

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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WELCOME THE NEW YEAR 2018

*We wish all our readers
health, peace and happiness*



NEW YEAR'S EVE AT VALLETTA WATERFRONT - MALTA

Time to Celebrate the New Year!

End the year with a bang and join in the New Year 2018 celebrations: entertainment for old and young will be provided with live bands and roaming children's animation. At the stroke of midnight, there will be an aerial fireworks display coupled with confetti on the Valletta Waterfront promenade, overlooking the historic port and fortifications.



Message for Maltese Diaspora, 2017

Exclusively to the Maltese eNewsletter

By Her Excellency Marie Louise Coleiro Preca President of Malta

It is my pleasure to extend these Christmas greetings, to the Maltese communities across the world.

No matter how far you may be from the Maltese Islands, our diaspora is united by the strength of our shared identity, as one people of the Mediterranean. Malta has always been a melting pot of cultures, and this has given us our unique cultural and historical heritage.

Let me therefore begin by appealing to our children and young people, to keep celebrating the beauty and strength of our Maltese diversity. Often, it is our diversity which is the most powerful source of innovation, transformation, and growth.

Wherever the Maltese live, our diversity has enriched the communities and societies with which we have come into contact. In fact, from my experiences abroad meeting with the Maltese, I have always been so proud of them because of their achievements and successes, and the positive visibility that they give to our islands.

I can confidently say that our Maltese diaspora has always been recognised as bringing a unique contribution, in terms of their hardworking approach and sense of commitment to contribute to their countries of adoption.

Let me therefore encourage you, to continue to strive for a spirit of respect across all the groups, in the societies of which you are part, by sharing a message of ethical integrity in all your walks of life.

Let me encourage you also to ensure that the people of Malta, and their descendants, are known by all, for our sense of democratic participation and active citizenship. I believe that all Maltese, no matter who we are or where we live, should be committed to work together, to strengthen a culture of inclusion and peace.

Above all, we, as Maltese, must continue to be committed to the fundamental dignity of the individual, by upholding universal human rights and fundamental freedoms, which safeguard the dignity of all. I consider resilience as a truly Maltese value; it has made us, as a people, and will continue to make us a people who are strong in the face of challenges and uncertainty.

Resilience and courage in the face of adversity are needed now, more than ever, as the world undergoes unprecedented changes. Hence, as a Maltese people, we have a lot to contribute towards create a more peaceful world.

I believe we, as a people, must keep standing up against extremism, small-minded populism, and egoism, with a message of inclusion. Let's make this Christmas season a celebration of hope, and of the powerful values which we all hold together. On concluding, I hope that this Christmas season will be a time of wellbeing, of solidarity, and of peace, for your families and communities.

Wherever we are in the world, let all the people of Malta and Gozo be united during this special time. On behalf of my family and myself, I wish you all a joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS

ROME — Pope Francis used his annual Christmas Day address on Monday to make clear his concern that serenity is sorely lacking at a time when the “winds of war” and an “outdated model of development” are taking a toll on humanity, society and the environment. Addressing a crowd from a balcony at St. Peter's Square in Vatican City, the pope delivered his Urbi et Orbi — Latin for “to the city and the world” —

benediction, which read like a litany of global conflicts and problems. But it was also an opportunity to pray for a positive turn of events, for a resuscitation of a two-state solution in the Middle East to the healing of war-torn Syria and Ukraine, for the easing of tensions on the Korean Peninsula to a return to dialogue in Venezuela. In recent days, the pope said on Twitter that a true celebration of Christmas would free the holiday from consumerism and the “worldliness that has taken it hostage!”



Message from H.E. Peter Paul Portelli Grand Master of the Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul

Today we are celebrating the nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The nativity of Baby Jesus "Christmas".

For many people, Christmas brings with it joy for young and old, all over the world. Decorations in the home, the shops and the streets, carol singing, presents, family gatherings and the Christmas Mass, makes it the best celebration of the year.

For us the knights of St. Peter & St. Paul, Christmas should be a time to visit the sick and the lonely, a time to give a smile and a hug to those who are suffering in silence.

Christmas time is also a sad time for people who mourn a love one who passed away during the year. We remember them in our prayers.

Knighthood is not about titles and dress ups, we all have a commitment to do our part to visit people at an old age homes or in hospitals. Most importantly we all have a commitment to the Confraternity to keep in contact with the local prior and the Supreme Council through the Grand Master.

On behalf of my wife Dame Mary Portelli and the Supreme Council, I wish you all a very Merry and Holy Christmas and a Happy and blessed New Year 2018. God willing we meet again in Malta and Portugal in June, 2019. May the Lord baby Jesus bless us all

Fr. Anthony Scerri O.Carm (NSW AUSTRALIA)

Born in Minia (Egypt) on 1 January 1931. In 1951, after going to Australia, he entered the Carmelite Order and was ordained priest in 1958. He graduated at the University of Melbourne. His early pastoral life was dedicated to the Maltese migrants in Sydney and to education. During the 70's he went to Indonesia where he lived and worked in North Sumatra. In the meantime he completed several studies in France, the United States of America and England. Before he assumed the office of General Councillor for the first time in 1995 he was the Vice Rector of a Catholic University in Medan, Indonesia.



Thank you for your Christmas greetings, and, in general, for sending me the Maltese Journal. I enjoy reading most of the articles, and I am in amazement at the amount of interesting material that you gather for each journal. I am also pleased to see that in good Maltese tradition, the journal unashamedly

assumes that Maltese are Catholic. God bless you, and may enjoy a holy and a happy Christmas in the silence of your heart. And a happy New Year. Anthony Scerri, O.Carm.

Wishing you and your family all the blessings and happiness of Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I take this opportunity to thank you for forwarding to me your Newsletter which provides a lot of interesting reading. It's so informative, very well set up and manages to keep all our dear emigrants fully abreast of what is actually happening in the Maltese islands. Well done and keep it up. Warm wishes from the island of Gozo. **Dolindo Cassar**

*Nixtiequ lilkom u
lill-familji taghkom
Milied Hieni u Qaddis
u Sena Ġdida mimlija
Sahha, Risq u Hena
— Paul u Salvina Vella
u l-familja*

*We wish you and all
your family
a Merry and Holy
Christmas
and a Happy,
Healthy and
Prosperous New Year
— Paul and Salvina Vella
and family*

**IL-BARKA TA GESU
TARBIJA TKUN MAGHKOM
MALTUL IS-SENA 2018.
Greg Caruana NSW**



I am sure these two photos will be of interest, one is Richard me, and volunteers Rose Cassar and Mani Mifsud and the other is with Christina Bartolo (Maltese-Canadian Youth Ambassador) and Rose Cassar. A **Happy and Holy Christmas to All, Richard Cumbo** – Maltese-Canadian Museum/Archives -Canada

G'Day Frank, Thank you for your wonderful Maltese Australian Electronic Newsletter. I do forward it to at least twenty persons in Malta, USA, Scotland, UK and Australia. All those to whom I do forward it to do look forward to it and do wish to extend their thanks to you with me. I do wish you, your family and your staff a very Happy Christmas and New Year 2018. **Regards Daniel Mallia Greystanes NSW**

*l-Arkivista Nazzjonali u l-Haddiema tal-Arkiivi Nazzjonali
jawnuralkom Milied Hieni u Sena 2018 Mimlija Risq*

*The National Archivist and Staff of the National Archives of Malta
Wish you a Happy Christmas and the best for the New Year 2018*



*Crib at the National Archives of Malta constructed by ex-employee Marisa Calleja
Photo: Daniel Cilia*

Lilek u lill-gheziez tieghek,
nawguraw minn qalbna l-
isbah xewqat ghal Milied
hieni u sena g'dida mimlija
sahha u gid.

Mary and Paul P Borg

I hope you continue to
send us the Maltese
eNewsletter. I must say
we are addicted to it and
wait anxiously to receive it
and read it from cover to
cover. P. Bonello

May all the happiest things
in life be yours the whole
year through. May your
home be filled with the
special warmth and
happiness
that only Christmas can
bring. God bless you and
yours, and may the coming
year be full of what you want
Health, Wealth and
Happiness
And Peace of course.
*Much love and good
wishes from*
**HARRY - MARY BUGEJA
& FAMILY**



TIME TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR 2018!

End the year with a bang and join in the New Year 2018 celebrations: entertainment for old and young will be provided with live bands and roaming children's animation. At the stroke of midnight, there will be an aerial fireworks display coupled with confetti on the Valletta Waterfront promenade, overlooking the historic port and fortifications.

TIME TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR

The Republic of Malta, celebrates its New Year on the date of January 1, following the Georgian calendar system.

A day before, i.e. on December 31, which is popularly

called as New Years Eve all over the world, is the day of major celebrations all over Malta. New Year's Eve is an important time in the lives of the natives of Malta, as it brings in enormous amount of happiness and celebration time. The celebrations in Malta are high on spirit and energy, which justify the title of the 'the wildest party destination in the entire European continent' as conferred to Malta.

Celebrations on New Year's Eve in Malta - On New Year's Eve in Malta, people in huge numbers make a visit to city restaurants, clubs, and pubs to be a part of the community celebrations. Most of these restaurants and party clubs start aggressively promoting and advertising their places and the parties scheduled to happen on New Year's Eve, well before the arrival of New Year's Eve. Also, they ensure to pull as much crowd as possible to cash in the celebration time, by offering luring packages, and by putting special arrangements of celebrations in place.

With feasting and drinking being an internal part of celebration tradition in Malta, every public party place ensures to have the best menu on the platter for the evening, well accompanied by finest champagne and wine. During the time of New Year's Eve, one gets to see the best of Maltese cooking, which is an amalgamation of the original cooking of the inhabitants of Malta, and those who come out of other place to get settled in Malta. Many of the Maltese dishes are Sicilian or Moorish in origin, and their consumption during significant times such as on New Year's Eve, reflect the influence Malta has gained over the years from foreign territories.

Many people have their own house parties, which are by no means less entertaining and pleasurable than the community parties. Good music, fine dining, and the companionship of near and dear ones make it a warm and special place to be in on the very special day of New Year's Eve. Those looking to have a comparatively soothe celebrations head over to the beautiful beaches to spend some quality time with close friends and family on New Year's Eve. However, irrespective of the nature of celebrations, New Year's Eve on an overall aspect remains a family oriented affair in Malta.

Countdown culture and Fireworks on New Year's Eve in Malta - The countdown culture is not that old, and for the fact officially occurred for the first time in 2010 only. It was for the first time in the long history of Malta to have any such nature of celebration, and it was usual for people to be over-excited. Expect the same to occur at St. George's Square of Valletta. With the significant point of midnight drawing close, being a part of thousands on the streets, and counting down the last few moments in concord is simply an unforgettable and extraordinary feeling. It is well accompanied by the spectacular fireworks show which is set off at the stroke of midnight to give a royal welcome to New Year, and to mark arrival of New Year with style. However, the fireworks show is not as spectacular or extraordinary to hold a special mentioning. While keeping in consideration of the fact that Malta hosts International Fireworks Festival, one does expect something unusual that Malta hosts International Fireworks Festival, one does expect something unusual and unique, which usually doesn't come out on New Year's Eve.

Congratulations Lora and Carmenu Baldacchino on reaching the magnificent milestone of 65 years of marriage on 27 December, 2017! Lora and Carmenu were married at St Patrick's Church in Adelaide on 27 December, 1952. Love and Best Wishes from your children Rosemary, Jim, Virginia, David and Vincent and all their families.



The Editor and all the members of the Maltese Community in South Australia wish
Lora and Carmenu Baldacchino "AD MULTOS ANNOS" – TO MANY YEARS

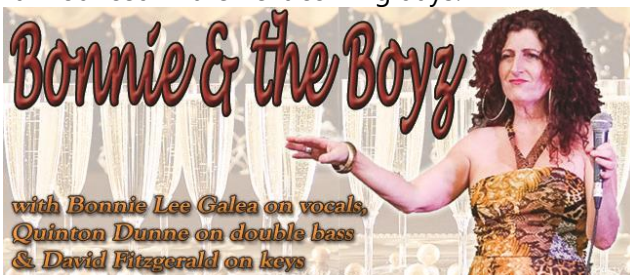


THE VALLETTA NATIONAL 2017 NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS ARE BACK

The event aims to bring the magic and festive atmosphere throughout most of our capital city in this magical night.

The Celebrations are being organised by the **Valletta 2018 - European Capital of Culture Foundation** in collaboration with **G7 events** and supported by the Ministry for Tourism, the Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government and the Valletta

Local Council. St. Georges Square once again will host the main stage and will see the very best of Malta's top local artists and band. This year we will also be having some international artists which will soon be announced in the next coming days.



Thank You for all your support of LIVE MUSIC throughout the year !

HAVE A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR!

from Bonnie Lee Galea & her Boyz

<http://bonnieleegalea.com>

SEASON'S GREETING SENT BY

Peter Barbara, Victor Caruana, Ron and Josephine, Cassar, Emanuel and Hilda Psaila, Charles Scicluna, Percy Cartwright, Giovanna and Edward Borg-Manche, Sr. Teresa Buttigieg, John and Simone Bianco, Doris and John Mangion, Charles Micallef, Bezzina family, Daw family, MSSP Fathers, Carmel Galea, James Vella Bardon, Tony and Elizabeth Scerri, Rosalie Rivett, Nancy Borg Serg, Rose and Paul Spiteri, Agostino Bianco and S. Camilleri, Paul and Phyllis Mifsud, Carmen and Joseph Jones, Imelda Bianco, Ray Scicluna, Ray Xerri.





Restored Triton fountain reveals its glory

In the run up towards Valletta 2018, the restored fountain is now surrounded by a paved expanse that will be occupied by people and not buses

Workers dismantled the hoarding around Triton Fountain on Friday, revealing the restored fountain just in time for Christmas. The new approach to Valletta's entrance features a paved square with trees around it. Where buses once parked, people will now walk and the

crowning piece is the fully-restored Triton fountain that was never officially inaugurated by any government minister since its inception in the late 1950s. In the run up to Valletta 2018, the bronze statues and the plate that form part of the fountain were taken to Florence for restoration. The restoration works cost €4 million. They formed part of the bigger project to pedestrians the whole area outside City Gate, which is expected to be ready by the end of the year.

Maltese Traditions That Went Viral David Grech Urpani

Our Love of Fireworks - Remember when, last summer, the feast of Żurrieq (a village with a population of just over 11,000 people) broke the world record for the biggest single firework ball, making the whole sky look like that one scene from The Lord of the Rings? Well apparently so does the internet! The GIF version of the video that went viral in Malta hit the likes of Reddit and Facebook, and now the world is torn between thinking it's fake and wanting to come and experience our weekly summer firework extravaganzas in person!



Our Potato-Blood - When a starchy vegetable is one your biggest exports and manages to get half a million views on YouTube, you can't really shy away from saying it's part of your tradition. It's so much part of our tradition, that some of us have it right in their blood. The 2013 video went so viral, that it now has its own Know Your Meme database entry! We made it guys; now, everyone knows that an integral part of Malta's culture is patate.



Our Habit of Shooting Down Birds - You can't expect to open your doors to the digital age and not build a bad reputation on certain things you label as tradition. The 2015 Spring Hunting Referendum was a months-long crusade that quickly (and inevitably) turned political and left most of us bruised and disenchanted. With the (eventually victorious) portion of the population constantly claiming that hunting is an integral part of Maltese culture, this local tradition was quick to get on a lot of countries' radars...most of the time, however, for all the wrong reasons.

Places where our eNewsletter is read. We thank all our loyal readers
Argentina, New Zealand, United Kingdom, USA, Canada, Brazil, Peru Bolivia, European Union, Australia, Malta, Gozo, South Africa, Middle East, South Africa, Philippnes, Cuba, Albania



Pastizzi, The Cornerstone of Our Country - The first, second and third thing on a person's mind when you ask them about traditional Maltese food. The tiny pastries have made it to food blogs worldwide, and are slowly penetrating international communities. There's a very big chance that pastizzi will be the only Maltese tradition a tourist will know about before coming to our country, and we want to make sure that it stays that way.



Our Dedication to 80s Box Office Flops - For most people around the world, Popeye was a 1980s box office flop that saw one of Robin Williams' least successful (albeit still hilarious) character portrayals. For Malta, it's that time we built an entire village for a film set and kept it there as a mini theme park turned party venue. And as the years go by, everyone's taking notice of this sheer dedication to big names over good ratings, with Popeye Village actually making it to Reddit as a curiosity.



Our Sheer Determination in the Face of Impossible Challenges (aka Gostra) - Perhaps one of the very first Maltese forays into the viral world is this amazing photo of the traditional gostra in St. Julian's. Strangely enough, it also feels like the most adequate part of Maltese tradition to go viral, seeing as this particular tradition (and most importantly this picture) says much more than a thousand words about the country it's from. The photo has not only been featured on Reddit and other social media multiple times.

It's been 70 years since Maltese women were given the right to vote

The term 'Universal suffrage' refers to voting rights for all adults in political elections. In Malta this right came, after heated debates, with the MacMichael Constitution of 1947. This election extended the electorate by over 70,000 voters and opened the way for political rights for all. For the first time in history, Maltese women earned the right to participate in the political life of the island. The case of women's enfranchisement in Malta is an illustration of a struggle that became intertwined with the efforts to achieve sovereignty and the subsequent social, political and economic advancement of the nation. It was an effort that gathered momentum under colonial-rule and continued in the post-colonial years.



The Central Bank's tribute to the 70th anniversary of universal suffrage is a symbolic yet compelling appreciation of women's formal and informal contributions to Malta's development. Very often the trajectory of women's emancipation is omitted from the prevailing narratives that reinforce our sense of nationhood. This commemoration attempts to redress the prevalent collective amnesia about women's place in history.

In 1947 there was no stampede of female candidates to contest the election' in fact there were only two. One was Hélène Buhagiar who contested with the Democratic Action Party. Buhagiar was one of the women who fought for female suffrage in the National Assembly that drafted the Constitution. She came from a privileged background and was among the educated women who felt entitled to the vote because they already enjoyed a degree of status. Together with Josephine Burns de Bono she represented the Women of Malta Association. Agatha

Barbara was then a 24 year old teacher, raised in a big family from solid working-class roots in Zabbar. She was worlds apart from the elite circle of women that formed the Association. In 1947 she became the first female parliamentarian because she inspired working-class voters from the inner harbour area. She broke many stereotypes and the path must have not been easy. Politics came at a great personal cost. She later became the first female cabinet minister (1950) and first woman President of the Republic (1982). In 1947 she served as an inspiration to female first-time voters who constituted a numeric majority. Her party, Labour, obtained 59.9% of the votes, its biggest electoral victory ever.



EMMA MUSCAT

Tfajla Maltija tirbañ sfida u tisaq il-qlub fuq programm Taljan Intella' Diċembru 16, 2017 - Aggornata 16 Ta' Diċembru, 2017 1:14pm **Filmat:** YouTube

Kantanta Maltija se tiehu sehem fil-programm televiżiv tant popolari Amici li jixxandar fuq l-istazzjon Taljan Canale 5. Emma Muscat kienet qed tiffida lil Audjah b'wirja li ħalliet lill-membri tal-ġurija impressjonati bil-vuċi tagħha. Bil-kalma, iddoqq fuq il-pjanu, u tkanta b'vuċi soda, Emma Muscat irċeviet applawż kbir mill-udjenza malli temmet l-interpretazzjoni tal-kanzunetta ta' waħda mill-idoli tagħha Alicia Keys. Emma ntlagħhet tajjeb mill-partecipanti l-oħra tal-programm, fejn deher li diġà serqet xi qlub minn fost il-ġuvintur. Waħda mill-partecipanti fil-fatt tirrimarka kif kulhadd kien mitluf fuq Emma: "Sono tutti innamorati di Emma!"

Il-mużika hija l-passjoni ta' Emma

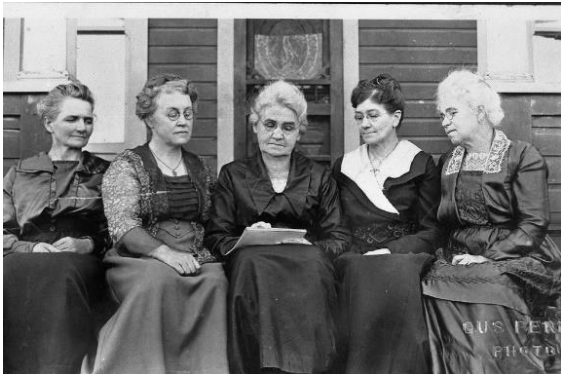
Il-programm wasal fis-17-il edizzjoni tiegħu u bħalissa jkun għaddejjin ix-xandiriet tal-casting li se jiffurmaw il-grupp ta' żgħażaġh li se jkollhom ir-rifletturi kollha fuqhom tul din l-avventura fil-programm ipprezentat minn Maria de Filippi.

Emma, li għandha 18-il sena, bdiet tkanta mindu kienet żgħira ħafna. Hija studjat il-Performing Arts u thobb tikkomponi l-kanzunetti tagħha stess. Il-mużika hija l-passjoni tagħha u tixtieq li tagħmel karriera minnha tant li tohlom li ssir popstar.

Petticoat government: Yoncalla's all-woman city council elected in 1920 may have been a national first

The all-woman city council of Yoncalla, elected in 1920, made headlines around the world.

YONCALLA — In 1920, the small town of Yoncalla made the national news when it elected what may have been the first all-woman city council in America.



This turn of events was termed a "sex uprising" and the new rule of a "petticoat government" by newspapers from Portland to New York. The Oregon Daily Journal speculated the men had decided the women should run, while other newspapers suggested the women had campaigned in secret.

The Literary Digest, the Newsweek of its day, went with the secrecy claim. It quipped the women's surprise election proved "the falsity of that moss-grown libel that a woman cannot keep a secret."

Yoncalla author Shannon Applegate believes the five women entered public service for the reason women often have since. Because they saw something that was wrong and they were motivated to fix it. Applegate told an audience of about 40 Tuesday at the Douglas County Library in Roseburg that the women believed the male council hadn't been doing its job.

The board sidewalks along the town's main street were rotted and dangerous to walk on, the outhouses were in unsanitary locations, and the lighting downtown was poor. These issues — along with the problem of cars driving too fast through town — were what motivated the women to step up.

Scenes of Malta's romantic past



ST. MARY'S BAY - COMINO



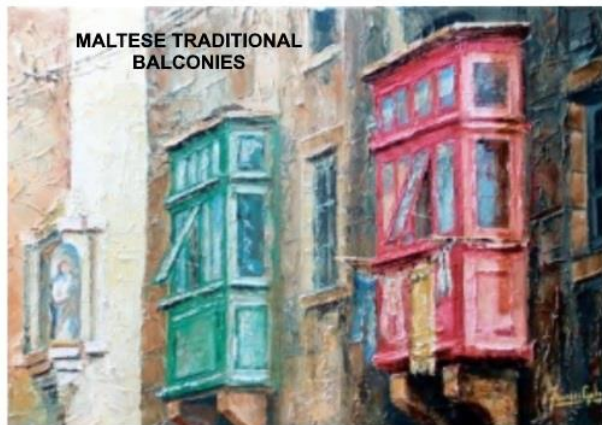
HOME SWEET HOME



XAROLLA WINDMILL



XLENDI TOWER



MALTESE TRADITIONAL
BALCONIES



MALTA'S TRADITIONAL BOAT
"LUZZU"

Palette knife artist Francis Galea seeks to capture the spirit of Malta's romantic past in his works but it is as if he is racing against time before these scenes disappear under modern mediocrity. And the foreboding, sinister skies and impasto technique convey this sense of a dangerous, imminent decay



OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE MALTESE BAND NSW Inc.



From humble beginnings...

Based in the Sydney's western suburbs, Our Lady Queen of Peace Maltese Band NSW Inc is the first Maltese concert band in Australia, and the only one in NSW.

After more than 40 years, the band continues to recognise the legacy of the late Maestro Joseph Darmanin and the late Fr Darmania who, with the first committee under the leadership of Eric Rizzo, realised the vision that a Maltese concert band would be established. The excellent work of our subsequent presidents and committees has enabled the continual development of our wonderful 'Banda'.

It had always been the wish of the Reverend Father Ronald Darmania, who was the Parish Priest of the Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish Church of Greystanes, to form a Concert Band in the Parish of Greystanes. He was always aware of the fact that a large number of Maltese musicians, who had played with prominent Bands in Malta, were living in the local parish.

With this in mind, he approached Maestro Joseph Darmanin, a local parishioner, and asked him whether he was interested in forming a Band, preferably comprising of Maltese musicians.

Mro Darmanin was delighted at this idea and, and, with the help of Father Darmania, called a meeting of musicians with a view of forming such a band. This meeting was attended by a number of musicians who all agreed in principle for the formation of the new Band.

Mro Darmanin organised the first Band practice night that was held at the Parish Hall on Wednesday 4th February 1976. On this first night, twelve players turned up but others promised that they would show up on later dates.

Those first members included:

Mro Joseph Darmanin - Eric Rizzo - Vince Attard - Joseph Azzopardi - Laurie Camilleri - Victor Darmanin - Louis Said - Emmanuel Borg - Joe Farrugia - Sam Zerafa and John Attard

Father Darmania thanked all those present and urged them to bring more musicians with them. It was a good start for the Band and both Father Darmania and Mro Darmanin were happy with the response. Mro Darmanin contacted many musicians, both Maltese and Australian, to join this new Maltese Band and Father Darmania issued a long write up in the church weekly bulletin asking the parishioners to co-operate with him in building the Band. There was quite a good response to both men and the practice nights that followed had many more people attend them than the first ones.

Father Darmania and Mro Darmanin were even happier seeing that the Band was increasing with each practice night. Many of the Bands members owned their own instruments but some had to borrow instruments to play. The first instrument owned by the Band was bought by the Parish and was a B Flat Tenor Saxophone purchased from Smits Music. This instrument was to be used by Louis Said.

Unfortunately, without any warning, Father Darmania fell ill and some weeks later was admitted to Lidcombe State Hospital for treatment of a very rare disease. In the middle of May 1976 his condition deteriorated and on the 14th June Father Darmania passed away. The Band suffered a great loss in the death of Father Darmania who had worked so hard to establish the Band.

The middle of June saw the Band take an important step forward. The first General Meeting was held on 23rd June 1976 with the intention of forming a Committee or at least to elect a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer to ensure the smooth running of the Band.

The following members formed the first committee for the Band: Mr Eric Rizzo (President), Mr Joe Darmanin (Secretary), Mr Emmanuel Borg (Treasurer).

Mr Frank Borg, of Toongabbie Catering, accepted the Bands members offer to become the Patron of the Band. Mr Borg promised to do his utmost to see this new Band go forward.

Another General Meeting was held on Wednesday 30th June immediately after Band practice with the intention of increasing the size of the Committee. The new members of the committee were: Mr Laurie

Camilleri (Vice President), Mr Vincent Attard (Assistant Secretary), Mr Joe Farrugia (Assistant Treasurer), Mr Joe Zerafa (Delegate), Mr Sam Zerafa (Delegate). These men, along with the three elected the previous week, became the first Committee of the Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish Band.

The Committee then decided to send letters to all Maltese organisations in New South Wales asking them for donations for the newly formed Band. Letters were also sent to some prominent people and the response was enormous.

The Band's first program, performed was held at Kellyville for the Feast of St Mary's on Sunday 15th August 1976. A selection of marches and waltzes was played and was received well.

The band appointed Mr Francis Ellul, an Euphonium player, as the Deputy Bandmaster on 27 August 1976. In 13th October 1976 the band took a huge step forward with the adoption of a constitution. This Constitution was unanimously adopted by the members and was later ratified by the Parish Priest, Reverend Father Brian Gallwey and the Curate Reverend Father Xiberras. The Constitution also made allowances for the inclusion of Associate Members to join the Band. The first two associate members were Mr Charles Abela and Mr Sam Vella.

During the remaining part of the year 1976 the Band performed for the Feast of Our Lady of Victories at Horsley Park and for the Feast of Our Lady of Victories at Greystanes. The Band was also invited to take part in the Maltese Carnival at Granville organised by the Maltese National Council of NSW.

The Band finished up the year with a Christmas Party organised for the Band members and their families which was held at the Sunset Hall, Pendle Hill in December 1976. The Hall was made available free of charge by the Patron of the Band, Mr Frank Borg. This party would become an annual event anticipated by many.

Committee 2016-17

- The Committee of Our Lady Queen of Peace Maltese Band NSW Inc is elected by the Band's Members at an Annual General Meeting in accordance with its Constitution.

President: Antoine Mangion - . Antoine plays the Tenor Saxophone.

Vice President: Chris Borg. Chris plays the Euphonium.

Secretary: Roderick Pirota - Roderick plays the Clarinet.

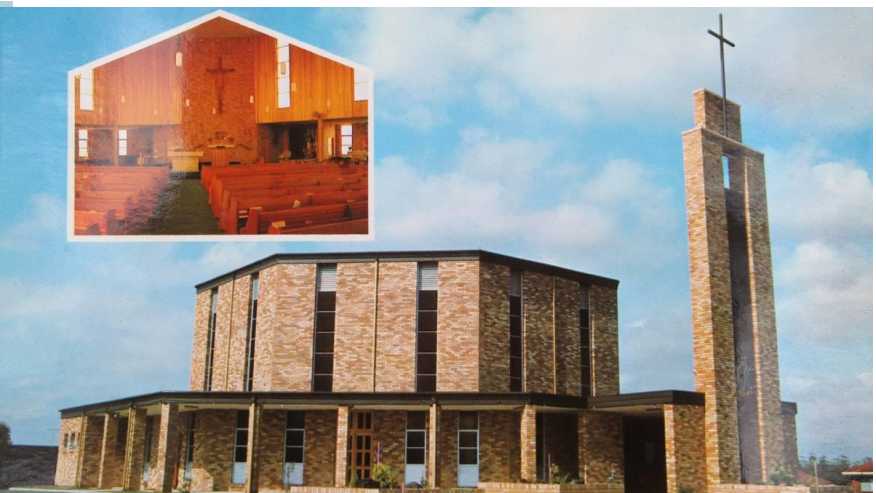
Treasurer: Robert Cutajar - Robert plays the Tenor, Alto and Baritone Saxophones.

Assistant Secretary: Jason Attard Jason plays Horn and Percussion.

Assistant Treasurer: Charles Cauchi Charles plays Percussion.

Committee Delegate: Thed Galea. Thed plays the Clarinet.

Committee Delegate: Sam Attard Sam is an Associate Member.



**Right – The statue of Our Lady Queen of Peace
And left - the parish church**

Malta Issued Stamps on 70 Years of Yalta Conference

Posted on [February 4, 2015](#) by [PhilaMirror](#)



The Yalta Conference was held in February 1945. The meeting brought together the heads of government of the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union represented by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Prime Minister

Winston Churchill and Premier Joseph Stalin respectively and was intended to discuss Europe's reorganisation following World War II. The agreement to hold the meeting on Soviet territory was met after numerous exchanges between the three heads of government, with many options being turned down by Stalin who insisted that his doctors opposed any long trips. He offered, instead, to meet at the Black Sea resort of Yalta, in Crimea.

Each leader had an agenda for the Yalta Conference; Roosevelt wanted Soviet support in the U.S war against Japan, as well as Soviet participation in the United Nations; Churchill pushed for free elections and democratic governments in Eastern and Central Europe while Stalin insisted for Soviet political influence in Eastern and Central Europe.

Roosevelt and Churchill agreed to meet in Malta for preliminary discussions, and as Churchill famously declared in his correspondences with the U.S President "No more let us falter! From Malta to Yalta! Let nobody alter!" voiced in the light of the many options put forward prior to the final decision being taken for the meeting to be held in Yalta.

The meetings in Malta, which began on January 30, were designed to coordinate American and British views on a number of issues that were expected to come up with Stalin at Yalta a few days later. Four of the meetings between Roosevelt and Churchill were held at Montgomery House in Floriana while the fifth one was held aboard the U.S.S. Quincy.

Initially the conclusions of the Yalta Conference were viewed positively, however this sentiment was short-lived since the agreements reached during the Conference were not kept. The Conference is therefore said to have foreshadowed the Cold War that followed as among other failings Stalin did not maintain his promise that free elections would be held in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria.

It is rumoured in some quarters that Malta was chosen as the location for the 1989 Malta Summit between the US President George H.W. Bush and U.S.S.R leader Mikhail Gorbachev, as a sequel to the 1945 Yalta Conference – with the end of the Cold War an important chapter in the history of the 20th century was concluded.

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Designer: Joseph Said

Dear Frank,

It has been a very fast year and just as it is coming to an end, on Behalf of the Executive & Committee I would like to Wish You and Your Family a



Merry Christmas

Christmas brings family and friends together;

It helps us appreciate the love in our lives we can often take for granted.

May the true meaning of Christmas fill your heart and home with many blessings.

May we also keep in our prayers those around this Troubled World that will not be as fortunate & blessed as we are during this time, those that are facing hunger and conflict who have lost everything

May 2018

Be full of Good Health, Everlasting Peace in our world and Success.

We truly are grateful for your continuing friendship and support throughout 2017 and look forward to your ongoing support for what should be an exciting 2018.

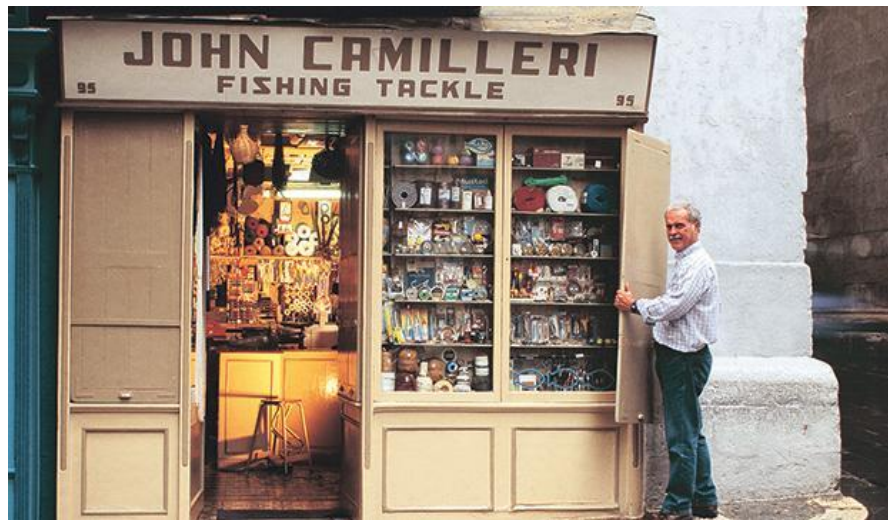
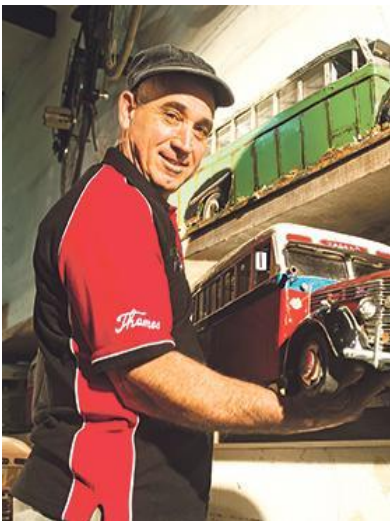
Thank You.

Sincerely yours Sam CJ Muscat JP President

Australian American Association (Vic)

We wish you and all the readers of the Maltese eNewsletter A bright New Year 2018. Charles Micallef NSW

Disappearing Malta – Crafts, Trades and Traditions 360° Times of Malta – Joanne Cocks



John Camilleri's fishing tackle shop in St John's Street, Valletta, has closed its doors, making way for a boutique hotel.

Second volume of book bringing to life fast-disappearing trades and crafts published

Weaving has been the Bugeja family's main livelihood for years.

John Lia was introduced to the world of buses by his father. Now he builds models after first drawing their design on cardboard.

Miranda Publishers have had more than 45 books printed over the last 30 years. However, none has given them as much pleasure and satisfaction as the two volumes of Disappearing Malta – Crafts, Trades and Traditions 360°.

Their second volume of the book bringing to life fast-disappearing trades and crafts has just hit bookshelves.

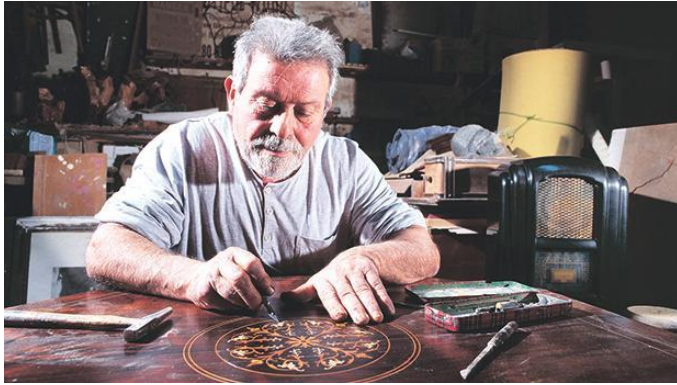
Eddie Aquilina, who with his brother, Tony, is the brains behind Disappearing Malta, said that while working on the book in recent months he realised that "we're really losing our identity". The authorities and government are not doing enough to safeguard such crafts.

"We should be doing more to help. They shouldn't be sidelined. We should come up with innovative ideas to help them get back on their feet," he said.

The book in fact features Philip Grixti in his fishing tackle shop in St John's Street, Valletta. Since the book went to print, the shop has closed its doors and will now make way for a boutique hotel.

While working on the book, the publisher realised 'we're really losing our identity'

Mr Aquilina said that the most frequent comment he came across during the book's production was that today's children do not want to get their hands dirty and suffer.



Paul Bonello has been working as a furniture restorer for over 50
www.mirandabooks.com

In fact some tradesmen find it very difficult to find willing apprentices ready to learn the trade or craft. Farmers Nenu, Grezzju and Fredu Buhagiar and Żaren Pulis till fields outside Żabbar.

Disappearing Malta, with interviews and text by Fiona Vella and photos by Enrico Formica, shines a spotlight on 25 different trades and crafts.

Featured in the volume are nuns who prepare Communion hosts, an ecclesiastical embroiderer, a pipe maker, father and son boat builders, a bus restorer and model maker, harvesters of sea salt, blacksmiths, a traditional tile maker, a cane worker, a modeller of wax figurines and a furniture restorer, among others.



Franciscan sisters of the Heart of Jesus preparing Holy Communion hosts at their convent in Msida.



The Cini family has been harvesting sea salt at Xwejni, Gozo, for nearly 50 years.



YOUTH EVENT | 15-16 March 2018

United in diversity: a younger future for European culture



European Economic and Social Committee

#YEYS2018 #EuropeForCulture



Your Europe, Your Say (YEYS) 2018!

Never think you are too young to share your opinion on the future of Europe. Join the most exciting and instructive field trip ever to Brussels, where you can exchange ideas with students from all over Europe!

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) is inviting you

to Brussels on 15-16 March 2018, to join a real-life debate under the theme "United in diversity: a younger future for European culture". In order to participate, you need to register your school via the [online registration form](#) before 24 November 2017.

After the registration has closed, one school from each of the 28 EU Member States will be picked at random, to take part in the simulation. The selected schools will then choose three students in their pre-final year of secondary education (16 -18 years old) to represent them, as well as an accompanying teacher. If you are one of these three lucky students you have to make sure you are able to express yourself in English. The EESC will cover your and your teacher's travel and accommodation expenses.

Customs and Traditions in Malta



With its roots firmly in folklore and religion, the Maltese Islands celebrate a long history of dependence entwined with modernisation.

Over the past half century, **MALTA the little Mediterranean island**, freshly self-determining after a long history of colonisation and dependence, achieved a great deal in the way of modernisation. Much of the progress was achieved at break-neck speed, including an advanced infrastructure, well-developed industries like financial services, IT, and others. While much of this may come as a surprise to first

time visitors, this transformation has not eliminated the core elements of Malta's cultural identity – its customs and traditions.

Largely rooted in rural folklore and religion, Maltese customs are still clearly visible in everyday life, most notably, the village festa. This celebration of the local village's patron saint started over five centuries ago, during the reign of the Knights of St. John, and till today, brings with it a colourful cacophony of Mediterranean boisterousness. Possibly the most well known is the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, or Mnarja. This highlight of the cultural calendar is celebrated in the wooded area of Buskett, and features animal and agricultural displays, traditionally cooked rabbit, and għana – a traditional type of Maltese music.

Traditional life starts early on in Malta. The vast majority of babies are still baptised into the Roman Catholic faith, and this celebration usually involves a not so intimate gathering with family, friends, and of course, food. Shortly after, usually on a child's first birthday, the Maltese practise a little-known tradition called the il-quċċija, which involves the child crawling towards a collection of objects while family and friends encourage the child to pick something. The tradition dictates that the selected object is representative of the child's future career. Objects typically include rosary beads, indicating an ecclesiastical calling, a hardboiled egg, symbolising prosperity, as well as more modern inclusions such as a calculator symbolising a career in finance.

Other religious sacraments are celebrated with the same gusto, including the First Holy Communion, which sees the child dressed in flamboyant, angel-like attire and is always followed by a party in the child's honour. This celebration is closely followed the sacrament of Confirmation, which has a similar celebratory style.

Weddings are a big affair in Malta. In fact, the Island has recently started including wedding tourism as part of its offering to visitors. However, the traditional Maltese wedding is still alive. Although there have been some modifications throughout the years, the core concepts are still practised: ceremonies are almost always held in a church while celebrations are held afterwards, usually in wedding halls or one of the Islands' many gardens. The bride and groom distribute small trinkets or presents as a sign of thanks and as a small memento for their guests. Food is a major part of the celebrations, and in particular, sweets. Maltese weddings almost always feature perlini – a candy coated almond sweet of Sicilian origin.



IL-PRIEDKA TAL-MILIED – CHRISTMAS SERMON

(Photo left) Agnes and Greg Caruana together with Noah Muscat, a third generation Maltese boy, who preached the Christmas sermon at midnight Mass in Sydney. Noah was trained by Mr. Caruana. Greg is a regular contributor to the

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER



CITRUS FESTIVAL AT THE PRESIDENT'S PALACE

Il-Festa ta' Ċitru is back once again on Sunday 14th January 2018. Join us at San Anton Palace

for a day of guaranteed family fun, whilst giving you the opportunity to taste and buy delicacies prepared by the Palace Chef, made from oranges and lemons, which grow in Malta's largest Citrus Garden situated at San Anton Palace. This event is being organised in aid of the Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation. Entrance is Free of Charge.

St Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral, Valletta, 1839-44, by William Scamp

Jacqueline Banerjee. *PhD, Associate Editor, the Victorian Web*



St Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral, West Street, Valletta, Malta. William Scamp (1801-1872). 1839-44. Maltese limestone. When Queen Adelaide (William IV's widow and Queen Victoria's aunt) arrived in Malta for the winter of 1838-9, she was "definitely not pleased" to find facilities for Protestant worship there so inadequate. This was largely because the British had been at pains not to offend the strongly Roman Catholic population. But when the dowager queen offered to pay for a church, the government relented and provided a site.

The project was entrusted to the then Superintendent of Public Works, and the foundation stone laid by Queen Adelaide herself in March 1839. The cathedral got off to a shaky start — quite literally. After some time, most of the structure had to be demolished. In 1841 work resumed under William Scamp, who had "redesigned the whole building" ("Malta Family History"). Thanks to his years on the Windsor Castle project, Scamp had plenty of experience in traditional styles; in this case he took his ideas mainly from St

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Martin-in-the-Fields in London, by James Gibbs, although "the detached tower" is an echo of Wren "with elements from the towers of St Mary le Bow and St Magnus Martyr, to which Scamp added a typically English spire with a peal of six bells" (Shortland-Jones 4). The church was dedicated to St Paul, whose three months in Malta, after being shipwrecked there in 60 AD, are recorded at the beginning of Acts 28 in the New Testament. A hand-board inside St Paul's explains that it is called a Pro-Cathedral because it comes within the Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe, which has Holy Trinity in Gibraltar as its principal Cathedral. St Paul's serves Southern and Western Europe, while another Pro-Cathedral, Holy Trinity in Brussels, serves Northern and Western Europe.



Queen Adelaide

Even with its elegant pillars and pilasters, this neo-classical church contrasts sharply with the highly ornate baroque churches found in large numbers throughout Malta. It is plainer, and also brighter and airier. As a living church, it has been repaired, reorganised, and redecorated over the years, with new interior fittings added, but (for example) the original coffering of the roof can be seen in the side aisles, the original organ case remains, and the font is the one presented in 1844 by John William Bowden, a Tractarian and close friend of Newman (though its canopy was a post-war addition). Church records show that the first infant to be baptised in the font was the daughter of Scamp and his wife Harriet, born in April 1844 and appropriately named Adelaide. Queen Adelaide's colourful banner can be seen hanging to the right of the choir stalls and organ.



FORT MALTA

A Secret Fort in Adelaide

by Dave Walsh (subscriber)

Moving Artillery Guns From Fort Largs to Fort Malta in 1942

South Australian defence - As early as 1878 the prosperous colony of South Australia was feeling the need to defend itself from invasion by European powers. By 1880 Fort Glanville had been established at Semaphore Park, and a few years later Fort Largs was established at Taperoo with

superior guns out-ranging those of Fort Glanville .

A South Australian naval steamer of 920 tons The Protector was commissioned in 1884, and at the time she was said to be the most powerfully armed vessel of her tonnage afloat. After Federation in 1901 our sole gunship was handed over to the Australian Navy and became HMAS Protector.

During World War 1 Fort Largs was actively used as a fort - protecting our coast, Outer Harbor and Port Adelaide with its vital industry. Many men enlisted there to fight in the war overseas, and for a period the fort was also used as an internment camp for aliens (people originating from a country we were at war with).

In World War 2 South Australia's remoteness from the conflict was a significant benefit, and it meant the state was the ideal location for manufacturing explosives, munitions and small arms at Salisbury, Finsbury and Hendon. But the increasing threat of air and sea attack by Japan caused military authorities to re-think the defence of Adelaide.

Fort Malta is born - Fort Largs had been clearly marked on maps for sixty years, and it was felt to be very vulnerable. If the fort was disabled then the coast and Port Adelaide was largely defenceless. And so it was that Fort Malta was conceived, to be located in sand hills about 600 metres north of Fort Largs

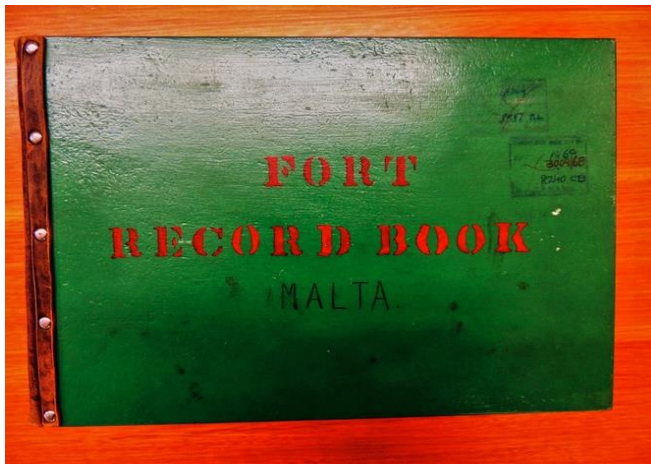


(where Ocean View High School is located today). At the time Fort Malta was described as being 1.5 miles from the Largs Bay railway station, and 2.5 miles from Outer Harbor.

Moving the Artillery Guns Through the Sand Hills to Fort Malta in 1942

The six inch artillery guns from Fort Largs were transferred to Fort Malta, and camouflage was used to disguise the change at Fort Largs. The guns were able to cover the sea in front of Fort Malta, the Semaphore and Largs Bay piers, and the wharves and breakwater at Outer Harbor. The guns were also able to be fired landwards towards Torrens

Island, although the view was blocked by the ICI Works, Gas Works and Adelaide Electric Supply Company. Fort Malta became Adelaide's official Examination Battery - any ship approaching Port Adelaide needed to be cleared by staff at the fort.



The Official Fort Largs Record Book

Manning Fort Malta - The normal complement manning the artillery was 20 men and 16 women, headed up by a major, captain, and two lieutenants. They were supported by fourteen Signals Corps staff and ten trades and technical staff.

Role of the fort - Outer Harbor was the assembly point for local convoys of ships, and also a safe harbour that needed to be protected. The LeFevre Peninsula contained significant industry including the electricity and gas supplies for all the population in Adelaide, and was also critical to keep operational.

The main threats that Fort Malta needed to defend against were Japanese navy ships including submarines and destroyers, while attacks by seaborne aircraft using bombs or gas were also seen as possible. Concrete pillboxes with corrugated iron reinforcing and trenches were built at strategic locations on the beach near Fort Malta, while sentries patrolled and asked for a password when challenging strangers. Comprehensive procedures were put in place to instruct defenders on how to proceed in different situations - a gas attack, an air raid, a commando attack or a spray attack. Ships entering the Gulf of St Vincent were required to notify when they planned to be in the vicinity, as they often travelled at high speed to avoid enemy submarines. Failure to be recognised could result in being fired upon.

The Fort Malta Record Book contains detailed information about the armament, stores and ammunition required. The accommodation requirements don't seem to reflect the staffing of the fort, referring to eleven huts accommodating 22 personnel each. It seems likely that the support and guard soldier complement may not have been fully described in this record book.

Nearly seventy years later, we may never learn much more about Fort Malta. Its presence was never mentioned in newspaper reports of the time in Adelaide, and the fort appears to have been dismantled soon after the end of the war. The only known photographs of the fort show the guns being moved, and an aerial reconnaissance shot at 4000 feet on a cloudy day. Perhaps Fort Malta is destined to remain another of Adelaide's hidden secrets. (Suggested by Ron Borg – Adelaide)

*Peaceful and Blessed Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New
Year 2018*

With best regards Bernard London Scerri UK

‘Nothing stops us from being creative’ - Joseph Lia



Now that one of Malta's youngest musical showcases has drawn the last curtain on its latest edition, Teodor Reljic speaks to Artistic Director Joseph Lia about the past, present and future of the Malta International Organ Festival, whose fourth edition was capped off with a Grand Finale concert at St Augustine's Parish Church in Valletta on December 7.



Now that it's over, how do you feel about the fourth edition of the Malta International Organ Festival? Did it live up to your expectations, and how do you feel it builds up on what you achieved in the previous year? - Every year we try to improve in terms of quality and program content, to give the audience something to look forward to. From the casual feedback we had from the audience, it seems this was the best year ever. This shows that we are

improving and building up on what we already did. We learn from experience. We are very limited in terms

Joseph Lia (inset). The fourth edition of the Malta International Organ Festival took place from November 21 to December 7, across various venues in both Malta and Gozo

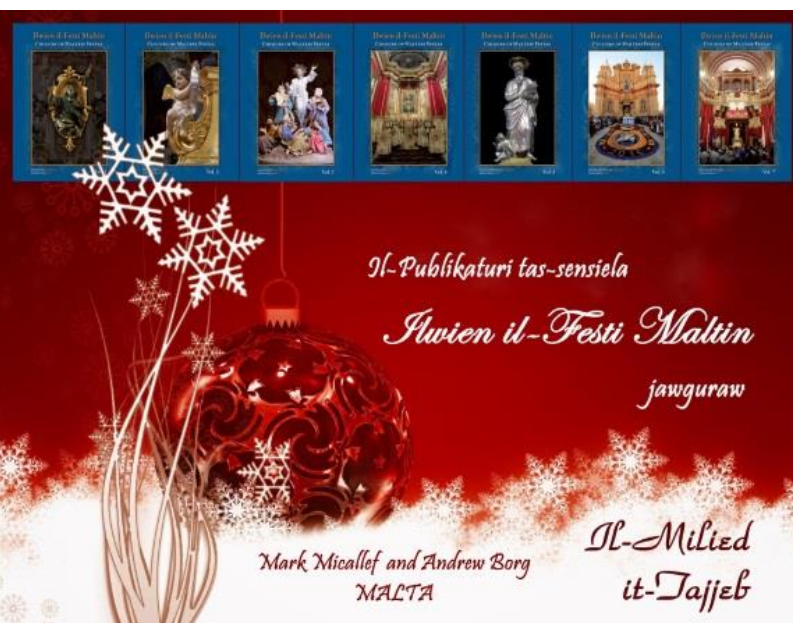
of financial possibilities when compared to other festivals, but when it comes to ideas, nothing stops us from being creative.

"For our paying concerts, the audience consisted mostly of tourists and expats, while the

larger percentage of audiences in towns and villages were Maltese"

What kind of audience have the events been attracting, and has this changed in any way over the last year? - This year we tried to reach new audiences, as we try to do each year. We analysed the results of the Cultural Participation Survey, along with the results of our own survey and devised a strategy to attract new audiences. We included new art forms that attracted different audiences, such as combining silent film with organ improvisations and venturing into new venues which are unorthodox to organ music, like Strait Street in Valletta.

Enthusiasm in local communities naturally translates into pride of our local heritage. What also inspires pride is the knowledge that international artists will play in our communities, where all artefacts – and so, the organ too – were crowdfunded by the locals. For our paying concerts, the audience consisted mostly of tourists and expats, while the larger percentage of audiences in towns and villages were Maltese.



Undoubtedly Maltese festas have evolved into an important element of Malta's identity. Regardless of their creed, tourists visiting Malta are always struck by these multi-faceted rituals, as hardly anywhere else in the world would they have encountered such manifestations. This book celebrates the splendour of Maltese festas, by presenting the reader with an unfolding photographic representation that probes all aspects of the Maltese festa as popularly celebrated across the Maltese islands. This impressive collection of snapshots is the work of an accomplished photographer and festa enthusiast. These two characteristics have ensured a professional choice of focus in catching the best elements for portrayal. Mark Micallef's photographic eye, with its penchant for sharp detail, is indeed truly appreciative of the fascinating details behind

the Maltese festa. **Mark Micallef and Andrew Borg**



The Maltese Canadian Club of London

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e-mail: maltaclub@rogers.com

Our present club is London's third Maltese Canadian club. The first was formed in 1948 as The Maltese Association of London and probably lasted only a year or so. The second was established in 1954 as the Maltese Canadian Club London - Ontario and continued until about the end of 1960. The Maltese Canadian Club of London, a non-profit organization, was founded on March 27, 1977. Its aim is to promote the Maltese Culture; to bring news from the mother country; to organize social events; to perpetuate the Maltese language and literature; and to identify with the Maltese heritage and roots. One of the ways of promoting these aims is through our newsletter. It was first published in June 1980 and presently puts out six issues a year. Another way of achieving our goals is through our hall which was officially opened on April 9, 1988. Throughout the year the Club holds a number of public functions such as the Good Friday Ravioli Dinner, Anniversary Dinner/Dance, Bocci Tournament, Members' Family Picnic, Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Victoria Park Cenotaph, Food Drive for the London Food Bank, Christmas Dinner/Dance and New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance. In addition, the coffee house/upper room is currently open to members and their friends on Sunday evenings between 5:00 and 10:00 p.m. Our official club logo, depicting our Maltese

and Canadian heritage, was approved in November 2011. Our club and hall are both inviting and welcoming. At present, we have a membership of 155, including several individuals who are of other than Maltese birth or blood.

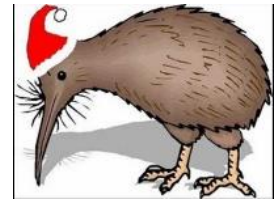
LATROBE VALLEY
MALTESE FESTA
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH 2018
10AM UNTIL 4PM KERNOT HALL MORWELL
FUN * FOOD * FRIENDSHIP
GREAT ENTERTAINMENT - TRADITIONAL MALTESE FOOD
HEAPS OF FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

I Wish in New Year
God gives You...
12 Month of Happiness,
52 Weeks of Fun,
365 Days Success,
8760 Hours Good Health,
52600 Minutes Good Luck,
3153600 Seconds of Joy...
and that's all!

The Editor

A Kiwi Christmas in New Zealand

In the Maori language Happy/Merry Christmas is '**Meri Kirihimete**'. Following is a bit about how Christmas and Boxing Day are celebrated in New Zealand...



New Zealand is in the southern hemisphere, so the holidays are in Summer in New Zealand. While much of the world is singing about a "White Christmas," New Zealanders are celebrating Christmas in the warm summer sun. Many flowers and trees are in bloom at this time of the year, for example the Pohutukawa, which is a tree that grows mainly in coastal areas on the North Island. Because of its lovely red blossoms, New Zealanders call the Pohutukawa their Christmas tree.

As it is usually quite warm on Christmas Day, New Zealanders may eat their Christmas dinner outside – many people have a picnic or a barbecue. Some people even have a traditional Maori hangi - they dig a hole in the ground and heat it with hot stones, then they put meat and vegetables into this hole, cover it up and let the food cook inside. The hangi is served in the afternoon or evening and after the delicious meal has been enjoyed, people often sit around and sing Christmas carols.



Boxing Day is a public holiday observed in New Zealand every December 26, which also marks St. Stephen's Day. St. Stephen was the first Christian to become a "martyr" because of his faith and he died by stoning. The exact origin of Boxing Day is still not known but it may have begun in England, where the upper class members of society would give cash or gifts to the lower socio-economic status or may have been when priests open charity boxes (church alms) then give them to the less fortunate on December 26. It may also have been taken from an old tradition

where masters placed gifts for their servants in boxes and distributed them the day after Christmas.

During this festive time of year, our Mt. Beautiful team enjoys our Sauvignon Blanc paired with light seafood dishes and salads, and our Pinot Noir with all things barbeque. They also love our Riesling and Pinot Gris paired with lighter picnic foods and local cheeses.

Whether you are barbecuing on the beach in the southern hemisphere or bundled up enjoying a white Christmas in the northern hemisphere, warm wishes of Meri Kirihimete from all of us at Mt. Beautiful!



Bush Christmas traditions on show in Darwin - Australia

By Will Tinapple

The remote community of Gapuwiyak is giving Darwin the chance to share in a special sense of Yolngu Christmas. For the Yolngu, Christmas is marked as a time to 'make present'

ancestral spirits (birrimbirr) and to infuse the living with a renewed sense of purpose.

While many are focussed on what treats will be under their Christmas tree or meats on their Christmas lunch table, the Aboriginal people of Gapuwiyak in northeast Arnhem Land will remember the dead.

This year, a special exhibition in Darwin - Christmas Birrimbirr - invites viewers to experience the emotional power and beauty of Christmas through Yolngu eyes.

Aboriginal members of Broome's community celebrates at One Mile Community on December 25, in Broome, Australia. The Broome Police and Community Youth Centres (PCYC) organise a present drop each year to bring festive spirit to the Aboriginal community in outback Australia



The exhibition uses a video installation artwork created by a collective of indigenous and non-indigenous artists and filmmakers in the community of Gapuwiyak, to tell their story.

Working collaboratively under the recently-formed Miyarrka Media, the group have put together a multimedia experience that draws on Yolngu aesthetics and social values in order to "share feelings" across culture. Doors open this week in Darwin.

Under the guidance of Yolngu director, Paul Gurrumuwuy, Christmas Birrimbirr explores the potential of new media to produce the connective and transformative work of ceremony in art gallery and museum settings. The result is a unique, intercultural creation structured by the

performative power of Yolngu ritual and charged with the luminosities of Christmas lights, tinsel, and video itself.

See the full ABC Open blog about [Christmas Birrimbirr here](#).

People of Gapuwiyak celebrate Christmas in their own way (Miyarrka Media - Used with permission)

New Year's Traditions

Celebrating the arrival of the New Year is perhaps the oldest holiday in recorded history. It started with the ancient Babylonians more than 4,000 years ago, and continued with the Egyptians, Romans, Celts and so on. Here are some other quick facts about new year's traditions and their origins. 1 January officially became the first day of a new year in 46 BC, when Julius Caesar established the Julian calendar.

New year's resolutions - The ancient Babylonians began the idea of New Year's resolutions as a way to start the year off with a clean slate by returning borrowed items.

Baby new year - Using a baby to represent the birth of the New Year started in ancient Greece in 600 BC.

For luck in the New Year - Traditional New Year food is also thought to bring luck. Many cultures believe that anything in the shape of a ring is good luck, because it symbolises "coming full circle", completing a year's cycle. For that reason, the Dutch believe that eating doughnuts on New Year's Day will bring good fortune. People in many parts of the United States celebrate the new year by eating black-eyed peas. These legumes have been considered good luck in many cultures. The pig, and thus its meat, is considered lucky because it symbolises prosperity. Cabbage is another "good luck" vegetable that is eaten on New Year's Day by many. Cabbages are also considered a sign of prosperity, with the leaves being representative of paper currency. In some regions, rice is a lucky food that is eaten on New Year's Day.

'Auld Lang Syne' - The song, Auld Lang Syne, is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the New Year. At least partially written by Robert Burns in the 1700s, it was first published after his death in 1796. Early variations of the song were sung prior to 1700 and inspired Burns to produce the modern version. An old Scotch tune, Auld Lang Syne literally means "old long ago", or simply, "the good old days".

L-Istrina - One recalls the custom whereby a money gift was given to children and to domestic servants on the first day of the year. Up to World War 2 it was still customary especially in Malta and Gozo for children to carry small wooden boxes and go out in the streets of the village on the morning of January 1. They visited relatives and friends and stopped passers-by wishing them **Is-Sena t-Tajba** (A Happy New Year) at the same shaking the moneybox - an eloquent sign for the person concerned to give them some money.