	<p>THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora</p> <p>THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS</p> <p>EDITOR - FRANK L SCICLUNA Contact: honconsul@live.com.au</p>	
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The

Santa Marija Convoy

August 1942

75th Anniversary
1942-2017



Operation Pedestal, known in Malta as the Santa Marija Convoy, was a British operation to carry supplies to the island of Malta in August 1942, during the Second World War (page 3)



Bishop George Frendo, OP is now the Metropolitan Archbishop of Tiranë-Durrës, Albania

The Holy Father Pope Francis has appointed the Maltese Dominican, Bishop George Frendo as the Metropolitan Archbishop of Tiranë-Durrës in Albania. He was the auxiliary of the same Archdiocese. Born in Qormi (Malta) in 1946, Bishop Frendo made his first profession in the Order in 1963 and was ordained as a priest in 1969. He was first ordained Bishop in 2006.

He has served in Malta and Albania and has authored several books on doctrine and spirituality.

He was installed as an Archbishop on December 3 at St Paul's Cathedral in Tirana.

Archbishop of Tiranë-Durrës: area - 2,263, population - 1,204,000, Catholics - 135,300, priests - 35, religious - 137.

Thanks very much, Frank and Joseph, for this initiative, and for sending me regularly a copy (of the Maltese Newsletter). May God bless you and all the Maltese community in Australia, which unfortunately I have never had the opportunity to visit, even I have plenty of friends and relatives there.

Msgr George Frendo O.P. Archbishop of Tirana, Albania



**The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora
THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**

The Newsletter is archived at:
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75th anniversary of the Santa Marija Convoy that saved Malta

Seventy-five years ago, the Maltese were on the verge of starvation, and days away from a possible surrender to the Axis forces led by Nazi Germany. But a last-ditch, high-risk effort to supply the island paid off, despite heavy losses.

15 August marks the 75th anniversary of Operation Pedestal – popularly known as the Santa Marija Convoy in Malta – when the first three of five merchant ships to make the journey – a further nine were lost – reached Valletta's Grand Harbour.

Malta's position in the central Mediterranean, and a stone's throw from Italy, meant that it was a strategic location even at the start of the war in 1939.

But its importance increased immeasurably in the next two years, as Axis forces took control of France, French North Africa, Yugoslavia and Greece. Subsequently, Malta was the only land in Allied hands between Gibraltar and Egypt. But then as now, Malta depended on imports simply to be able to feed its population, let alone to keep a military base supplied.

Malta was crucial in Allied efforts to intercept Axis convoys in the Mediterranean, but supplying the island had now become a highly risky affair. A September 1941 convoy had been largely successful, with eight of its nine merchant ships managing to finish the journey and bring 85,000 tons of supplies.

But this success was followed by a number of failures in the next year.

In February 1942, a three-ship convoy left Alexandria, but no supplies reached the island.

The following month, another convoy, made up of three merchant ships and a Navy oiler, was launched. A heavy escort force kept Italian warships at bay, but German bombers near Malta proved to be a different matter entirely.

One ship was sunk just 20 miles off Malta, while the oiler was sunk within eight miles off Malta. The remaining two ships completed the journey, but the cheers of the Maltese soon turned to despair as both were soon sunk in the harbour, with only a fraction of their cargo unloaded.

A more ambitious effort was organised the following June, with six merchant ships leaving Gibraltar (Operation Harpoon) while another 11 headed west from Alexandria (Operation Vigorous), under heavy escort. But only two ships from Operation Harpoon made it to Malta, and since all the tankers were sunk, no fuel oil got through.

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The convoy passed the Strait of Gibraltar on the night between August 10 and 11 in heavy fog, and was refuelled at sea the following morning. Refuelling at sea was a dangerous affair, but the usual refuelling site for Malta-based convoys – Malta – now had no fuel to spare.

The refuelling was successful, but an Axis U-boat struck a coup soon after: the carrier *Eagle* was sunk by four torpedoes.

But at roughly the same time, 36 Spitfires took off from another carrier – the *Furious* – to reinforce Malta's defences against German bombers. Her mission done, the *Furious* returned to Gibraltar, and one of her escorts rammed and sank an Italian submarine on the way.



The convoy drew heavy fire on the following day, as it got closer to Axis bases in Sardinia and Sicily. The flight deck of one of the two remaining carriers, the *Indomitable*, was rendered inoperable even though the ship could still sail on, leaving *Victorious* as the only functioning carrier.

Attacks on 12 August led to the loss of three merchant ships, a destroyer and a cruiser. Two cruisers and two merchant ships were damaged, including the *Ohio*, although repairs allowed it to continue the journey at a lower speed.

The next day proved to be even more dramatic, with the loss of six merchant ships and a cruiser. *Ohio* was once again targeted by German planes, and ended up dead in the water after its boilers were

blown. The tanker was nearly split in two by a bomb, and its crew abandoned ship; an unsuccessful attempt to tow it to shore was made.

However, the evening brought some good news for Malta, as three merchant ships – the *Rochester Castle*, the *Port Castle* and the *Melbourne Star* – entered Grand Harbour.

A fourth, the *Brisbane Star*, reached the harbour the next day, despite having sustained extensive damage to its bow.

A fresh effort to tow the *Ohio* was also made, inevitably attracting German bombers. This time round, however, Malta-based Spitfires came to the rescue, although one bomber managed to land a bomb in the tanker's wake. nearly split in two by a bomb, and its crew abandoned ship; an unsuccessful attempt to tow it to shore was made.

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As a result, the *Ohio* started sinking 45 miles off Malta, but the decision was then made to have two destroyers "sandwich" the stricken tanker on each side while it was being towed.

The tanker approached the island the next day, and with the assistance of tug boats, made it to the harbour to large crowds of cheering Maltese, accompanied by a brass band. Its arrival on the feast of the Assumption gives the convoy its Maltese name.

Operation Pedestal was ultimately a tactical disaster, given the great losses sustained, but was also a clear strategic victory for the Allies. The supplies bought Malta roughly 10 more weeks, but the fuel supplies now helped ensure that the locally-based fighter planes would protect ships unloading in future supply operations.

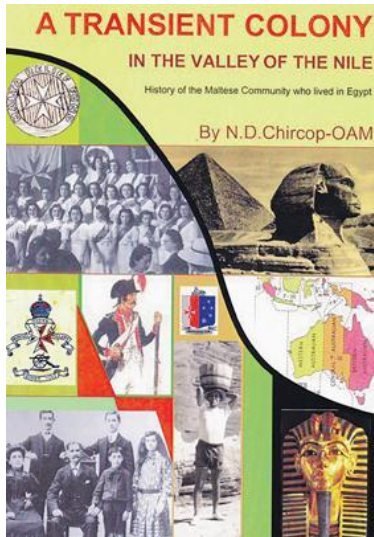
The fuel oil also gave a substantial boost to Malta-based operations against Axis shipping, which sunk a substantial proportion of Axis convoys to North Africa. These losses helped turn the tide in the region, and increasing Allied being towed.

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The war in Malta effectively ended in 1943, after the invasion of Sicily moved the front line further north.



A TRANSIENT COLONY A narrative of the Maltese in Egypt

Nicholas D. Chircop

A Transient Colony in the Valley of the Nile: The History of the Maltese Colony in Egypt throughout the centuries. Self-published, 2015. 423 pp.

This is, without any doubt, the most comprehensive compendium of information about the Maltese community of Egypt, starting with the involvement of Maltese troops in the invasion of Egypt by Napoleon. It culminates in the maelstrom of 1956, when all British citizens, which included Maltese, were expelled from Egypt.

The book starts with a short description of life in Malta, as well as in Egypt, in the 18th century, when migration to the northern shores of

Africa was in full swing.

It then describes the life and vicissitudes of Maltese migrants, as they eventually made a successful settlement on the banks of the Nile. This was not, however, a smooth and uneventful settlement and, on more than one occasion, they were uprooted and had to find shelter elsewhere.

The book chronicles the story of many individuals who contributed to the development of the Egyptian economy over the decades. One is pleasantly surprised to read about the many Maltese who managed to obtain very senior positions in various professions, and whose achievements were duly appreciated by the Egyptian, as well as the British colonial, administrations of the time.

One such outstanding individual was Andrea De Bono, who may be considered one of the most intrepid personalities that have emanated from the shores of Malta and who made it his lifetime ambition to search for the sources of the Nile.

We read about various aspects of the history of the Maltese in Egypt, about the establishment of the Maltese colony along the Nile, particularly in Alexandria. We read about the many organisations, religious institutions and community organisations working for the benefit of Maltese migrants, which were crucial to the education system in Egypt at the time.

This book illustrates how a settler's life, while being mostly uneventful, can be shaken by intermittent convulsions that threaten one's existence. An episode occurred in 1882, when Egyptians rioted against foreigners and many Maltese found themselves homeless and penniless. It is indeed a sobering episode. Many left Egypt and came back to Malta. Their reception in Malta left a lot to be desired, with few people being prepared to help their brethren in their hour of greatest misery.

Chircop quotes from the newspapers of the time, as well as from official correspondence, to highlight the poignancy and the desperation of those compatriots who suddenly found themselves obliged to abandon their homes and their adopted country. This was a forerunner of events that were to take place some 70 years later when, in 1956, they were again thrown out of Egypt. This time they were not even allowed to land in Malta and had to seek shelter mainly in Australia, Britain and France.

A particularly poignant personal history is that of Oscar Caruana, who related his experience in connection with being extradited in 1957. Two policemen knocked on the door and he was given seven days to leave the country, in the meantime being kept under house arrest.

He and his family were allowed to take with them only 95 Egyptian pounds and jewellery to the same value. All his possessions were to be left for the benefit of the widows of Egyptian soldiers.

By the time they made their way to the ship, all their cash and jewellery had been wheedled out of them by unscrupulous hangers-on, rendering them penniless until reaching Genoa. From then on they lived on charity provided by the British Consul and by the Red Cross.

This work gives us a detailed narrative about life in Egypt. It gives a lively description of what it must have been like to be a migrant at that time. The author gives a first-hand account of life in that country in the first 50 years of the 20th century. For those who have been there and lived through the episodes described in this book, there is no doubt that many memories will be evoked.

It is a compendium summarising the contributions made by hundreds of Maltese people to the country which they made their home for several generations.

Why write another book about migrant life? I believe there are many good reasons why someone with a detailed knowledge of the history of the country, as Chircop has, should ensure that these stories are not lost in the flotsam of history.

In the first place, this story ensures that the experiences of these migrants, who settled in Egypt over a period of a century-and-a-half, are not forgotten. This is of interest not only to those who lived through the episodes described, but also to every person interested in the story of emigration.

Secondly, this book provides considerable insights into relationships between countries during colonial administration. The role of individuals, their personalities, their response to challenges and their role in changing the history of a nation, including their questionable decisions which led to catastrophic rioting and wanton destruction, are all described here in ample detail.

A third good reason for writing this book is to remind the people in Malta about the role that migration plays in the economics of a country. It is also a good reminder of the interplay – not only economic but also political, demographic and even psychological – between those who leave and those who stay at home.

During the early part of migration history, in the middle of the 19th century, every migrant left Malta with the intention of staying for a while and then coming back to Malta. Migration was purely a means of obtaining urgent cash for family dependants during crises.

But nobody expected the migrant to stay abroad for ever and, if not exactly welcomed back, they were not barred from returning when they wished, or when they were obliged to, as happened several times during periods of crisis, including epidemics, riots and wars.

This laissez-faire attitude, however, became very seriously unhinged in the post-World War II period and, more precisely, during the Suez crisis in the 1950s, when British citizens were obliged to leave Egypt. To the everlasting shame of the Maltese government, these refugees of Maltese origin were refused settlement in Malta.

At the time, of course, Maltese in Malta or outside it were all British citizens, carrying British passports. Maltese in Egypt always thought of themselves as Maltese and had retained their customs and their culture, if not always their language.

It is, therefore, the more puzzling to understand on what basis they were refused entry into Malta, apart from the obvious explanation that Malta at the time was passing through an economic depression and could ill-afford the 10,000 or so Maltese from Egypt. There was no legal and certainly no moral justification for such an action.

As it happens, these migrants, who were always flexible and ready to face new challenges in their new environment, have now made their homes all around the world, in Australia, the UK, France, the US and other countries.

They have an impressive record as members of the Maltese diaspora, forming part of that amorphous body called Greater Malta, which includes all those Maltese who still consider Malta their home, if not their place of residence.

This book fills an important niche in the history of migration, and the author is to be commended for committing his memoirs to paper. He has taken pains to consult many original documents, including newspapers, newsletters and other documents in several languages, which mark him as a polyglot, a characteristic he shares with many other Maltese from Egypt.

Copies of the book may be obtained by sending an e-mail to nchircop@bigpond.net.au.

THE HYPOGEUM – UNDERGROUND NECROPOLIS

Joseph M. Abela

The Hypogeum was top of our list of "must sees" and we had pre-booked tickets. It is advisable to book in advance for a particular date and time as they are usually sold out well beforehand. Only a limited number of visitors are allowed in each day. Photography is forbidden.



The Hypogeum lies behind - and below - a very unassuming entrance on a narrow street in Paola. An underground necropolis, dug by hand out of the limestone into a series of passages and chambers, it is thought to date from 3600 to 3000 BC and contained possibly 7000 bodies. The guided tour is in groups of 10, first with an audio guide and a small museum-type exhibition, including a copy of the Sleeping Lady figure (the original is in the archaeology museum in Valletta), followed by a 12 minute film. Then on to the tombs which are very atmospheric and impressive, laid out on three levels.

The first level is thought to have been extended from natural caves and is the oldest level. The second level below has several amazing spaces and these are not just hacked-out caves - they show architectural awareness in features such as trilithons which are doorways formed by two vertical stones topped by a horizontal stone, and stepped features in cornices reminiscent of beams. Some of the walls are painted red ochre. The Oracle Chamber has a hole in its wall and through it low-pitched voices become amplified and reverberate. Most impressive of all is the Holy of Holies which is illuminated at sunrise of the winter solstice through a shaft in the rock.

Apparently each burial chamber was first dug from the rock below the level of a doorway. Bodies were first decayed in the open air and then thrown in until the level of the door was reached, then one of the chamber walls would be broken through and the process repeated. The tour was excellent, though the lighting on each point of interest comes and goes as the tour proceeds, and it's not for the claustrophobic! An unbelievably atmospheric visit.

Tarxien Temples



Replica of the remains of fertility goddess statue

shone through the entrance.

Most of the Megalithic Temples on Malta date from between 3600 and 3000 BC. They are the oldest free-standing stone structures in the world - **500 years older than the great pyramids of Egypt**. They all share much the same structure and orientation, roughly facing south east with a cloverleaf plan, each "leaf" having three or five rounded chambers opening off its axis. Common features are holes in the stones which may have been made to hold posts, so-called "oracle" holes perhaps used by priests or priestesses to issue divinations - the arrangement of the hole within a chamber serving to amplify the voice, "fat lady" figurines or statues. No burials are associated with the sites. None of the original wooden roofs remain. It is possible that most Maltese temples were built such that the sunrise at Winter Solstice

In the Valletta suburb of Paola, not far east of the Hypogeum, the Tarxien Temples date from between 3600 and 2500BC on a site of about 200sq m. As a point of reference, the wonderful Megalithic stone circles at Stonehenge in England, covering an area of about 1600 sq m, date from around 2200BC.

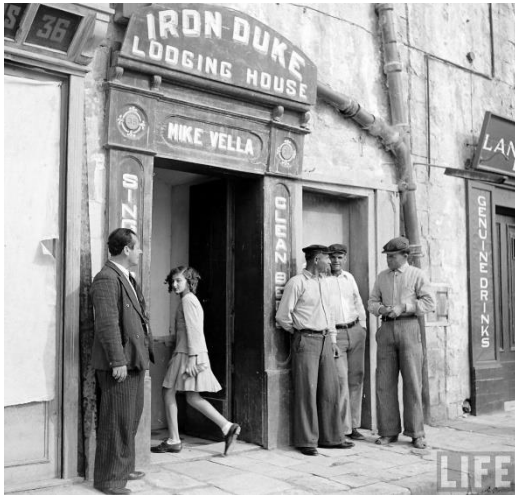
The Tarxien Temples are not as imposing as Stonehenge, and do not have the very complex astronomical design that characterises the layout of Stonehenge. Though a small site it is still impressive and the four linked temples are nevertheless quite intricate.

They were built with huge blocks of stone 3m x 1m x 1m in size. The chambers are decorated with spirals - a favourite device it seems - and animal reliefs. The rounded shape of the chambers is difficult to make out on the ground - much better in an aerial view which can be seen in postcards.

Spherical stones left at the site point to the method of construction: the blocks were probably rolled on these, pulled by oxen or some other beast of burden. The temples have four, five or six apses and would have witnessed scenes of ritual animal sacrifice. In the Bronze Age, around 2000BC, it seems to have been reused as a cremation site. It was discovered by farmers in 1914 and then excavated.

The originals of the most interesting artefacts, in particular the lower half of a wonderful "fat lady" - a fertility goddess - are now in the museum in Valletta.

The Island of Royal Pubs



By [Messy Nussy](#)

Throughout the Victoria era, Malta was a hive of expatriate activity. The British had arrived and made its naval base there and the royal family found it to be the perfect escape from English winters. To entertain themselves and make the cross-section of civilian society that descended on the Crown Colony more at home, they brought their home comforts with them, which of course included the staple of British society; the English pub!



Shipbuilders, dockworkers, police inspectors, post office clerks, doctors, bakers and sailors alike unwound after a day's work at the flurry of pubs that mushroomed on the Mediterranean island— each and every one astutely named after the monarchy.

LIFE magazine reporter [Jack Birns](#) visited the island in 1950 and photographed these pubs that peppered Malta's streets...

How much the "Britification" of Malta benefited the island is a contentious issue, although opportunities for trade and commerce did certainly increase. The introduction of the potato became an important export crop for the country and Queen Victoria's encouragement of the old art of lace-making, by putting in an order for mitts and a shawl, was greatly appreciated. Today it's still one of Malta's most celebrated crafts. Hand in hand with British pub culture, the Maltese were also interested in participating in English sports they saw troops playing such as cricket, football, tennis and polo.

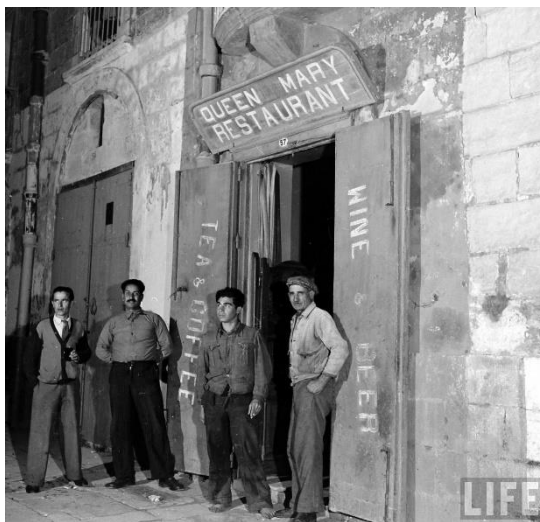
Despite being named in honor of the monarchy, the humble watering holes were of course never host to any members of the royal family and most of the establishments were conveniently located near the port where sailors and ship workers could mingle with pretty Maltese locals. Famed English novelist, George Meredith, imagines his naval hero, Nevil Beauchamp, encountering someone special amid the





bevy of young women in port: "And that girl in Malta! I wonder what has become of her! What a beauty she was!"

During World War II, American soldiers also called on the island, and the friendly Maltese saw to it they too felt welcome, with the opening of American-themed bars, like this one named after the popular singer Bing Crosby. On the announcement of air raids during the war, Malta's bars and dance halls had to switch off the lights and close the doors to prevent German or Italian plane from spotting them. An interesting portrait of Maltese nightlife during this time is depicted in the novel, *Jukebox Queen of Malta*, about an American radio operator posted to Malta who falls for Melita, a Maltese woman who travels the island repairing jukeboxes.

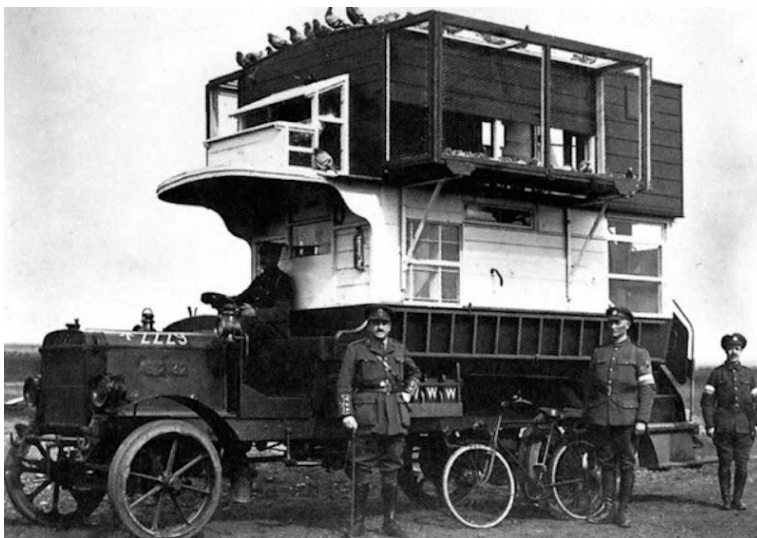


I'll be travelling to Malta's smaller sister island Gozo this summer and will be on the lookout for a similar pattern of English pubs. Strada Stretta was mainly patrolled by the British forces during WW@

Photographs fished out the [LIFE archives](#).



Pigeons of War and their Double Decker Buses



To me, one of the greatest miracles/ mysteries of nature is the homing pigeon. No matter how many times someone tries to explain it to me, I still can't quite grasp why or how those birds manage to find their way home from such long distances. To further fuel my intrigue, today I came across a WWI photograph of a pigeon bus— a double decker London pigeon bus at that! And then of course I went searching for more.

Over 100,000 pigeons served with the British Army during the first world war. And I say served because these truly were soldiers

with wings. Often released in the midst of battle when field telephone lines were cut, under enemy fire and heavy bombardments, they still dutifully kept going, often arriving home with severe injuries.



1953 - This British wartime drama focuses on the crucial battle for control of Malta. Lieutenant Peter Ross, a Royal Air Force reconnaissance photographer, gets shot down over Malta while flying to Egypt. Since he cannot get off the island, the British forces there employ his talents to help defeat the Nazis. Ross sets out to find and photograph the location of the Nazi forces attacking the island, but he still finds time to fall in love with Maria, a local girl. The film mixes archival combat footage with documentary-style re-enactments to create a realistic portrayal of the historic battle.



IL-FESTA TAL-VITORJA F'SYDNEY - AWSTRALJA

Il-Fathers Maltin jixtiequ jistiednu lill-Kommunita' Maltija għall-festa tradizzjonali tal-Vitorja nhar il-Hadd 10 ta' Settembru 2017 fis-2.30 pm tibda l-purcissjoni fejn jingħad ir-Ruzarju, wara tibda l-quddiesa koncelebrata fil-Kattidral ta' St Mary's, College Street Sydney, NSW.
Il-Predikatur, ser ikun Rev Fr Charles Sultana PP ta' San Lawrenz, Ghawdex.
Dawk il-familji li għandhom xi tfal jew zghazagh li jkun jirridu jilbsu kostum Malti jew tal-precett, biex jimxu fil-purcissjoni fil-Kattidral, għandhom ic-templu lil Antoinette Mascari 9899 1938.
Grazzi lil kull min dejjem attenda għal din il-festa.

Fr Tarcisio M Micallef mssp - Chaplain for the Maltese Community in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Xaghra Association of NSW

Celebrating the Assumption of Our Lady at Warnavale Sunday 13 August 2017

Bus departing Riverstone: 8:00am, B/Town: 8:30 am, Greystanes: 8:40am
Morning tea stop followed by lunch at Central Coast Leagues Club
Mass will be at 3:00pm, followed by procession at 4:00 pm on the church grounds and fireworks at 6:00pm. Bus leaves after fireworks finish. For more info contact: Ray/Josephine Bigeni: 9627 4182, 0439 974 182, or M.Teuma: 4579 6771

Have Your Say!

Council for Maltese Living Abroad

The Council for Maltese Living Abroad was set up by the Government of Malta in 2011 following the Convention of Maltese Living Abroad held in March 2010, the Government of Malta published a draft Bill proposing to set up a Council for Maltese Living Abroad and the establishment of a Maltese Cultural Institute.

The Council is made up of a group of persons selected by the Prime Minister after taking into consideration the organisational set up of the Maltese communities overseas together with another group of persons living in Malta who are versed in matters relating to Maltese living abroad. The Council is chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and its delegates are from Malta and overseas namely USA, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom and European Union.

Aims of the Council

- To promote the quality of life of the Maltese communities abroad;
- To strengthen political, cultural, economical and social ties between the Maltese communities abroad and Malta;
- To facilitate the preservation of a cultural and linguistic identity among the community;
- To promote Maltese culture and in particular the teaching of the Maltese language abroad;
- To assist in the integration of the communities in their adopted countries;
- To analyse problems which Maltese communities encounter including issues relating to working conditions, professional and educational training and recognition of qualifications obtained by Malta;
- To advise the Minister of Foreign Affairs on any legislation or issue that can affect the interests of Maltese abroad.

As one of the delegates of the Council I will be attending the next meeting on the 19 and 20 October 2017 in Malta. I invite and encourage the readers of this journal to take this opportunity and send me any suggestions, ideas, problems, comments or recommendations that can assist us in the betterment of the individuals and/or Maltese communities living overseas. I will present your input at the meeting for discussion and consideration. It is important that together we strengthen the link between Malta and the Maltese living abroad. You may contact me on: maltesejournal@gmail.com

It's not just about numbers | Rosianne Cutajar MP



Parliament's youngest member Rosianne Cutajar on gender-representation in Maltese politics; dealing with political harassment; the regulation of prostitution, and how women's NGOs don't always speak on behalf of all Maltese women

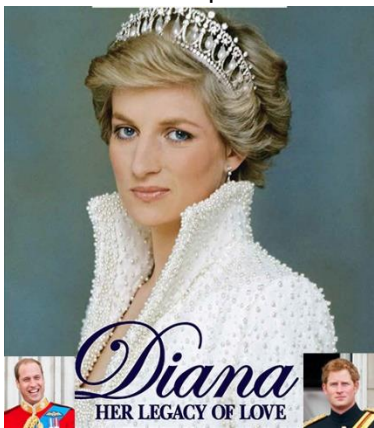
Raphael Vassallo For some time now, we have been talking about the need to increase female participation in politics: possibly through a quota system. Your own election to parliament last June seems to belie this impression. At 28 you are the youngest MP: yet neither age nor gender seems to have worked against you. How do you account for your political success, in a country which has a reputation for not electing women?

Let's take it even further back: my political career did not start with the 2017 election. I was elected mayor [of Qormi] in 2012... at the time I was the youngest female mayor ever elected, and the first female mayor of one of the biggest local councils in Malta. Then I got re-elected in 2015. What I noticed between 2012 and 2015 is that the fact that I was elected seemed to have opened the door to a lot more women getting into local councils.

When you look at the number of female councillors elected in 2015, you will see there was an increase. So I already feel I somehow contributed in this respect. To be honest, however, when it came to the 2017 general election, I expected to do better. I got 2,000 first-count votes. Everybody expected that the fact that I was the only woman candidate on the district, at a time when there was more awareness about gender issues, would work in my favour. But the reality is that I still feel that political parties do not push women candidates enough. Often I switch on TV, and all I see are panels of men discussing issues.

I am one of those who believe that at least the national broadcaster should have a rule: if it's going to have discussion programmes, there have to be women represented on the panel. Sometimes, however, it comes from the parties themselves. To give an example: on the pre-electoral Xarabank debates – which many feel to be crucial – the Labour party sent three men. The Nationalist Party also sent three men. I think it would send a clear message to have at least one woman to represent the party.

DIANA - PRINCESS OF WALES



It is almost impossible to believe that it's two decades since **Princess Diana**, the princess of Wales passed away. Ahead of the 20th anniversary of her loss, her sons have been talking about the huge influence she had not just on their lives but on those of millions around the globe. **Prince William** said he would "love her to have met Catherine and to have seen the children grow up". Meanwhile, **Prince Harry** commented: "Twenty years on seems like a good time to remind people of the difference that she made, not just to the royal family but also to the world."

There isn't a day that passes during which Prince William and Prince Harry do not think about their late mom, Princess Diana. As Harry once said, "She was quite simply the best mother in the world." It was 20 years ago when Princess Diana was tragically killed in a car accident in Paris. William was just 15 years old at the time, his brother only 12. The shocking events of August 31, 1997, made William and Harry the human faces of an international tragedy. While millions cried openly in the street at their mother's funeral, the boys remained dry-eyed and stoic as they paid tribute in the most public of circumstances by walking behind her coffin as it made its way slowly down The Mall.



THE MANCHE' FAMILY FROM MALTA - 1955

Mr and Mrs John Manche with their family of nine children at Circular Quay, Sydney NSW. They arrived from Malta on the migrant ship, Castel Felice, to settle at Wentworthville NSW. The children are Tony 12, Monica 9, Mario 8, Rose 6, Francis 4, George 3, Charlotte 1 and Jeanette 5 months. Date 26 January 1955.

Source Fairfax
Photographs

TWO MALTESE BISHOPS IN KENYA - AFRICA



MGR. EMANUEL BARBARA OFM CAP Bishop of Mof Melindi - Kenya

Mgr Barbara was born in Gzira on 27 October 1949. Emanuel parents are Joseph Barbara and Agnes neé Muscat. He joined the Maltese Franciscan Capuchin Province on 19 September 1965 and was ordained priest on 20 July 1974. He studied Philosophy and Theology at the I.N.S.E.R.M. (a Maltese Institute for Consecrated Life) - He obtained a Licentiate (S.Th.L) in Moral Theology from the Academia Alphonsiana in Rome (1976 - 1978) He obtained a Doctorate (S.Th.D) in Moral Theology from the Academia Alphonsiana in Rome (1990 - 1995). Elected Provincial Minister of the Maltese Capuchin Province 1986 - 1989 Re-elected Provincial Minister of the Maltese Capuchin Province

He was elected Vice-Provincial of the Capuchin Vice-Province of Kenya 2008 – 2010. He was spiritual Director at St Francis Secondary School, Sliema 2010 - Elected Provincial Minister of the Capuchin Malta Province and President of the Capuchin Conference in Europe.

"I know that the Church in Malta and the Maltese Franciscan Capuchin Province are proud that the Lord, through His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, has chosen one of us to serve the Church in Kenya, more specifically the Church in the Diocese of Malindi, and the Kenyan People in that part of the country. Bishop Barbara comes to you as a priest who has already shown his love for the Church in Kenya, having served there already for a number of years. Now, after passing some years in Malta, the Lord is calling him to serve again this Church and its people, this time as Bishop" Archbishop Emeritus Mgr Cremona



MGR. JOSEPH ALESSANDRO ofm The Bishop of Gariss - Kenya

Rt. Rev. Joseph Alessandro became the Bishop of Garissa Dioceses following the resignation of Rt. Rev Paul Darmanin who has attained 75 years which is the canonical age for retirement. In a letter written to the Catholic Bishops in Kenya, the Apostolic Nuncio to Kenya His Excellency Archbishop Charles D. Balvo informed the Bishops that Pope Francis had accepted the resignation of His Lordship Paul Damanin.

"In accord with the norms of the Code of Canon Law, Rt. Rev. Joseph Alessandro automatically succeeded Bishop Darmanin on Tuesday 8th, November, 2015 at 2 p.m. local time," the letter read. Speaking at the Kenya Catholic Secretariat, Waumini house during the Celebration in honor of the consecrated women employees, His Eminence John Cardinal Njue called on the staff of the secretariat to support and pray for Bishop Alessandro as he assumes his duty fully as the shepherd of the Diocese of Garissa.

Bishop Alessandro was born on 30th, November, 1944 in Paola (Rahal Gdid) - Malta. At the age of 17 he was professed as a member of Order of Friars Minor Capuchin and in 1966 he professed his perpetual vows to the same order. He was ordained priest on 5th, April, 1970. He came to Kenya in 1989. In 2010 he was made Vicar General of the Diocese of Garissa by Bishop Paul Darmanin. In 2012 Pope Benedict XIV appointed Alessandro as the new Coadjutor Bishop of Garissa. He was ordained Bishop by Cardinal John Njue on 29th, September 2012 in St. John's Co-Cathedral Valletta and left Malta on November 3 the same year.

1930 attempt on Lord Strickland's life



(left) *Il Berka's* (The Maltese Daily Newspaper) report on the assassination attempt. (right) Lord Strickland (centre) and members of his government, including Sir Augustus Bartolo (first from left) at an official function. (Reproduced from Strickland House, Book One: 1921-1935, by Victor Aquilina, published by Allied Publications, 2010).

During the 1930 general election campaign, Malta's Prime Minister, Lord Strickland, was at loggerheads with the ecclesiastical authorities. On May 1 the Archbishop of Malta, Dom Maurus Caruana, and the Bishop of Gozo, Mgr Michael Gonzi, issued a joint pastoral letter declaring that it would be a mortal sin to vote for Strickland and his candidates, and for those who support him or his party. On April 17 the Governor, General Sir John Du Cane, had dissolved the Legislative Assembly.

While Strickland was walking along the corridors of the law courts, three shots were fired. The shots had gone astray. He took the matter calmly and went inside to read his morning paper
- Eddie Attard

On Friday, May 23, Lord Strickland went to the Auberge d'Auvergne in Kingsway, Valletta, which then housed the law courts, to attend a sitting of the Court of Appeal, which was hearing a case about the electoral law. While Strickland was walking along one of the corridors of the law courts, three shots were fired, allegedly at Strickland.

The shots had gone astray. The bullets hit a wall and the ceiling and had remained lodged there. Strickland took the matter calmly and went inside the courtroom to read his morning paper. Police Sergeant Duminku Depares and Constables Giuliano Caruana and George Vella, who were near Lord Strickland, intervened, and the gunman, 43-year-old Ganni Miller, was apprehended and disarmed. The news of the assassination attempt caused an enormous commotion and quickly spread throughout Valletta.

In a matter of minutes a crowd rushed to the law courts and when it was learned that Strickland was unhurt a section of the crowd began shouting "Long live Strickland and down with Mizzi", referring to Nerik Mizzi, the co-leader of the Nationalist Party and Strickland's political opponent.

However, when Dr Mizzi heard what had happened he sent Strickland a message of sympathy, strongly condemning the attempt. As a gesture of goodwill, Strickland, accompanied by his daughter Mabel, visited the Nationalist Party printing press in South Street to thank Dr Mizzi personally. Strickland received many messages of support, foremost among them those from King George V and Archbishop Caruana and Bishop Gonzi.

Ironically, about three years earlier, Miller, who at that time was serving a 15-year prison sentence for inciting soldiers to lay down their arms during the 1919 riots, had petitioned the Governor for an amnesty. The prison sentence was reduced, and when Strickland came to power in 1927 Miller was released from prison.



Fr Emmanuel Magri, who is remembered for his recording and studying of Maltese folk tales

A number of historical manuscripts unearthed recently in Rome and Palermo have shed new light on the work of Fr Emmanuel Magri, a Jesuit who oversaw excavation works at the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum in the early 1900s.

The manuscripts, including notes of an unpublished lecture and a series of letters penned by Fr Magri - the ethnographer who is remembered for his recording and studying of Maltese folk tales and lore - have been traced by Jesuit student and archaeologist Br Josef Mario Briffa.

Br Briffa found a set of letters which Fr Magri had written to Fr Alfred Louis Delattre between 1901 and 1906. Fr Delattre was a Missionary of Africa

(White Father) and an archaeologist conducting excavations in Carthage at the time.

"The documents throw important new light on Fr Magri's archaeological work, particularly in the absence of his notebooks containing observations, which disappeared at his death 100 years ago," Br Briffa said.

Traced in the General Archive of the Missionaries of Africa in Rome, the letters, written in French, show how Fr Magri had discussed his finds at the "Necropolis". He stated that finds, such as bones and broken terracotta, had been thrown in sans ordre (without any order). The bones were very fragmented, and only a few skulls could be saved.

Though later archaeologists thought of the work of Fr Magri and some of his contemporaries as being unscientific, Br Briffa argued that the letters penned by Fr Magri prove that this was not the case at Hal Saflieni, and later judgements on such work had often been made without clear supporting evidence.

"We may safely say - on the basis of archival material - that earth, bones and finds had been found in a complete jumble. Fr Magri didn't simply empty the site of its contents, but did try to understand the context and formation of the site, with the best methods available then," Br Briffa said.

Drawing parallels with the Xaghra Stone Circle, Br Briffa noted how such a complex site is difficult to unravel, even with today's more refined study of stratigraphy. The build-up of different layers of soil and finds is examined to understand better the formation on the site, which is harder to understand where a site is the result of accumulation of burials over a longer period of time.

In other cases, the build-up of deposits may be distinguished in more clear layers, as in the case of the Bronze Age Cremation site over the Late Neolithic Temples at Tarxien.

Fr Magri's correspondence with E.A. Wallis Budge at the British Museum, which Br Briffa traced in 2003, revealed how Fr Magri had been in contact with archaeologists and researchers of his time. Even if lacking professional training of archaeologists in the modern sense, the Maltese pioneers of archaeology who conducted research out of personal love for heritage and history still gave a crucial contribution, Br Briffa argued.

The manuscripts Br Briffa found in Palermo consist of one of Fr Magri's unpublished lectures to the Malta Archaeological and Scientific Society entitled The Temple (Of Proserpina) At Mtarfa, an article on The Ancient Autonomous Coins of Malta, and manuscripts of his writings on Maltese folk tales (belonging to the cycle on the months), as well as his article Ghan-Nies Tas-Sengha U N-Nisa Tal-Gabra.



NATURAL BEAUTY OF MALTA

The Blue Lagoon COMINO

School children in Malta and Gozo to receive milk, fruit and vegetables



Last week, saw the launch of the new EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme, which includes Malta and Gozo. The scheme is to be ready for implementation across the Union as of the first day of the 2017/2018 school year.

The scheme will include the distribution of fruit, vegetables and milk products and is aimed at promoting healthy eating habits among children.

In Malta, for this scheme, the EU definitive allocation for school fruit and vegetables is €372 747 and for school milk €144 750.

The scheme will also involve dedicated educational program to teach pupils about the importance of good nutrition and to explain how food is produced. The

European Commission said that although participation is optional, all 28 Member States indicated they will take part in the initiative in the 2017/2018 school year.

Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Phil Hogan, said, "I am very pleased that the new school scheme will be introduced tomorrow. The scheme provides valuable support to millions of European schoolchildren and thousands of farmers in every Member State."

"Such support has proven particularly important for farmers in recent years and the increased funding will enhance the value of this support. In addition, the new scheme meets my priority of simplification through the integration of the former school milk and vegetable schemes," he added. The Commission pointed out that fresh fruit, vegetables and drinking milk will be given as a priority to school children.

"Processed products such as soup, fruit compotes, juice, yogurts and cheese may also be distributed if this choice is approved by the national health authorities. No added sugar, salt and fat are allowed unless the national health authorities permit limited quantities," the Commission said. Member States have the option to top up the EU aid with national aid for financing the scheme. They can also decide on the exact way to put the scheme in place, like the inclusion of thematic educational measures and other agricultural products.

The Commission explained that this choice of products will be based on health and environmental considerations, seasonality, variety and availability with priority to EU products. "Member States may encourage local or regional purchasing, organic products, short supply chains, environmental benefits, agricultural quality schemes," it said. Last year, around 20 million children benefited from the milk scheme and around 11.7 million children from the fruit and vegetables scheme.

Photograph: Alain Salvary

MALTESE NEWSLETTER
The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



The magazine that builds bridges between
Maltese all over the world

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PACKED WITH NEWS
INFORMATION, HISTORY
CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco USA

By Abraham Vella and Mona Vella-Nicholas



Towards the end of November 1929, thirty-five Maltese residents of San Francisco met to discuss the establishment of a Colonial Club. A committee was given the task of finding suitable premises for a meeting place. In January 1930, they rented the ground floor of a house at 1648 Oakdale Avenue, San Francisco. That same month, a committee selected the first officers of the club: F. Grech, President; C. Fenech, Vice-President; E. Micallef, Secretary; J. Azzopardi, Treasurer; C. Scicluna, Assistant Secretary; and R. Deguara, Assistant Treasurer. Hence, the “Maltese Club of



San Francisco” was given birth.

Very soon after, the “Melita Soccer Football Team” decided to join the Maltese Club, doubling the Club’s membership. In 1932, the “Sons of Malta Soccer Team”, as the Club’s team was now called, won the Redmen Convention trophy in Santa Cruz. Other Club members who were musically talented organized a jazz band which played at dances and picnics and even gave concerts. This “San Francisco Maltese Band” even played for the welcome of Archbishop Edward Hanna at his dedication of the St. Paul of the Shipwreck Church auditorium. A dramatic company was also formed under Club auspices. This group put on plays in Maltese for the entertainment of the Club’s members and their families.



The Club’s activities encouraged many other Maltese to enroll, so bigger premises became an indispensable necessity. In June 1931, the committee rented the large building at 1789 Oakdale Avenue, a former church. The Club eventually bought the property, which remained its headquarters until 1995, when the Oakdale building was sold and the Club’s present premises at 924 El Camino Real in South San Francisco became the Club’s new home.

Although the soccer team and dramatic group no longer exist, the Club continues to be a source of entertainment and community to new generations of Maltese-Americans. Dinner-dances, casino trips, children’s Christmas parties, and other events draw members and guests from all over the Bay Area to the Club. With the addition of women as full-fledged members in the 1990’s, mystery trips, bingo nights, pot-luck dinners, and knitting groups have been added to the list of the Club activities. In addition, a Melitensia library has been added, providing books, music, and films on a variety of aspects of Maltese history and culture.

The Club celebrated its 50th anniversary at its Oakdale premises in San Francisco in May 1979. Joseph Grech, Jr. was president at the time. San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein was the guest of honor. Twenty-five years later, led by President Joseph Tanti, the Club celebrated the biggest event it has ever had. This 75th anniversary celebration was held on October 2, 2004 at the South San Francisco Convention Center and featured the Nicolo Isouard Band of Mosta. One can only guess how a new generation of Maltese-Americans will celebrate the Club’s 100th anniversary in 2029!



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Our Maltese-American Community

The Maltese-American Community of San Francisco represents citizens who live and work in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. They come from all walks of life and enjoy a common Maltese heritage that bonds the community. The Community culture is a living expression of culture in everyday life and those shared experiences are transformed and passed on to others as a celebration of traditions.



Participation by members of the community help support, guide and contribute to the greater good and family values. These values are what makes the community so unique and represents how important each

member is to one another. The Maltese-American Community grows while nurturing its citizens in enjoying life in their personal and professional lives.

Maltese American children in traditional costume celebrate their homeland.

Read more: <http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Le-Pa/Maltese-Americans.html#ixzz4p4X2Pnki>

Maltese American Social Club lived at 924 El Camino Rea, South San Francisco, CA, USA; Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco

Email: contact-us@Maltese-AmericanSCSF.org

<http://www.maltese-americanscsf.org/>.

Russian Grand Priory Malta – Special 220th anniversary hand postmark

BY A special hand postmark is being issued by MaltaPost tomorrow – Russian Grand Priory Malta – Order of Saint John of Jerusalem – 1797-2017.

This is in commemoration of the 220th anniversary from the convention of the Russian Grand Priory and will be used on Monday at the Post Office situated at Castille Square, Valletta.

Orders may be placed online at www.maltaphilately.com or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Triq Hal Qormi, Marsa, MTP 1001 – Telephone 2596 1740 – e-mail: info@maltaphilately.com



Sam CJ Muscat J President Australian American Association (Vic)

"To foster friendship and understanding between the people of Australia and the USA"



Friendship Night-Happy Hour

Dear Members and Friends,

*You are invited to join with and meet other
Members and Friends
of the*

Australian American Association

At the

Friendship Night - Happy Hour

On

Wednesday, 23 August 2017,

At the

Belgian Beer Cafe Melbourne

5 Riverside Quay Southbank 3006

Time - 6:00PM



Come along and meet other members and friends

Join us for a social drink

Maybe stay a little longer and join some of us for a meal ... It's also

"STEAK NIGHT"

(if you like steak or if not, there is other great food you can pick from)

Drinks at Bar Prices

RSVP: via email samcjm@bigpond.com by no later than Monday, 20 August 2017

Mobile: 0419 381 479 Website: <https://australianamerican.org/>

JP2 FOUNDATION POPE JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION JP2 Memorial Festival - 10th Anniversary



2007-17 Press Release

This year coincides the 50 th anniversary of the death of Frenċ tal- Għarb 1967 – 2017 and the JP2 Foundation will be organising a Commemoration Mass at Mater Dei Hospital Chapel on Sunday 13 August 2017, the Sunday before the Liturgical Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady whom he was very devotion too. The Mass will be celebrated by HE Mgr Paul Cremona Archbishop Emeritus of Malta at noon. All devotees and the general public are invited to attend.

Stampa għall-Istampa

Din is-sena jahbat il-50 anniversarju mill-mewt ta' Frenċ tal-Għarb 1967 - 2017 u l-Fondazzjoni JP2 se tikkommemorah b' Quddiesa fil-Kappella ta' l-Isptar Mater Dei nhar il-Ħadd 13 ta' Awissu 2017, il-Ħadd qabel il-Festa Liturgika ta' l-Assunta fejn Frenċ kien devozzjoni ħafna tal-Madonna ta' Pinu. Il-Quddiesa ser tiġi ċċelebrata mill-Arċisqof Emeritu ta' Malta, Mons. Paul Cremona f'nofsinar. Id-devoti u l-pubbliku ġenerali huma mistiedna jattendu.

Fascinating new insights into Great Siege legendsn -1565

"It was never clear whether Darghut was killed by friendly fire or enemy action"



The death of Dragut: by Sarah Carabott

For many, Ottoman Admiral Dragut died leaning back, propped up by his men, right hand held up to his temple wrapped in a turban, eyes wide open.

In this popular depiction by Giuseppe Calì, which follows the western narrative, the Libya ruler Darghut Pasha, as Dragut is known in Malta, is dying from head injuries.

However, an anonymous drawing at the Islamic Museum, in Tripoli shows Darghut dying from abdomen wounds, as in the narrative by 18th century Arab historian Ibn Ghalboun who contests that he died by friendly fire.

There is more than one version of Darghut's end and these details have been penned in a paper by Simon Mercieca and Frans Cassar about the end of Darghut at the siege as recounted by Ghalboun.

"It was never clear whether Darghut was killed by friendly fire, as claimed by the siege witness Francesco Balbi di Correggio, or by enemy action," they say.

Balbi and the 16th century historian Giacomo Bosio share the same view of the cause. Darghut died from internal haemorrhage after being hit by a splinter from a cannon ball hitting the rocks close to where he was.

However, while Balbi claims the splinter was caused by a low cannon shot fired by Darghut's forces on his orders, Bosio said the shot came from Fort St Angelo. Still, in a third narrative by Terence Duggan, from Antalya University, which will be published in the second volume of the papers, Darghut was actually injured when a cannon, which had just been repaired, exploded

Malta's Got One More Week Of Heatwave 'Lucifer', But Hope Is Round The Corner



Santa Marija is back to save the day one more time

David Grech Urpani

A 'killer heatwave' very aptly named Lucifer is currently raging across Europe, with wildfires blazing in Italy and Greece and nearly 10 people already dying of the heat. Back in Malta, the temperature has been flirting with 40°C for a week now, with last weekend seeing some of the hottest temperatures of 2017.

Well, this week isn't really going to be any different. Except it's actually going to feel *hotter*.

Temperatures which feel like 43°C will haunt Malta all throughout this week, with today kicking off at an apparent temperature of 44°C. Yes, forty-friggin-four. Again, the wind won't be going higher than Force 3, so it's going to be hot *and* stuffy for most of the coming days. The lowest temperatures will be in the upper 20s, so you can't even find solace in the nights.

And if you were planning on heading to the beach to solve your heat woes, you're probably not going to get that chilly sea feel you're thinking of, especially considering the sea temperature actually went over 30°C last weekend.



Oh and seeing as humidity is all we talk about in Malta, here's a quick update for all of you going on about "il-problema aħna dik l-umdità' hux!". There are certain parts of the island where the relative humidity is currently 100%. Hope does lie on the horizon, though, and it's all coming this weekend. The temperature on

Saturday and Sunday will drop down to 31°C, which is nearly a whole 10°C fresher than what the islands are currently going through.

It's set to be even cooler at night, with lows of 23°C on Sunday (read: positively chilly). The Northern winds will also go up to Forces 4 and 5, and while the UV index is still going to way up there with 10s across the board, the whole thing will actually be bearable. Props to Santa Marija coming to save the day yet again!



Operation Pedestal Silver foil stamp replica and commemorative coin set

A silver foil stamp replica and a commemorative coin are being launched by MaltaPost and the Central Bank of Malta, to mark the 75th anniversary of 'Operation Pedestal.'

The silver foil stamp replica depicts the €3.00 postage stamp from the stamp issue – 75th Anniversary 'Operation Pedestal' 1942 – 2017 in full colour.

The stamp shows the Siege Bell War Memorial located near the Lower Barrakka Gardens, in Valletta. The memorial was designed by sculptor Michael Sandle and commemorates all those who lost their lives throughout the siege of Malta between 1940 and 1943.

The tanker 'Ohio' and a Royal Navy destroyer in the background, are depicted on the silver coin and has a diameter of 38.61mm and a face value of €10.00.

The silver foil stamp replica and the commemorative coin are housed in a presentation case together with a certificate of authenticity. The silver foil stamp replica and the coin are also available separately.

This set will be available as from this coming Thursday, the 10th of August, from any Post Office, online at www.maltaphilately.com or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost 305, Qormi Road, Marsa, MTP 1001; Telephone: 2596 1740; email: info@maltaphilately.com.

Orders are accepted subject to availability and on a first come, first served basis



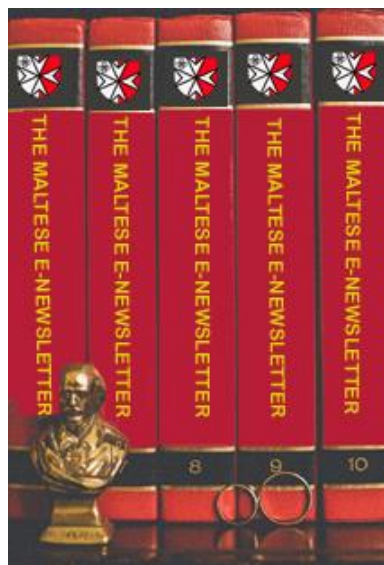
AUSTRALIA DAY 1974 - FALL OUT

A young air-force man is overcome by the heat.

The temperature was well over 33 degrees. At attention in full blue serge uniform it was too much. But what an unfortunate time, for a fall. Right in front of the dais and just as the Governor Sir Rohan Delacombe approached on his inspection of the guard of honor. He fell a comrade beside him without breaking ranks caught his rifle.

It happened during the Australia Day raising of the flag ceremony.

Published in THE AGE 26 January 1974



*Our newsletter is read and enjoyed by
Maltese throughout the world.
It's a journal for all the family,
young and not-so-young
We would like to thank all our contributors
who constantly send us emails, photos,
pictures and articles for publication.
This bilingual magazine is written mainly in
English in order to reach our younger
generation and the non-Maltese readers.*