportunity of showing the heritage left to us by our forbearers. The PM said Valletta is a precise model for the country and its people – a hard-working people that takes culture to heart and manifests this in diverse forms in thoughts, ideas and emotions. Dr Muscat said lengthy preparations have been made. He praised the Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Government, Owen Bonnici, Parliamentary Secretary for the Rights of Consumers and Valletta 18, Deo Debattista, the Chairperson of Valletta 18, Jason Micallef, as well as the hundreds of artists and workers who have given their services throughout the year. He also thanked his predecessor Dr Lawrence Gonzi for his work in helping Valletta to reach this day.



The distinctive Maltese cross makes Air Malta aircraft instantly recognisable. The airline began in 1974, a decade after Malta gained independence and the same year it became a republic. The cross is a powerful symbol of the island's identity and its new place in the world.



The  
Order  
of  
Malta



Volunteers have the honour of hosting the International Holiday Camp in August 2018

Over 450 young people with disabilities and volunteers will come together in the UK for a once in a lifetime week of fun, friendship and adventure. Guests have had the opportunity to kayak, horse-ride, fly in light aircrafts, scuba dive, and try indoor skydiving. We aim to provide them with a holiday they will never forget.

Delegations will travel from 26 countries around the world to take part in the camp. Recent camps have been held in France, the Netherlands, Ireland and Austria. Guests receive 24-hour care from volunteer helpers of the same age often resulting in lifelong friendships.

## Filfla Island - Malta



Filfla island is located on the open sea in from of the **Blue Grotto** attraction.

If you love diving this is one of the diving holiday sites you can enjoy while being in Malta.

Around this area other dives at the Blue Grotto can be enjoyed. The East Reef dive, West Reef and caves, Um El Faroud artificial reef and Ghar Lapsi a few kilometres away.

**THE DIVE** - Diving is only possible after prior permission is sought from the Ministry of Environment. The dive requires a minimum of advanced certificate with depths of over 30 meters. Arriving here is only by boat from Wied iz-Zurrieq and all diving is conducted from the boat as no mooring can go close to the shore due to the many boulders around the island at various heights. Due to the depth of the deep blue

sea it is very possible to encounter large fish like tuna and barracuda. Under is clean and clear as there is no human intervention. Divers rate it as absolutely beautiful.

**GEOLOGY AND HISTORY** - The Maghlaq geomorphological fault formed the islet of Filfla island and the nearby rock formations which we see today many thousand years ago since at that time it was part of the mainland.

For the Maltese the sea that separates the two islands is called *LI-Fliegu ta' Filfla*, 'The Filfla Channel'. When the British ruled Malta it was named the Congreve channel. It is named after H.E. General Sir Walter Norris Congreve, a British Governor of Malta who served from 1924 to 1927.

He used to come very frequently to this area, and he had written in his testament that his ashes are to be buried in this channel and so named after him. His memorial is situated close to the coast adjacent to the Hamrija coastal tower and the prehistoric sites of Mnajdra.

**THE LOCATION** - On the most south point of Malta the island of Filfla is just 5 kilometRES on 3.1 miles from Malta. Six hectares in size or 60,000 square meters of land with a circumference of 800 meters, and the highest point 60 meters above sea level a flat plateau. It is the most southerly tip of Malta with another smaller island beside lying southwest just 100 meters away called Filfoletta all part of the Maltese archipelago.

**THE CHAPEL** - It is said that there was a chapel built in 1343 but was destroyed by the earthquake in 1856 of which today there is nothing left.

At the time a priest used to cross with a boat to go to the chapel to say mass, probably also with other inhabitants who lived in this area. Due to the conditions of the sea many times it was difficult to cross and permission was granted to close the church.

From then onwards probably no one used to go any more and the building was not maintained and started crumbling.

**TARGET PRACTICE** - The British were present on the Maltese islands from 1813 till 1964 and for 200 years they used it for target practice.

After the Second World War, between 1945 to 1971, the Royal Air Force together with NATO forces continued to use the island for target practice using battle ships and aerial bombing. This unfortunately reduced the island to its present shape changing its physical features.

**SANCTURAY AND NATURAL RESERVE** - Filfla island became a bird sanctuary in 1980 and on 1st June 1988 through the Filfla Natural Reserve Act became a natural reserve for all plants and animals resident or migratory which exist in the wild state on the island.

Within a natural mile around the island fishing is also prohibited. At the same time unexploded ordinance is scattered all around and is dangerous.

Access is only possible for educational or scientific purposes through permission from the ministry of environment.

It is said that a long time ago the chapel used to offer refuge to seamen during storms. Food and water used to be left there for those who seek refuge. At the time also wild rabbits inhabited the island and were surely used as food.

**WILD INHBAITANT ON FILFLA ISLAND** - Filfla is inhabited by the European Storm Petrel, Cory's Shearwater and Yellow-legged Gull where breed here. A wall lizard and door snails are residents of this island.

I had once heard a legend regarding Filfla – right opposite on the mainland, is the site know as Il Maqluba a big quarry-like space. Legend says that where the Maqluba now stands, there was a tiny village where its inhabitants were terribly bad people, and there was just an old solitary woman who used to pray incessantly for the people to reform, but to no avail, God was fed up of them and threw down to hell (thus the hole) but the were so bad that not even the devil wanted them !! and threw the whole hamlet back and it landed in the sea – thus being Fifla !! (Originated by Ron Borg – Adelaide – Australia)

**Malta DAY UK 2017  
Westminster Cathedral  
Hosted by  
Maltese Culture Movement (UK)**



## Victoria Lines, Ġnien l-Gharusa in Mosta to be restored

Tuesday, 23 January 2018, 11:54 Last update: about 18 hours ago



*Ġnien l-Gharusa tal-Mosta – Mosta Bride Garden which is a large recreational area in Mosta will undergo upgrading works after the Planning Commission gave its consent for the*

project to go ahead, the Planning Authority said in a statement. The garden located in Triq Misrah Ghonoq abuts part of the Victoria Lines and the former WW2 Civil Defense Headquarters with its underground shelters – all structures are scheduled as Grade 1 buildings.

Valuable restoration works will be carried out on those parts of the Victoria Lines which run through the garden's perimeter and are damaged. Fortunately, in places where the walls have collapsed, the original material is still found on site. Some other areas are distorted from non-matching stones built with a different technique to the original style. Here, the wall will need to be rebuilt using the same materials, size of masonry and techniques as in the original parts of the Victoria Lines. This will ensure that the uniformity of the Lines is respected. Graffiti sprayed on the outer facade of the fortifications will also be removed.

The works in the 23,700m<sup>2</sup> garden will also include the rehabilitation of the existing passage-way and the installation of new benches and lighting. A gazebo and a children's play area will also be introduced. To ensure the safety to visitors, an existing reservoir will be covered and timber railing will be installed the westside of the garden overlooking the road.

## FESTA TA' GENEROZITA – SPECIAL CONCERT

Organised by the Friends of Providence House NSW  
IN AID OF "ID-DAR TAL-PROVIDENZA – MALTA"

Sunday 25 February 2018 at 2.00 pm  
At LaVallette Social Centre

175 Walter Road, Blacktown NSW

Special Guest Artists

Joe Galea and Stacey Saliba, Alee and Charles Muscat  
Supported by Martin Vella, the Vellas Sisters

and the popular MCA Choir

An afternoon of Great Entertainment, Prizes and Fun

Travel Voucher Prize for Lucky Donor Envelope

Chocolate Wheel, with fabulous prizes to be won

Maltese Food and Drinks from 12 Noon

Donation: Adults \$10 Children under 15 Free

FOR BOOKING CONTACT:

Greg and Agnes Caruana on 9626 6753 or Jim Borg on  
9636 7767

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## MALTESE YOUTHS OF SA

The Maltese Youth of South Australia together with the Malta Community Chest Fund Australia are proud to announce our first Fundraising Gala Dinner in Adelaide, with all profits going directly to the Malta **COMMUNITY CHEST FUND IN MALTA**.

Saturday 10th March 2018

KRYSTAL FUNCTION CENTRE  
(Port Adelaide, South Australia)

7:00pm till Midnight

Gather all your family and friends  
and put a table together.

We would love to see the support of other states. Email me on  
mj\_agius@hotmail.com for  
accommodation inquires nearby.  
Contact Tessa on 0410 890 225 or  
Jane Agius on 08 8268 7168 for  
bookings! Tickets out NOW!!

We will be organising a bus from  
Albion to Morwell for the Latrobe Valley Festival.

The coach will be leaving Albion

27 Talmage Street @ 7.30am

The return trip will leave Morwell @3:30-4pm

\$25 per head Seat are limited

not many seats left. To Book Please call

Sandi Didus Vice President

0435818217



### MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

*Come and enjoy a good atmosphere & friendship*

#### FRIDAY BINGO WITH MALTESE MEALS

Bingo session every Friday night with Maltese  
meals served from 5.30pm

Venue: Maltese Community Centre,

477 Royal Parade, Parkville

Time: From 5.30pm

Bingo Eyes Down at 7.00 pm



*The MCCV appreciates your valued support*

The poster features a collage of Maltese food items (pastizzi, pastas, and pastas) on the left. The main graphic is a stylized Maltese flag with a large eye in the center. Text on the poster includes: "MALTESE COMMUNITY CENTRE LATROBE VALLEY INC. PRESENTS", "LATROBE VALLEY MALTESE FESTA", "SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH 2018", "10AM UNTIL 4PM KERNOT HALL MORWELL", "FUN \* FOOD \* FRIENDSHIP", and "GREAT ENTERTAINMENT - TRADITIONAL MALTESE FOOD HEAPS OF FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY".

## Aspiring Maltese Actress Heads to London to Act and Teach Maltese – [lovingmalta.com](http://lovingmalta.com)

Donna Borg is spreading the love for the Maltese language

**Johnathan Cilia**



Everyone knows that London is a big multicultural city that is a magnet of talent. There are people from all over the world in London, but one aspiring Maltese actress has utilised her mother tongue as a way to make a mark in the big city.

Donna Borg moved to London to study professional acting after being awarded the Malta Arts Scholarship in 2015 and has successfully graduated from a two-year professional acting course at the prestigious Drama Studio London.

She's since gone from height to height, working with people like David Tucker, director of 'Eastenders', Alan Hescott, writer of 'Thomas & Friends', as well as directors of several popular British comedies like 'I'm Alan Partridge', 'Smack the Pony', and 'Horrible Histories'. She's performed everywhere from The Theatre Royal Stratford East to The Phoenix Artist Club and has recently been cast in a production of 'Frankenstein' at the Abbey Theatre in February and March 2018.

But acting isn't all she does, and Donna has another passion: the Maltese language. And she's been teaching the beautiful Maltese language to foreigners in London throughout her time there.

"A month before moving to London I was approached by the founders of the Maltese Culture Movement in the UK who told me there were many people in London who had been interested in learning Maltese for a long time," Donna told to Lovin Malta.

"I have a Bachelor's Degree in Maltese and a Masters in Maltese Linguistics as well as experience teaching students of various ages and levels. I always loved teaching and I think it goes hand in hand with acting so I was very excited at the prospect of teaching my language in another country. In April 2016 I set up the first Maltese for Beginners course in London."

She is predominantly catering for second generation Maltese children living in the UK or people wanting to learn the language of their Maltese spouse or partner, but the response so far has been incredible.

"I've had about 100 students so far and receive weekly emails from people wanting to learn. I feel very honoured to be doing this and I have also met some of the most enthusiastic and passionate students ever," she says.

"Maltese works in a very different way to English so beginners normally find it very fascinating but equally challenging," she continued. "I would say pronouncing some of the sounds can be quite difficult at first, especially in the case of words with Maltese 'q' like '*daħq*', '*noqgħod*', '*ħaqqn*', and with 'g' and 'h', Words with double consonants such as '*kellem*' and '*sajjar*', and pronouncing the 'r' at the end of words are also a bit of a challenge initially. Also, the English verb doesn't change much, for example: 'I wrote', 'he wrote', 'we wrote' etc., but in Maltese we have '*jien ktibt*', '*hu kiteb*', '*aħna ktibna*' etc."

"In English the same form of the adjective is used for feminine, masculine and plural eg: 'a good man', 'a good woman', 'good people', but in Maltese this changes: '*raġel tajjeb*', '*mara tajba*', '*nies tajba/tajbin*' so knowing if a noun is feminine, masculine or plural and which adjective form to use can be tricky at first!" she says.

The otherness of the Maltese language to the students didn't dampen their enthusiasm however, and it didn't put the students off from learning the language.

"I would rather say it's the opposite as it makes them want to understand in more details how it all works! English speakers normally love the sound of certain Maltese words such as eg '*paqpaq*', '*ċafċaf*' and '*żaqżaq*' which always puts a smile on their face. They are also fascinated by how a single word can have various elements of different origin, eg. '*ipparkja*' and '*editjah*' where 'park' and 'edit' are English but the structure is uniquely Maltese," she says.

While it can be "tough at times" learning all her acting materials, preparing for stage time, as well as dealing with "singing, accents, stage combat, different types of dance such as flamenco, tango and waltz, yoga, microphone technique, radio plays, commercials, mask and clowning, improvisation," she says that "I enjoyed every second of it and I will always consider it one of the best decisions I've ever made in my life."

Sunday, April 5, 2015, 00:01 by Louis Cilia

## Child Migrants Welcomed

(Reported by Mollie Simeon Asphar.)

Saturday was a grey sultry morning, and on the Quay at Fremantle an excited group of Maltese, from all parts of West Australia, and an impatient boat-race-minded group of officials and immigration authorities, and people in important positions were awaiting the arrival of the "Ocean Triumph" with over a thousand Maltese settlers for Australia, amongst whom were 27 eager-eyed excited boys bound for Tardon and Bindoon.

In the traditional manner of the place, the very extensive plans for their welcome had (owing to the lateness of the ship, almost two days overdue) gone astray, but the impromptu arrangements that were substituted, varying as the shipboard arrangements.

"With a start like this the boys' future is a bright one." And knowing the Malta position—overcrowding, lack of jobs and land, etc.—I fervently echoed her sentiments.

As the ship neared the wharf, the Clontarf Band struck up a

started girls as the baggage exchange must have wondered where they were, as the light banded backwood and current over the telephone, till the Bandmaster, himself, a "Clontarf Kid," had maintained in time and intricacies. It was received with much hand-clapping by the older Maltese, though the younger ones called for "Shut out the Barred."

Finally, at high noon, down the gang-plank came 27 grey-coated and blue-capped boys, each carrying a strapped suitcase that bumped and impeded



ter, Monsignor Moss, acting for His Grace the Archbishop, welcomed the boys.

presently lagged, proved happy and equally as good. Sister Simeon and Margaret Sanderson and the Brothers of Clontarf were responsible for a great deal of happiness that day, not only amongst the boy migrants, but amongst the officials and visitors who shared it. "I never have had a happier and more instructive hour," a lady visitor said to

lively march, and as the birth of Carnival Time in Malta, which they had learned only two days previously, set to music under humorous conditions. Discovering it two days earlier, Father Simeon, sparing no pains to make the occasion truly memorable, had tracked down someone who knew it, and then they

his slippery progress. Then through the Customs, with a roll-call of strange names, and then into a waiting bus for the first step of the three hundred mile-long journey, with a shudder one for the Birkbecker.

## Maltese Migrants boys maimed, injured in 1955 accident in Australia

A newspaper article from the Record, Perth, of April 30, 1950, recording the arrival of 27 Maltese child migrants.

Barry Coldrey, who has written extensively on child migration to Australia, wrote the following on Maltese child migration:

"Child migration from Malta was a marginal feature of Maltese emigration in general. It was first mooted in the 1930s when the Catholic Religious Congregation of the Christian Brothers, through their regional higher superior in Western Australia, Brother P.A. Conlon, was negotiating with the Catholic Emigration Society (UK) regarding child migrants from Catholic institutions in the UK to the Brothers' institutions in Western Australia for training and assimilation before their placement in employment. Some Maltese Catholic leaders in Australia were anxious for their

institutional children to be included in the scheme."

On February 23, 1950, an agreement was signed between the Australian Catholic Migration Committee and the Maltese government for the admission of children from Malta into Catholic institutions in Australia. They undertook to train the children to fit them for life in Australia. About 370 Maltese children, mostly from institutions like St Joseph's Institute in Hamrun and St Patrick's in Sliema, emigrated to Australia between 1950 to 1965.

The parents or legal guardians of the Maltese children involved were required to sign a declaration before the children's departure to Australia that they had no objection to releasing the children under the child migration scheme. This is, however, not the impression that has been given by some former child migrants in Australia in sworn testimony before Australian parliamentary commissions that, unfortunately, has not been critically examined.

Almost all critics have taken a hostile view of the Christian Brothers' efforts in Australia, conveniently forgetting the many other success stories, including those of children who acquired large farms of their own or made successful careers in various professions, employment and vocations, including priesthood. One has to also keep in mind that in practice, the Maltese child migrant was a young lad preceding family members to Australia or with close relatives already living there.

Coldrey adds: "For Maltese young people, life in Australian institutions posed difficult adjustment problems... However, for most of the children, the experience prepared them for adjustment to Australian society, and offered them opportunities not currently available in Malta."

A very serious accident happened on December 15, 1955. It illustrates the care with which children in these schools were treated. At about 7.15am on the South West Highway from Clontarf Boys School near Perth, a bus was travelling at normal speed. From inside the bus was coming the sound of happy singing by 53 boys from the school who were excited by the prospect of passing the festive season in the homes of volunteer private families.

The driver of the bus was Brother Patrick Doyle, a cherry Irish man who was proud of the brand new bus donated to the school by a local businessman from Perth with the school emblem and the words 'Clontarf Boys' prominently painted on both sides of the bus. As they approached a narrow bridge, Doyle slowed down to allow a tip-up truck to pass from the opposite direction.

For unknown reasons, the driver of the tip-up drove the truck very close to the school bus and in the process ripped open the entire side of the bus. The inside of the bus became a mangled mess with crushed seats, metal crazily jutting out in all directions, and blood everywhere. Doyle had the presence of mind to pull over on the side of the road and thus avoid further disaster.

Of the 53 young passengers, one was dead and 19 others maimed or seriously injured. Due to the height at which the truck's edge ploughed through the side of the bus, most of the boys on that side had legs either severed or crushed.

The injured boys were put into cars, ambulances or other vehicles available on site and urgently transferred to the nearest hospitals. Doctors, nurses, aid workers and police rushed to the scene of the accident to provide first aid and other urgent necessities. Blood donors were soon queuing at hospitals to provide blood to the injured boys.

The Maltese boys injured were Anthony Bugeja, 13 from Msida, amputation of both legs; Alister Carr, 11 from St Julian's, fracture of tibia, fibia, fractured right femur; Charles Gatt, 13 from St Patrick's Institute, Sliema, fractured right tibia and fibia, amputation of left leg mid-calf; Joseph Bugeja, 15 from Qrendi, amputation of both legs; George Littleton, 12 from Paola, lacerated liver, scalp and right thigh; Anthony Grech, 11 from Birżebbuġa, fracture of right leg and Carmelo Vassallo, 13 from Mġarr, injuries to neck. Little is known what happened afterwards to these boys but a trust fund was established by the Australian Federal government.



## Team Malta for 2018 Commonwealth Games

During a workshop at the Gold Coast for the Chefs-de-Mission of the Commonwealth Games 2018, Honorary Consul of Malta Sandra Alexandra Micallef, met with Mr Pawlu Sultana (MOC Executive Committee), Mark Cutajar, and Rosemary Mula (Team Malta Aide), for discussions on assisting the Maltese Athletes through potential sponsorships from the Maltese community in Australia. Ms Rosemary Mula has worked with athletes during past Commonwealth and Olympic Games, and has extensive knowledge of the processes followed during the Games.

Assisting the team is also Ms Graziella Thake Maltese and also one of the Directors team of The Optimisation Hub for National Athlete Performance and Resilience who brings to the table many years of experience in organising fund raising activities and dedicated work in team and sports performance. We have successfully with the Hubs sponsorship begun our quest through sponsorship of events with Sandra bringing the consular core to the table interested communities we've begun. We are committed to delivering results to help our athletes succeed.

✓ Check out the sponsorship packages available.

<https://www.facebook.com/teammaltagc2018/videos/2105058403157234/>



## Two brothers die after inhaling fumes while cleaning tank at central Queensland business



By [Melissa Maddison](#) and staff 15 Jan 2018,

**PHOTO:** George Vella died on Saturday night with his brother Frank at their haulage business after being overcome by fumes. (Facebook: George Vella)

**Two brothers have died after being overcome by fumes while cleaning inside a tank, in an incident that has left a tight-knit central Queensland community in shock.**

Police said the men, Frank Vella, 52, and George Vella, 48, were found dead in the tank used to hold molasses, when emergency services arrived at their haulage business at about

8:30pm on Saturday.

Workplace Health and Safety (WHSQ) is investigating the incident at Vella Haulage in Sarina, with a report to be prepared for the coroner.

Mackay Regional Councillor Martin Bella said it was a shocking accident that would have a huge impact on the community.

"Part of the shock is that two men who've been around the traps for as long [as they have] can be caught in this situation," he said.

"I think it stands as a warning to all of us that we've just got to be careful.

"Rural accidents can affect experienced people as much as young, inexperienced people and it's a horrible thing." It certainly makes you rethink some of the things you do in a farming and in a semi-industrial sense — you've just got to be more careful."

Office of Industrial Relations executive director Julie Nielsen said her heart goes out to relatives of the popular locals.

"Two brothers lost their lives in unfortunate circumstances and this is an absolute tragedy," she said.

"WHSQ is trying to piece together exactly what went wrong."

At this stage, WHSQ believes 20 cubic metres of superflow [sugar cane by-product] with 4 per cent urea mix was the last known load the tanker had transported.

It is presumed the two men were cleaning the residue in the tanks after unloading the day before.

"We need to find answers and give the family some closure," Ms Nielsen said.

'Hard-working, generous and great blokes'

Mr Bella said the brothers were well known in the community, with their family living in the Sarina area for generations. "It's going to have a huge impact," he said.

"You can't take things for granted — it's over for Frank and George, but it's going to linger for a long time for those that were close to them.

"You can't come from a family like the Vellas and not be involved in the local community — you're raised in it, you're part of it — they literally are part of the fabric of the community.

"There are many of us that can see ourselves reflected in this tragedy."

Canegrowers chairman Paul Schembri said it was "an enormous tragedy for the whole region".

"[The] Vella family is considered to be one of the most highly regarded and well respected families. [It's a] great tragedy," Mr Schembri said.

"They have had extensive interests in sugar cane and transport haulage industries and it comes as a great loss to all of us.

"We live in close-knit communities and we as a community are feeling that pain.

"This has come a great shock and is the worst possible news to have received — almost as if we're disbelieving what's actually happened."

Many people have posted tributes to the brothers on social media, describing them as hard-working and generous. "Love and light to their family and friends at [this] sad time. The Sarina community will mourn the loss," Desleigh Hepburn wrote on Facebook.

# Sharleen Spiteri: My family values

The Scottish singer talks about her family



*Tina Jackson*

**Sharleen Spiteri is a Scottish singer and songwriter. She is known as the frontwoman of the band Texas. She was born in Glasgow, to Eddie and Vilma Spiteri. Spiteri is a Maltese last name. She has stated that her grandmother was from Bordeaux, France.**

**My dad plays guitar** and my mother was a singer. My whole family is very musical – pianos, accordions. We had big sing-songs at my gran's home in Glasgow. That's how I grew up. The first song I sang was an Olivia Newton-John number. My cousin used to sing this song that would have everyone in tears and I'd do Olivia Newton-John, and no one would give a toss.

**I'm a real mongrel** – my dad's Maltese/Italian and my mum's side is Irish/German. Thanks to the European mix it felt classless in our family, which wasn't the norm in working-class Glasgow as I was growing up. On my dad's side, every two weeks or so we'd go to my nonna's, starting at lunchtime, and it would be big tables – you'd sit and eat lots of food and start conversations and arguments and fights.

**Dad was a merchant seaman** and he'd be three months away and a month home. When he was home, he'd be there every day, every night, and we'd go out and buy records. When I was 12 or so and wanting to sleep in, my dad would be blasting music and I'd be wishing he'd go back to sleep.

**My mum was a window-dresser.** In the evenings, my sister Corinne and I would help her put together things for the windows, or she'd teach us to jive. We had a real female-bonding thing going on when my dad wasn't there. When he was, all the attention was on him.

**My dad's crewed for me** and done tours for my band, Texas. He's painfully proud of me. He's a very proud man and he enjoys his daughters and granddaughters. He's been surrounded by women all his life and he likes to grumble about it but really he loves it.

**I love being a mum.** I laugh my head off; the funniest things happen. It's great to have such a lovely time with my daughter, Misty Kyd. I always thought I'd have more children, but the way my life panned out, I've got one.

**It's not until you have children** that what you've been brought up with comes into your life. My thing is manners. They were drummed into me as a child, and I can't stand bad manners. I like to be able to sit at my table without kids jumping around. I want them to respect their elders. If an adult tells you to do something, you do it.

**The way I bring up my daughter** is about balance. As soon as I step off that stage, my life is very normal. Sometimes it all goes a bit fantasy world, but I tell her that it's real to us, it's just not how everyone lives their lives.

I really enjoy reading these editions, because to my eyes it is pure and simple without any bias, one way or the other. Thus it keeps a Golden Link between us Maltese all over the world. You ought to be honoured and thanked for doing such a splendid job. Percy Eugene Cartwright Jnr - Australia

## These Maltese Expats Love Pawla so much, They're Flew her to Australia to Meet Them

David Grech Urpani

Paulette Gafa' better known as Pawla ta' Liquorish visited Melbourne in October 2017



Paulette Gafa', better known as Pawla ta' Liquorish, has amassed a large fanbase over the last few years as the epitome of Maltese fun and hilarity. However, it seems like some of the TV presenter's biggest fans don't even live in Malta.

Pawla has been invited to fly all the way to Australia for a meet and greet... and the organisers sponsored the entire trip.

"At first, I absolutely couldn't believe it," Pawla told Lovin Malta. "I couldn't understand how so many people outside of Malta liked me. When I got the call I thought someone might've been prank-calling me." A few days later, though, Pawla received a photo showing a plane ticket with her name on it. "I was so excited and trembling. I called my mother, half-crying, half-shouting!"

Pawla attended the Maltese Youth Melbourne's *Family Social Night* on the 6th of October, which boasts the Liquorish winner and TV presenter as their "special guest celebrity direct from Malta."

## CELEBRITIES WITH MALTESE ANCESTRY



We may be just a speck on the world map, but some of our compatriots have set the scene for many superstars to be born and entertain the world. Australia has Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman. Iceland has Bjork. Sweden's got ABBA. But what about us? Well... You'll be surprised.

**Kerry Ingram** – Rising to fame as Princess Shireen in *Game of Thrones*

– the little girl who was burnt at the stake – Kerry's still at the beginning of her career. What many may not know is that Kerry's grandfather lives in Imqabba and is Maltese. If that's not random, I don't know what is...



**Edwidge Fenech** – I guess her surname gives the ancestry away here. Born to a Maltese father and a Sicilian mother in France, Edwidge is one of those *CineCitta* actresses with more talent than one person should have. Among her many accomplishments, the two that stand out the most are when she was asked by Quentin Tarantino to star in *Hostel: Part II* and producing *A Merchant of Venice*, which starred Al Pacino.

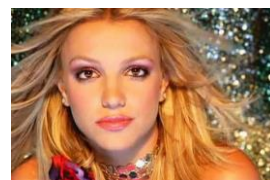


**Joseph Calleia** – Before the tenor, there was the actor. And while today he's all but forgotten by the Maltese, Joseph Calleia's fame would be similar to Leonardo Di Caprio's today. Born in Malta, the actor went to Hollywood and played various roles, and worked alongside Rita Hayworth in *Gilda*, Ingrid Bergman in *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, Lucille Balls in *Lured* and with Orson Welles in *Touch of Evil*. He was one of the Golden Age of Hollywood's most popular and ubiquitous actors.



**Bryan Adams** – This Canadian legend's grandmother was Maltese, and in case the feud between **Valletta** and Floriana needed any kindling, she was from Floriana, and lived in Valletta. In fact, his ancestry had been officially revealed to us a few years back when Adams held a concert in Pembroke.

**Britney Spears** – When our descendants will read about our cultural history some 200 or 300 years from now, there will definitely be a chapter on how 2007 was an uber eventful year for celebrities. The one who had made the most headlines was Britney Spears for shaving her hair off and attacking a car with an umbrella. It seems like Britney's great grandparents were also the talk of the town back in the 1920s when they were living in sin. More importantly to our cause however, was Britney's great great grandfather, Edward Richard Portelli, who was born in Malta in 1873.



## Maltese Literature in Australia



Bestselling Maltese author **Lorraine Vella** will be discussing Maltese literature during meetings with the Maltese communities in New South Wales and South Australia, in March this year.

As part of the Maltese Literature in Australia - a project supported by Arts Council Malta, Cultural Export Fund - literature enthusiasts in Australia will have the opportunity to compare notes and review books and reading in Maltese both in Malta and in Australia.

"I look forward to meeting Maltese people living in Australia who still value their native language, as speakers and more importantly as readers and writers," said Vella. These literary sessions, open to the general public, tally with a project which she runs: the Barumbara Performance Art Project which aims to bring together Maltese and foreign artists for performative and literary events.

In Australia, Vella will be talking about her recently published fiction book *Rokit* as well as her earlier novel *Magna<sup>TM</sup> Mater* and *The Fiddien Trilogy*, a fantasy series which she co-authored with Simon Bartolo. She has also translated a series of children's books into Maltese, popularly known as *Rumanzini*, and has won various local literary awards both for her original work and the translations.

She has been highly acclaimed in the Maltese media, with the *Times of*

Malta describing her as successfully keeping "a very delicate balance between reality and imagination that creates an ambiguity that is full of tension" and *It-Torċa* lauding her as "one of the few thinker-writers" of the country.

The Maltese Literature in Australia meeting in New South Wales will take place on March 3 at 2pm at The Alfred Fenech, Maltese Resource Center Franklin St, Parramatta; and the meeting in South Australia will take place on March 30 at noon at the Progressive Hall, Le Hunte Street, Kilburn.

**More information:** Mr. Emanuel Camilleri on [mcconsw@gmail.com](mailto:mcconsw@gmail.com) for New South Wales meeting; Mr. Frank Scicluna on [honconsul@live.com.au](mailto:honconsul@live.com.au) for South Australia meeting or

[www.facebook.com/Maltese-Literature-in-Australia-154831541811676/](https://www.facebook.com/Maltese-Literature-in-Australia-154831541811676/)



## 94 cruise liner calls in last months of 2017

Total cruise passenger traffic during the fourth quarter of 2017 amounted to 187,280, an increase of 5.5% over the corresponding period in 2016, a National Statistics Office statement read.

There were 94 cruise liner calls during the fourth quarter of 2017, nine more than the previous year. "At 92.2%, transit passengers accounted for the absolute majority of total traffic, reaching 172,601. A total of 2,858 passengers visited Gozo, while 11,769 passengers spent at least one night on board their berthed cruise liner. On average, every vessel that berthed in Malta carried 1,992 passengers, 96 less than the previous year.

"Visitors from EU Member States comprised 67.3% of total traffic, the major markets being Italy, Germany, France and the United Kingdom. The total number of passengers from Non-EU countries stood at 61,267, of whom 38.5% came from the United States."



## BRIMBANK CITY COUNCIL – VICTORIA

### Councillor Victoria Borg

"I feel deeply grounded and connected to this municipality and its people: as a wife, mother, grandmother, neighbour, friend and member of this great community."

Contact ; [CrBorg@brimbank.vic.gov.au](mailto:CrBorg@brimbank.vic.gov.au),

• 0429 365 527



**Victoria Borg**

I have lived in Brimbank for over 44 years I literally and metaphorically have grown in Brimbank. I have been living here since I emigrated from Malta in 1972.

My husband, Louie, has been a resident at this municipality for over 60 years. I feel deeply grounded and connected to this municipality and its people: as a wife, mother, grandmother, neighbour, friend and member of this great community.



I also have a strong connection with Brimbank at an academic level. I returned to study as a mature age student at Western Institute in 1987. I completed my tertiary studies, including my doctorate at Victoria University, St. Albans Campus. I also taught and lectured there for many years.

The city of Brimbank is endowed with a tapestry of peoples from various ethnic groups. This is highly enriching. However it poses a number of challenges at local government level which is at the forefront in its responsibilities to meet the needs of the community at grassroots level.

Such needs go across various sectors, such as health, education, employment and finances.

My concern is that demand for services and programs is quite high and funding is never enough.

Historically, although this population is considered as highly disadvantaged both State and Federal Governments do not take this into consideration when it comes to funding.

The vulnerability to mental illness, unemployment, disengagement, drugs and related crimes are also of great concern.

My first goal is to create a culture of trust among people in relation to the Brimbank City Council.

Considering the fact that the last Council was dismissed, people need to regain their trust in the people that they elected to represent them with fairness and integrity.

High involvement with members of the community is a priority for me. This will also give me the opportunity to identify the immediate needs of the people and act accordingly.

I would like to create more bridges between people and the council, to build on the existing mental health services, create more educational programs and training to prepare young people for the workforce. This would involve a great deal of advocacy at various levels.

I would also like to advocate for more research in areas such as youth disengagement and acculturation especially for first generation migrants.

My favourite thing is to meet people in various settings, including;

- Attending multicultural activities and celebrations
- Attending community functions and activities
- Going to local parks and shopping centres
- Visiting historical and educational places/institutions
- Talking to people in the streets.

## Artists win \$10,000 documenting ancient Maltese art



STARWEEKLY Sept 2016 by Goya Dmytryshchank

### A SCREEN GRAB FROM ONE FROM MOSTA, TWO FROM ZABBAR.

An ancient Maltese tradition practiced deep in the heart of St Albans has won two artists \$10,000 in The Substation's contemporary art prize.

Sonia Leber and David Chesworth were awarded this month at Newport for their 11-minute video, *One from Mosta, Two from Zabbar*.

from Zabbar.

It features members of the Maltese club, Klabb Ghannejja Maltin, engaged in an anachronistic tradition, in which improvised and often inflammatory grievances are publicly aired in song. Ms Leber said the tradition of *spirtu pront*, which translates to quick wit, developed in the working class bars of Malta. "We found this club in St Albans where the men keep up this tradition in Australia, beyond what they might keep up in Malta," she said. "When we went to the club, of course, we didn't understand what they were doing.

"It's extremely skilful because it's in a very ancient form of Maltese language, and it has to fit to the musical form and it has to be funny and witty and relevant.

**Celebrating the life of  
George Grech**  
06.10.1945 to 17.01.2018

**Rosary**  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018  
Tobin Brothers  
330 Hampshire Rd.  
Sunshine  
Viewing: 7PM  
Rosary: 7.30PM

**Funeral**  
St. Mary MacKillop Church,  
Odessa Ave, Keilor Downs  
Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018  
10:30AM  
Following at Altona Memorial Park (Lorikeet Lawn)

**Wake**  
Klabb Ghannejja Maltin  
Maltese Club,  
4-6 Gooding St. St. Albans

"The idea is that there has to be mild form of argument that's spicy enough to maintain the argument over a period of time, but not too personal and not likely to create too much offence, because then you have real conflict."

**KLABB GHANNEJJA MALTIN, INC.** (Est 1983)  
4-6 Gooding Street, St Albans, Victoria 3021, AUSTRALIA  
*Maltese Ghana singing* has been traditionally with the Maltese nation for centuries, and always regarded as the music of the peasant, the farmer, the labourer and the washerwomen. It has generally been associated with the working classes. The Maltese people have a natural in-built ability to sing and rhyme and this has been documented by a number of visitors to the Maltese islands who were impressed by this

musical phenomenon. The main purpose for which the Association was formed is to provide an environment and a meeting place for the Maltese *ghannejja* (singers of *ghana*) and *kitarristi* (guitarists) living in Melbourne to meet and express themselves in the traditional form of Maltese folkloristic music, thereby keeping it alive in their adopted country of Australia. **Find us on FACEBOOK.**

## WOW - Bread with Oil (Hobż biż-Zejt)



Hobz biz zejt (translated to meaning bread with oil) is a simple food tradition that the Maltese love. The simplicity and at the same time complexity of Maltese bread (known as hobz tal Malti) is what makes the wonderful Maltese bread so special and unique. Maltese bread, especially the large round crusty loaf bread known simply as hobz is incredibly difficult to imitate. It is a sourdough, as is fira (another type of commonly known Maltese bread) but its hard crust and soft centre full of many air holes has not been repeated anywhere outside Malta. The distinct taste and look of our hobz I believe may have something to do with a few factors. This easy and ultra-delicious snack is Malta's answer to Italian bruschetta. Slices of sourdough bread are shallow-fried then topped with tomato pesto, basil, capers and a crumbling of ricotta.

Serves 6    **Preparation** 10min    **Cooking** 10min    **Skill level** Easy

- vegetable oil, to shallow-fry
- ½ sourdough loaf, sliced
- **70 g** (¼ cup) tomato pesto
- ½ red onion, finely chopped
- **50 g** (¼ cup) salted capers, rinsed, drained
- ½ **cup** basil leaves
- **75 g** (½ cup) pitted black olives, sliced
- **200 g** fresh ricotta, crumbled
- **60 ml** (¼ cup) olive oil

**Cook's notes** Oven temperatures are for conventional; if using fan-forced (convection), reduce the temperature by 20°C. | We use Australian tablespoons and cups: 1 teaspoon equals 5 ml; 1 tablespoon equals 20 ml; 1 cup equals 250 ml. | All herbs are fresh (unless specified) and cups are lightly packed. | All vegetables are medium size and peeled, unless specified. | All eggs are 55-60 g, unless specified.

**Instructions** Heat 1 cm oil in a large, deep frying pan over medium-high heat. Working in batches, add bread slices and cook, turning once, for 4 minutes or until crisp and golden. Remove using a slotted spoon, drain and cool on paper towel.

Spread bread slices with pesto. Top with onion, caper, basil, olive and ricotta, drizzle with oil and season with salt and pepper.

*Photography by Brett Stevens. Food preparation by Phoebe Wood. Styling by Justine Poole.*

This most informative and professionally presented journal is worthwhile preserving for future generations. It has such a variety of topics that it always keeps me reading it from cover to cover. When I miss an edition I always look for it in your website. Later on I will send you an article on my experience as a Maltese Migrant in Queensland. I left Malta when I was 18, 45 years ago. Your newsletter brings me back many happy and sad memories. John Sammut- QLD, Australia



## TEATRU SALESJAN & CHRIS BRIFFA ARCHITECTS

**You are cordially invited to the launch of Building our Future, an architectural exposition showcasing designs by Chris Briffa Architects, this Friday, January 26th at 19:30hrs.**

Teatru Salesjan has been an active building for over 110 years. It has played a vital role as a cultural space for different communities of people. It was a home for university students in the early 1900s in which they furthered their social and educational development with particular focus on the arts, served as a cinema for hundreds of children from the 1930s to

the 1960s where people laughed, cried and made friendships and is now providing a space for artists who need a place to test out new creative ventures in. The theatre was built for the community and has been of service to it for all these years.

The commUNITY project underlined the importance of volunteerism as a tool to help create a cohesive society: a society made of people that listen to each other and respect one another. This project enabled Teatru Salesjan to effectively strengthen its position as a space for the community, empowered by volunteers. Throughout the project run in 2017 a local architectural firm Chris Briffa Architects was commissioned to create an architectural masterplan, which would help transform the theatre building into a contemporary, accessible arts centre for the community.

*The commUNITY project has been funded through the Voluntary Organisations Project Scheme managed by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector on behalf of the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations.*

## Young Maltese woman honoured in Forbes' '30



**Law student Sara Ezabe recognised for fighting against discrimination, founding #RedefiningUs movement**

**Massimo Costa - [maltatoday.com.mt](http://maltatoday.com.mt)**

A young Maltese law student, Sara Ezabe, 21, is one of 30 young honorees recognised by Forbes for the role they are playing in influencing law and policy in Europe. Ezabe, the youngest honoree on the list, founded the [#RedefiningUs](https://www.instagram.com/redefiningus/) movement after she faced discrimination in Malta for wearing a headscarf. #RedefiningUs sets down "working towards acceptance, dialogue and diversity" as its mission. In 2016, she had been presented with the Young Leaders Award, by Queen Elizabeth, for the work she did in changing people's lives for the better and leaving a positive mark on her community. It had been reported the year previous that Ezabe, who has a Libyan father and Maltese mother, had faced harassment from the Għaqda Patrijotti Maltin, a group of Maltese 'patriots', who targeted her for promoting equality. Ezabe had told MaltaToday of being asked by internet trolls to "prove her citizenship" by "taking blood tests". She had also been the victim of numerous attacks and racist memes on Facebook, including threats on her life.

