



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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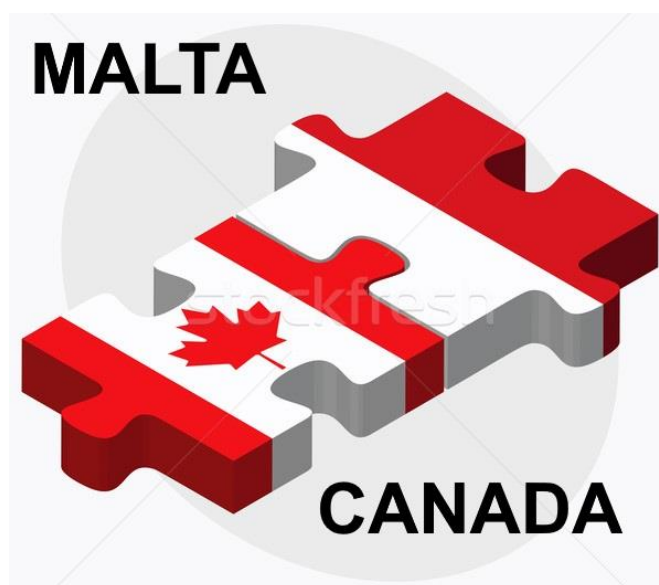
Canadian Multicultural Policy

- officially recognizes the importance of Canada's multicultural heritage and states that the heritage must be preserved and promoted;
- recognizes the rights of Aboriginal peoples in Canada;
- states that while English and French remain the only official languages of Canada, other languages can be spoken;

In this Edition

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 Mgarr oldest building
 and much more

**Dedicated to our
 sisters and brothers
 living in Canada**



CANADA - MALTA RELATIONS

Overview - Canada enjoys excellent relations with Malta based on a shared commitment to democratic values. Malta adopted the Euro in January 2008 and is a member of the European Union, of the UN and its agencies, of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and of the Commonwealth. Key elements of the Maltese economy include tourism, shipping and financial services. Following elections in March 2013, the centre-left Labour Party led by Dr. Joseph Muscat was returned to power after an absence of almost 20 years.

Bilateral Relations - Canada's High Commission to Malta is located in Rome, supported by a Consulate, headed by an Honorary Consul, in

Valletta. Malta's High Commission to Canada is in Washington. Malta has a Consulate General in Toronto and Honorary Consulates in Montreal, Ottawa, St. John's and Vancouver. Our countries share similar views and positions in the UN, the OSCE and the Commonwealth. Canada and Malta have negotiated a number of bilateral agreements covering investment (1982), taxation (1987), social security (1992), film co-production (1995) and audio-visual relations (1997). Malta played a key role in facilitating the evacuation of Canadians during the Libya evacuation operation in March 2011.

People-to-people ties between Canada and Malta are particularly strong, with a significant Maltese-Canada population, concentrated mainly in west-end Toronto. On 28-29 September 2013, Prime Minister Dr. Joseph Muscat and Foreign Minister George Vella travelled to Toronto to meet with the Maltese-Canadian community.

Bilateral Trade and Commerce - Two-way bilateral trade amounted to \$95.4 million in 2012, an increase of 20% compared to the previous year. Canadian exports to Malta increased 10.6% to \$59.8 million in 2012; Canada's main exports to Malta are aircrafts, pharmaceutical products and machinery. Imports from Malta to Canada increased by 38% in 2012 to \$35.6 million; top imports include pharmaceutical products, electrical machinery and organic chemicals. Malta has supported calls for enhanced trade relations between Canada and the EU, including through the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA).

Maltese Canadians are Canadian citizens of Maltese descent or Malta-born people who reside in Canada. According to the 2011 Census, there were 38,780 Canadians who claimed full or partial Maltese ancestry, having an increase compared to those 37,120 in 2006.

History - The Maltese emigration of significant manner occurred in 1840, followed by periods of emigration around 1907 and between 1918-1920. However, most Maltese emigrants settled in Canada after World War II. Most these immigrants settled in Ontario, mainly Toronto, but over time other Maltese immigrants moved to other Canadian cities including Montreal, Vancouver, and St. John's. Approximately 18,000 Maltese people emigrated to Canada between 1946 and 1981, but emigration slowly reduced over time. In 2006 only 145 people of Maltese origin settled in the country.

Demography - Today, most of people of Maltese origin, some 18,680 live in Toronto (more than 50% of the total Maltese Canadian population). An area of Dundas Street West in The Junction is known as "Little Malta" due to the historic Maltese population, as well as the continued presence of Maltese clubs and businesses. There are also Maltese communities in other parts of Ontario as well as in Montreal, Quebec, Winnipeg, Manitoba and Vancouver, British Columbia.

Consul-on-the-Move-Program

Consul-on-the-Move program was launched on 5 May 2016 and is providing certain consular services normally available at Malta's Embassies and Consular posts, in different locations. Such services include the collection of biometric passport applications. This program conforms to the Government's vision to have governmental services closer to the citizen.

This program is targeting five main areas, which are Australia, Canada, UK, USA and New Zealand.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion saw the need to work on such a program after the introduction of biometric passports, for which the applicant has to personally visit an Embassy or a Consular Office for biometric data to be collected. This was resulting in an inconvenience for the Maltese citizens living abroad especially since there were added expenses for travel, lodging, and other related costs. This project was launched after an agreement was reached with the Malta Passport Office to enable this 'roaming service' to take off.

For certain services being provided, an additional administrative fee applies. The administrative charge for passport applications is €100 for each application over and above other related fees. All consular services currently available at Malta's Embassies and Consular Offices continue to remain available.

The updated list of scheduled visits for 2018 is as follows:-

Brisbane and the Gold Coast	1-4 February 2018
Mackay	6-&7 February 2018
Cairns	9 February 2018
South Australia (Tentative dates)	(end of April-beginning May, 2018)
Western Australia (Tentative Dates)	5-6 October 2018
Michigan (Tentative Dates)	5-6 October 2018

For further information Contact the Malta High Commission in Canberra on 02 6290 1724



A country that appreciates books is a country with a soul - President

President of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca visited the Sofia City Library as part of the programme set out for her state visit to Bulgaria. On a regular basis, the Sofia City Library joins forces with the Maltese National Literacy Agency for various

educational programmes and initiatives.

Addressing both the children and adults present, President Coleiro Preca said that a country that appreciates books is a country with a soul, as books are important for our development. She also said that it also means that the country is looking positively at the sustainable development of its young people.

The President also expressed her satisfaction regarding the ongoing collaboration between the Sofia City Library and the Maltese National Literacy Agency, adding that it is even more encouraging to note that discussions have continued even during this state visit, where new areas of collaboration have been explored.

President Coleiro Preca also spoke about the importance of connecting countries through literacy, as this would mean that countries would be working together on literacy and diplomacy, thus developing people-to-people contact. The President said relations between countries should not stop at a political level, but need to be worked on by means of a bottom-up approach, and continued by saying that the collaboration between the Sofia City Library and the Maltese National Literacy Agency bears witness to this.

President Coleiro Preca presented copies of the books entitled 'Samuel and the Magic Tooth' and 'Juliet discovers wellbeing in the President's Secret Garden' to all the children present, and to the Sofia City Library.

The Sofia City Library and the Maltese National Literacy Agency share expertise in popular storytelling sessions for children and family literacy programmes. Both entities organise book presentations and shared book-reading sessions for fun. A common programme is the 'The Magic of Fairy tales / Seher l-Istejjer' programme, whereby children are invited to exercise their imagination through the reading of a fairy tale. Opportunities for related creative games, drawing, songs, music, and drama are also created.

Both entities are also sharing ways of encouraging young adolescents and teenagers to read more, through summer book clubs for both Maltese and Bulgarian children. The National Literacy Agency is also sharing expertise and staff training about parent participation, as well as community and family literacy programmes with the Sofia City Library.

World Cup trophy arrives in Malta



President of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca presided over the arrival ceremony of the FIFA World Cup Trophy as part of the 'FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour by Coca-Cola'. Addressing a press conference, together with FIFA SOS Ambassador and former player of the French national team Christian Carembeu and COO of GSD Marketing Ltd Maria Micallef, President Coleiro Preca said that football is a great source of sports diplomacy, adding that sports diplomacy is a way forward to enhance all those passionate for sports—in this case, football—and that it

also strengthens connections and friendships across diverse cultures.

President Coleiro Preca said that football is an international language that brings people together, encouraging leadership, teamwork, friendship and effective communication skills, adding that football has also the ability to bring people together in a most uncontentious manner to subtly deliver a much-needed message of inclusion, participation, peace and active citizenship—qualities which paved the way for the President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society and the Malta Football Association to embark on a joint campaign throughout this football season to deliver a message of zero tolerance to gender-based violence.

"Football is an effective way to transcend linguistic and socio-cultural differences across borders. Football has the ability to build bridges and to pull down walls. Football can create the necessary safe spaces where people who may never have had the opportunity to meet one another can do so in an environment which is healthy and respectful", the President concluded.

President Coleiro Preca thanked all those who were involved in making this event possible for all football fans in the Maltese Islands. The President also thanked Christian Carembeu for his commitment in his FIFA SOS ambassadorial role to help vulnerable children, stating that "it is comforting to know that FIFA is not simply a world football association, but that it has a wider scope in using football as a means of social inclusion."

Hi Frank. I absolutely love reading all the articles in the newsletter and have done so for many, many years. We can all learn so much about our home country if we but take the time and share our knowledge with others. All the best. Carmel Baretta – Mackay Queensland

Joseph Camilleri from Malta would like to get in touch with Maltese associations and individuals. He is compiling a book with Christmas' and New Year's traditions celebrated among Maltese communities living overseas. We, of the Maltese eNewsletter, would appreciate if you get in touch with Mr. Camilleri and show him your support. Editor

Every time I receive your Newsletter I open it immediately. It's like a breath of fresh air. I don't like to read about politics and the journal is absolutely free for all subscribers and advertisers. I admire you doing all this wonderful work without any financial gain. I am glad that all the Newsletters are preserved at various places in Malta, Gozo and Canada. They should be published in a book. They contain history, culture, customs, art, music, events and biographies of prominent Maltese around the world – this what makes this journal ONE OF A KIND. My family and friends love to read it too. Anna and Joseph Caruana – Vic- Aust

Għażiż Frank, Tassew fiha x'taqra l-Maltese e Newsletter ta' did-darba speċjalment għax hemm ritratt tiegħi!!! Pagna 12, ir-ritratt li hemm in-naħa t'isfel, it-tieni waħda mil-lemin. Dak iż-żmien jien u oħti Josephine konna fis-St.John's Ambulance Brigade u allura konna mmorru ngħinu lill-emigranti biex jitilghu fuq il-vapur. X'kumbinazzjoni wkoll!
Tislijiet Lina Brockdorff (Malta)



The Maltese radio service 'Rediffusion' interviewing emigrants
Malta Valletta 1950

The Council of Maltese Living Abroad

Est: 2011

The Council, composed of 15 members and led by a Secretary and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion as *ex officio* chairperson, discusses, proposes, recommends and decides on various issues affecting Maltese communities abroad. The outcome of the Council meetings serves as the basis upon which the Directorate for Maltese Living Abroad within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion works, in conjunction with line ministries and government agencies, to implement the proposals of the Maltese Diaspora.

The Council convenes once a year in Malta following a year of internal consultations among councillors and externally with the communities that they represent around the globe.

Items discussed during the 2017 meeting, including the teaching of the Maltese language and the history of Maltese emigration, the dissemination of Maltese culture, the effects of property laws and taxation rates on Maltese living abroad, dual citizenship, distance voting in European Parliamentary elections and establishing a register for diaspora organisations and prominent Maltese living abroad. Other subjects include bank services for Maltese communities abroad, possible European Union funding for events, the establishment of a radio station, a website, and the exchange of talent and know-how in various fields between Maltese in Malta and those abroad. Another of great importance is to establish two formal registers – one of organisations and another of prominent Maltese citizens and leaders of communities outside of Malta.

Romanian was killed by falling tree in a freak storm in Malta



His wife is in a critical condition

Dan Udrea died tragically yesterday when a tree collapsed on his car. The severely damaged car in Triq Notabile in Mrieħel. Photo: Jonathan Borg

Dan Udrea left his home in Romania five years ago and came to Malta, searching for a job that could give him and his family a prosperous future.

Dan Udrea had lived in Malta for five years.

By a terrible stroke of bad luck, his life was cut short on Saturday when strong winds uprooted a tree that fell onto his car as he was driving along Triq Notabile in Mrieħel at around 6.30am.



The 38-year-old father of two worked for a local courier company and was described as being "tops in logistics".

His wife Irina, 32, was in the car and was taken to hospital critically injured, the police said. Her condition was unknown last night.

On the way to work, the couple dropped their two young children off at their grandmother's – Dan's mother's – who is in Malta to help look after the kids when the couple go to work.

The heavy tree collapsed on the driver's side just as the vehicle, a Nissan NV200, was going past – a second earlier or later and the victim might still be alive. Mr Udrea was certified dead on site. Civil Protection Department members extracted Ms Udrea from the wrecked vehicle.

Duty magistrate Donatella Frendo Dimech ordered an inquiry and appointed a number of experts to assist her. The police are investigating.

The Civil Protection unit was able to get the victims out of the car. Traffic was closed off in Notabile Street, and a magisterial inquiry has been opened. Inspector Rodrick Spiteri is investigating.



A boat was smashed against the shore

A single hull bunkering tanker named Hephaestus, which is registered in Togo, was crushed against the rocks in Qawra due to the strong winds and waves. In footage shared by Bay Easy, the ship can be seen sustaining damage as it is thrown against the shore. The ship became loose at around 3am and ended up smashing against the rocks near the national aquarium at around 5:15am.

It is not known if anyone was hurt once the boat became loose.



Some Carnival activities were cancelled

This morning's carnival activities were cancelled after heavy winds and rain continued to persist. Activities planned for Valletta this morning were meant to start at 9:30 am.

Artistic Director Jason Busuttil said that they hoped to hold the activities later on in the day.

This comes after last night's events had to be cancelled.

St Vincent De Paul was flooded

The RB2 ward of the St Vincent De Paul facilities was flooded last night, The Shift News reported. This ward was filled with elderly patients, who were forced to evacuate the ward after the rain hit. Some 1,000 patients live in the residence. Water was seen dripping and trailing down the ceiling and walls. Towels were being used as a makeshift attempt to stop the flooding.

An elderly man slipped and lost his life

This morning at 9:30am, an elderly man walking along Triq Ix-Xatt in Isla slipped and died on the spot. He sustained grievous injuries due to his fall and passed away. The 79-year-old man was declared dead by the medical team called in to assist him. The police told Lovin Malta that they could not say with certainty that his death was related to the storm but there didn't seem to be any obstacles in his way or in his vicinity. A magisterial inquiry has been ordered to investigate the death.



The wind blew someone's sofa onto a motorcycle

A motorcyclist woke up to find a sofa had been blown onto his bike in Triq Patri Wistin, Marsascala. The driver believes that the sofa was on someone's balcony, and the wind must have blown it over the railings. He said that he believed neighbours were kind-hearted enough to contact him and take responsibility for their flying sofa

that damaged his motorcycle.

Venezuelans seek refuge in Malta



31 wait in the hope they can call Malta their new home

A fifth of the Venezuelan asylum applicants whose cases were decided by the Office of the Refugee Commissioner in the past three years were granted protection.

Four people were granted refugee status and one person given temporary humanitarian protection between 2015 and 2017. Another 18 applications were rejected, while 31 cases are pending.

Venezuela is experiencing an economic and social crisis, seeing people taking to the streets protesting corruption, violence and food shortages.

The EU has just announced sanctions on seven senior Venezuelan officials.

Asylum-seeking Venezuelans have increased yearly over the past few years, with the US, Brazil, Peru, Costa Rica and Panama being the primary receiving countries. Malta also receives a share of Venezuelans seeking protection. A young woman [whose brother was killed for protesting](#) said that if she had the option, she would have remained in Venezuela, but she has nothing left there except for a death sentence.

She has gone from owning shops in Venezuela to cleaning shops in Malta, but she is grateful for the safety that she is provided in Malta.

The woman, who is seeking refuge in Malta, as this is the only place where she knew someone from Venezuela, is still waiting to hear about her asylum application. When contacted, Commissioner of Refugees Martine Cassar noted each application for international protection was assessed on its individual merits to determine whether an applicant qualified for refugee status in accordance with the grounds listed in the 1951 Geneva Convention.

Failing that, applicants may be granted subsidiary protection status in accordance with Article 15 of the Qualification Directive. The figures show that there were a total of 55 first applications between 2015 and 2017 – 36 of which were lodged in 2017 alone. Two of these were applications for the protection of minors.

The data also shows that the first decisions taken on the applications granted protection to five and rejected 18. One was 'implicitly withdrawn' and 31 are pending.





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LMS holds the gas rights for over 40 sites across Australia. Of these sites, LMS has 22 power generation facilities with a total installed capacity of approximately 55 megawatts. Currently, this makes LMS the largest provider of Large-Scale Generation Certificates (LGCs) from landfill gas in Australia.

Mr Emmanuel Falzon – Malta born

PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT

LMS is managed by a uniquely qualified team with experience in landfill gas, biogas, coal seam methane, power generation, carbon trading and power purchase agreements. The management team also has experience in landfill gas and energy infrastructure projects throughout Australia, Malaysia, China, Korea, North America, the United Kingdom and Europe.



JOHN FALZON

Executive Chairman

John founded LMS Energy in 1996, pioneering biomass gas based renewable energy use in Australia. For over two decades he has been widely recognised as a landfill gas expert, establishing a complete, in-house service for energy recovery from landfill gas. His extensive commercial and leadership experience has allowed him to successfully manage and oversee projects both nationally and internationally. Today, John continues to grow the company by pursuing the development of leading-edge renewable energy technologies and processes.

Our **Vision, Values and Strategy** describes what the company aspires to be and what is important to our success. These essential elements provide insight and direction as we seek to grow and achieve our objectives.

Vision - Enhance and grow a world-class renewable energy company. Our vision is unchanging. We aspire to be the best.

Values - Maintain a culture promoting safety, integrity, fairness and trust. Our shared values are timeless. These are the core principles distinguishing our culture.

Strategy - Focus on people, continuous improvement and excellence. Our strategy is progressive. We are performance driven to achieve sustainable success.

In addition, we will always strive to uphold the highest standards and be one of the safest companies in the world.



How to save the Maltese language from extinction

While Maltese literature is doing very well and publications are relatively strong, the everyday use of the language in the digital world is minimal, and there's little hope this will be reversed



Evarist Bartolo – Minister for Education

A 2012 study by the University of Manchester on the use of language in Europe makes glum reading. Scientists from this university, together with other European researchers, concluded that 21 out of the 30 languages on which they carried out research, risked becoming weak, or even non-existent, due to the digital revolution. The argument made is that because a number of European languages are used by a proportionally small number of people, these would not generate enough resources to integrate fully within the digital world.

"Icelandic, Latvian, Lithuanian and Maltese are at the highest risk of disappearing, while other languages such as Bulgarian, Greek, Hungarian and Polish are also at risk" the report concludes.

Anecdotal analysis lines up with the evidence. Today's modern iPhone or Android phones, and their apps, are entirely in the English language. Maltese translations of this software, or organic applications produced in Maltese, are the absolute minority. This also applies to everyday computers, which by default are in English, and very small numbers are operated through the Maltese language.

There are relatively decent translations of popular computer software and websites, such as Google Mail and Facebook, however, the use of the English language in these cases is also prevalent locally.

This is a very important element related to the use of languages, because while Maltese literature is doing very well and publications are relatively strong, the everyday use of the language in the digital world is minimal, and there's little hope this will be reversed. I do believe that one of the most important steps we can take in the short-term is to introduce the Maltese language in the mass-produced devices, principally Apple and Android products, to make sure that when someone in Malta types in a Maltese word it is understood, recognised and there is a proposed correction in case of a mistake.

However, that is the short-term. In the long-term we must work on strategies to make sure the omnipresent use of digital services around us have the possibility to be introduced in the Maltese language.

Machine translation is indeed gaining traction, however, such features are often reliant on user input to strengthen the quality of the translations, similar to what Google Translate does. Google Translate is a positive first step, but it leaves a lot to be desired with translations of full paragraphs not up to scratch. This is not a problem reserved only for our language since it can be seen in various other cases. However, this is a technology which is constantly improving, including through individual user input.

If the Maltese language perishes in the digital world, it will create a wider effect on our future generations. The presence of the Maltese language here is of the utmost importance. Not preparing for it, especially with some great technologies around the corner such as Google's Quest Visual, would be a shame. This is not a challenge faced by our language only. Countries such as the Netherlands and others in the Baltic, with considerably larger populations than ours, are also at risk. We must make sure we have the strategy in place to maximise this technology and make sure our language continues to thrive. Absence in the digital world would mean being absent in everyday life.



**Maintaining one's culture, values
and heritage is beyond price**

THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the
MALTESE DIASPORA

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Historical Association

www.mha.org.au February 2018

Dear Members and Friends of the MHA,

Merhba! Welcome to 2018. As the MHA enters its 31st year, we anticipate a number of interesting lectures and activities.

MHA AGM 2017: 17 members attended the AGM on 21st November 2017 at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville. The minutes of the 2016 AGM were read and accepted. Mario Bonnici presented the treasurer's report. Although our expenses exceeded our income last financial year, we still had a balance of \$5279.52. The accounts were accepted.

Joseph Borg then gave the President's report. He outlined the diversity of lectures held in 2017, noting that the lectures were given in July and August. Our attendance was steady but we need new presenters, as he gave at least three! He thanked the contributors, the committee and helpers, and the MCCV for the use of the hall.

The 2018 Committee was elected. All nominees were elected unopposed. They are pictured below, from left to right: Mario Bonnici (Treasurer), Joseph Borg (President), Robert Blythe (Vice president). Charles Gatt (Secretary), Charlie Portelli (Member), George Portelli (Member).

Rosemary Attard thanked the committee on behalf of everyone.

The MHA Committee 2018 Photo: Lewis Zammit



MALTESE FESTIVAL AT MOREWELL VICTORIA

Organised by Joe Sammut, the festa will be held on Saturday 17th February from 10.00am till 4.00pm. The MHA will be represented thanks to Joe Borg, who has prepared a number of photos with detailed information, which will be displayed at the Kernot Hall, Morwell, Victoria. Looking forward to the Maltese Festa in Morwell on the 17th February and our lecture at the MCCV on the 20th, Charles Gatt (MHA Secretary)

LATROBE VALLEY
MALTESE FESTA
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH 2018
10AM UNTIL 4PM KERNOT HALL MORWELL
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**STOP THE
 VIOLENCE,
 BULLYING
 AND RACISM.
 SPEAK OUT**

February Lecture: Malta Railway

by Joseph Borg

730 pm Tuesday 20th February 2018

at the Maltese Community Centre
Parkville, Victoria

Joseph Borg, will give our first talk for 2018 on the Malta Railway. This was the only railway line ever on the island of Malta. It consisted of a single railway line from Valletta to Mdina. It was in metre gauge, and operated from 1883 to 1931. The railway was known locally in Maltese as *il-vapur tal-art* (the land ship).

1870 to 1890: A railway was first proposed in 1870 by J S Tucker. The idea was to reduce the journey time

from Valletta to Mdina from 3 hours to less than half an hour. This was the start of a long and protracted design and construction period. Proposals to use the J B Fell patented narrow gauge railway system were dropped, and in 1879 Wells-Owen & Elwes, consulting engineers, Westminster, London were engaged to design the railway. The Malta Standard on 8th December 1880, announced '*that there are unmistakable signs that in a short space of time, the inhabitants of these Islands may be able to boast of possessing a railway*'. Acquisition of the land took longer than expected so it was not until 3 pm on Wednesday, 28th February 1883 that the first official train left Valletta Station for Notabile. The journey took about 25 minutes and an account of the opening appeared in The Malta Standard Thursday, 1st March, 1883. A Time Table was advertised in The Malta Times and United Service Gazette on 3rd March 1883. A more technical report was featured in The Engineer on 13th April, 1883. The opening was almost 60 years after Locomotion No1 carried the first passengers on the Stockton & Darlington Railway, 27th September 1825.



Money was always a problem. In 1890 it became clear that the Malta Railway Company Ltd. was bankrupt. The line was closed on 1st April 1890 by the Supervision Board and the Government, after operating for only seven years.

1892 to 1931: The Government of Malta acquired the railway and reopened the line on 25th January 1892. During the time that the line was closed several improvements were undertaken, including the replacement of the timber viaduct at Porta Reale. In 1895 plans were made to extend the line to service the new Mtarfa Barracks. The extension was opened in 1900 at a cost of £20,000.

In 1903 a Tramway Company was formed to run services between Valletta and the Three Cities and Zebbug and Hamrun. The competition had an immediate effect on the finances of the railway. Further competition from the Malta bus service was too much for the railway to compete with. The line closed on 31st March 1931, and was recorded in the Railway Magazine in July 1934.

1931 to 2002: Even before the railway was closed there was the talk of converting the line into a highway and so it came to pass, for much of the route has been surfaced with Tar Macadam, making it still possible to walk most of the route from Valletta to Mtarfa. Roads built on or almost on the line include Triq Mile End, Triq Kappilan Mifsud, Triq il Ferroviija, Triq Salvu Psalm, Triq il Ferroviija L Qadima, Triq il Linja.



**MALTESE
E-NEWSLETTER**

**Don't miss
out
Preserving
our culture**

REACHING MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

**We would like to thank all those who contribute
to publish this magnificent Maltese magazine
You are also invited to send articles, stories,
profiles and items of interest to be published**

Mġarr's oldest building incorporated in apartment block

[Philip Leone Ganado](#)

Residents say the barumbara (dovecote) is the oldest structure in Mġarr.



Plans have been approved to develop a four-storey apartment block on a site in Mġarr containing some of the oldest buildings in the village.

The Planning Commission approved the proposal unanimously on Wednesday after the Superintendence for Cultural Heritage (SCH) dropped its objections and cleared it.

[Read: Oldest Mġarr buildings risk being turned into flats](#)

The site on Triq Sir Harry Luke includes a vernacular farmhouse dating back 400 or 500 years and a historic barumbara (dovecote), which residents say is the oldest structure in Mġarr. The proposal will retain the historic building and integrate it in the new development, while part of it will be dismantled and reconstructed.

Part of it will be dismantled and reconstructed

The SCH had originally objected, noting that the site lay close to the Ta' Haġrat Temples, a Unesco World Heritage Site and Grade 1 scheduled national monument, and a Grade 2 scheduled underground military shelter.

The heritage watchdog had also noted though the property was within the Mġarr development zone, it was close to the village core, church and main square.

After discussion with the developer over the preservation of the farmhouse and the submission of revised plans, the SCH dropped its objections, provided works would be archaeologically monitored.

Heritage NGO Din L-Art Ħelwa objected, together with some Mġarr residents, due to the impact on the historic buildings. These concerns were shared by the local council, which however did not object to the development in principle.

Residents sounded alarm bells last year after parts of the barumbara stone fabric were allegedly removed over the course of several evenings by an unknown individual, leading to the forced collapse of the back wall of the historic property.

Flimkien Għal Ambjent Aħjar suggested the destruction of the building by stealth could have been related to the then pending development application.

The environmental group said the barumbara was a unique vernacular structure testifying to the historic rural development of Mġarr and called on the authorities to stop the "vandalism" and protect it.

In a statement on Thursday, the Mġarr council expressed regret at the project's approval, which it said, would have a series of impacts on the locality, traffic and architecture and would also lead to cultural and identity loss.

It said it wondered whether the points it had brought up in a letter dated November 2, 2016 had been considered.

These included that all existing buildings should be studied by professionals of the historical and architectural heritage, for visual record to be kept before any intervention, and for every intervention to be made under the supervision of professionals in the sector.

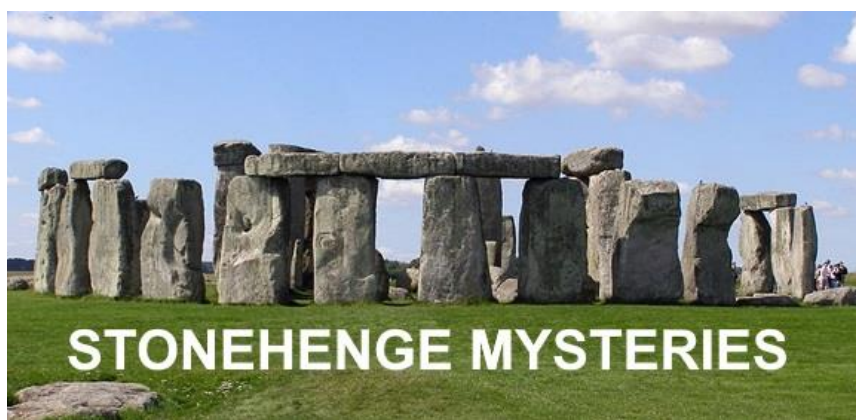
The building in question, it said, was one of the oldest in Mġarr and it was possible there was a World War II shelter close to it.

The proposal for the building to be incorporated in a block of modern flats was just a smokescreen for the developer to supposedly preserve it.

The council was also concerned as to whether the excavation which would have to be carried out could endanger or destroy the shelter.

It was also concerned at the visual impact of the building, in the heart of the centre just a few steps away from the parish church.

Society had the duty to preserve what had been left to it by past generations and provide a future for its children. With this development, the coming generation would be a village of concrete suffocated in traffic. The council appealed to the authorities to reconsider the proposal and take all the precautions necessary to safeguard the historical, cultural and social heritage of Mġarr and its residents.



The stones of Stonehenge of the United Kingdom have endured centuries of weathering and erosion.

Stonehenge is a massive stone monument located on a chalky plain north of the modern-day city of Salisbury, England. Research shows that the site has continuously evolved over a period of about 10,000 years.

The structure that we call "Stonehenge" was built between roughly 5,000 and 4,000 years ago and was one part of a larger sacred landscape that included a massive stone monument that was 15 times the size of Stonehenge.

The biggest of Stonehenge's stones, known as sarsens, are up to 30 feet (9 meters) tall and weigh 25 tons (22.6 metric tons) on average. It is widely believed that they were brought from Marlborough Downs, a distance of 20 miles (32 kilometres) to the north.

Smaller stones, referred to as "bluestones" (they have a bluish tinge when wet or freshly broken), weigh up to 4 tons and come from several different sites in western Wales, having been transported as far as 140 miles (225 km). It's unknown how people in antiquity moved them that far. Recent experiments show that it is possible for a one-ton stone to be moved by a dozen people on a wooden trackway, but whether this technique was actually used by the ancient builders is uncertain.

Scientists have also raised the possibility that during the last ice age glaciers carried these bluestones closer to the Stonehenge area and the monument's makers didn't have to move them all the way from Wales. Water transport by raft is another idea that has been proposed but researchers now question whether this method was viable.

No one knows why ancient people built Stonehenge, but it seems to have been arranged to face the midsummer sunrise and midwinter sunset.

Building Stonehenge

Stonehenge is just one part of a larger sacred landscape that contains many other stone and wooden structures as well as burials. Archaeologists have also found evidence for widespread prehistoric hunting and a road that may have led to Stonehenge.

From what scientists can tell, Salisbury Plain was considered to be a sacred area long before Stonehenge itself was constructed. As early as 10,500 years ago, three large pine posts, which were totem poles of sorts, were erected at the site.

Hunting played an important role in the area. Researchers have uncovered roughly 350 animal bones and 12,500 flint tools or fragments, just a mile away from Stonehenge, the finds dating from 7500 B.C. to 4700 B.C. The presence of abundant game may have led people to consider the area sacred.

Dozens of burial mounds have been discovered near Stonehenge indicating that hundreds, if not thousands, of people were buried there in ancient times. At least 17 shrines, some in the shape of a circle, have also been discovered near Stonehenge. A "House of the Dead" was recently discovered near Stonehenge that dates to 3700 B.C.-3500 B.C.

Around 5,500 years ago two earthworks known as Cursus monuments were erected at Stonehenge, the longest of which ran for 1.8 miles (3 km). By 5,300 years ago two massive eyeglass-shaped wooden palisades, which were set ablaze during ceremonies, were constructed at Avebury, near Stonehenge.

No knowledge, no power: the fate of refugees in Gozo



With cost of living on the increase in Malta, more and more refugees are attempting to make a home in Gozo. But is the sister island's infrastructure capable of ensuring their integration, TEODOR RELJIC asks?

Hodon is a single-mother with refugee status who moved to Gozo from Malta some months ago. When interviewed for the inaugural edition of UNHCR Malta's magazine, she claims that the increasing cost of rent is what pushed her in this direction

– a reality echoed by other migrants who spoke to the publication.

Not that the move – a 'choice' in only the most nominal sense of the word – is something that she regrets. "I am happy in Gozo. The people here are good. We have not been facing major problems as we were before in Malta," she said.

But while this may be encouraging on the face of it, Hodon also hints at more deep-seated problems that refugees in general – and single-mother refugees in particular – face in Gozo.

"We want to work. We really need to work. And we want to get educated," she says, pointing to the systemic lack of integration mechanisms on the island – of which the Head of Caritas Gozo, Michael Borg is fully aware.

"Families are leaving Malta because it is becoming increasingly expensive to live there. Even if people work, they find it more and more difficult to pay rent and support their families," Borg said, adding that charity needs to be married to more practical long-term solutions in order for beneficial effects to be felt in the long-term across the entirety of Gozo's social fabric.

"While charity is beautiful, we also need services that empower people. If we do not empower them, exploitation and unemployment will continue to grow. This will lead to idleness, drinking and violence. These are all signs of poverty and frustration," Borg said.

In lieu of this, an outreach initiative by UNHCR Malta in collaboration with the Ministry for Gozo found that access to information and adequate training were among the most pressing concerns for the growing refugee population – with Somalis in particular being singled out as most vulnerable to these infrastructural gaps. MALTATODAY.COM.MT



**F'Jum San Valentinu
14 ta' Frar**

Jgħidu illi Frar imqarqac
Xejn mhu ħelu, pjuttost kiefer,
U aħjar toqgħodlu ġewwa
Għax imqit u għandu d-dwiefer!

U għalkemm hu l-iktar qsajjar
Jaf ifawwar anke l-bjar;
Joħloq ħerba fi treqatna
Wil-widien jimtlew sax-xfar.

Imma għalkemm dan il-gwaj kollu
Lgħib miegħu ġrajjet sbieħ;
Kien f'daž-żmien li San Pawl tfarra
U lil ġensna ħabb bi sħiħ
Tul dax-xahar in-nies titbaħrad,
Titbaħnan fil-Karnival
Għax kif jgħid il-qawl minn tagħna
'Mhux darbtejn insiru tfal!'

Il-borma fuq tlieta toqgħod –
Il-festa tal-maħbubin
Ma' Frar tasal, mistennija
Rigal nixtru lil xulxin.

Ja ħanini kemm inħobbok
Kieku taf x'nagħmel għalik
Kieku għandi flus bix-xabgħa
Villa sbejgħa kont nagħtik!

Fejn tkun tista' tgħum, tixxemmex
Ġewwa l-isbaħ 'swimming pool',
L-'air condition' tgawdi komda
Sakemm għomrok hawn itul!

Imma għalkemm dawn bwieti vojta
Tibqa' l-mimmi ta' għajnejja;
Kieku nista' l-jum kollu
Ma taħrabx minn taħt idejja!

Għax l-imħabba hija l-qofol
Tal-ferħ kollu tal-bnedmin
Tixbah ġnien mimli bil-fjuri –
Friefet, vjoli, ġiżimin!

U għalhekk għeżiež qarrejja
Ifthu qalbkom għall-imħabba
Minn darkom barru l-mibegħda
U tħalluha qatt titrabba!

Bit-tajjeb pattu għall-ħsara
Li jagħmlukom il-bnedmin
Imxu dejjem fuq il-passi
Tal-għažiz Mghallem divin.

Jiena ċert li b'hekk tħossukom
Dejjem hienja, ferħanin
Bla ma jkollhom dlonk tixxennqu
Għall-festa ta' Valentin!

**Kav Joe M Attard – Victoria -
Ghawdex**

MALTESE PROVERBS

Bil-flus tagħmel triq fil-baħar. With money you can build a road in the sea.
Bla flus la tghannaq u lanqas tbus. Without money you can neither hug nor kiss.
Trid toqtol il-brimba biex tnehhi l-għanqbuta. You must kill the spider to get rid of the cobweb.

Boghod mill-ghajn, boghod mil-qalb. Far from sight, far from the heart.
Tixtrix hut fil-baħar – Do not buy fish while they are still in the sea **JWB-QLD**

A Maltese who came to Australia 61 years ago loses visa bid

John Falzon has been in immigration detention since his release following cannabis trafficking conviction



Australian Associated Press

The high court has dismissed John Falzon's fight to regain his visa, meaning he could be deported to Malta, a country he left in 1956. Photograph: Dave Hunt/AAP

A man who came to Australia as a toddler 61 years ago has lost a high court bid to have his visa reinstated after being convicted of cannabis trafficking, leaving him at risk of deportation.

The high court has dismissed John Falzon's fight to regain his visa, meaning the Victorian grandfather could be deported to Malta, a country he left when his parents migrated to Australia in 1956.

Falzon, who never gained Australian citizenship and retained his Maltese citizenship, had his visa cancelled on character grounds after serving eight years' jail for trafficking a commercial quantity of cannabis. He also had convictions for previous drug and other crimes.

Falzon has been in immigration detention since his release from jail, fighting through the courts to get his visa back.

Meanwhile his family has run social media campaigns, saying deportation would be an unbearably cruel act for a man who knows no one in Malta, and who would be forced to abandon a large and loving family in Australia.

Falzon argued in the high court that he had served his time for his crime and ejecting him from Australia was an attempt to punish him further. But, in a decision handed down on Wednesday, the high court dismissed that argument.

The court found the immigration minister must cancel a visa held by a person if the minister was satisfied that they failed the character test because of a substantial criminal record. His application was dismissed with costs.

Falzon's family in Australia includes two sisters, four brothers, four adult children and 10 grandchildren. At one point his daughter Kim Falzon started a change.org petition, seeking support to ward off her father's eviction from the country.

"Please help save my dad from deportation," Kim Falzon posted two years ago. "John made some bad decisions, & the law convicted him & he is now getting towards the end of his payment to society for his wrong doing.

"That should be that but it is not. There are moves afoot to deport him to Malta ... He knows no one there, his whole life and family is in Australia ... this cannot be allowed to happen."

The petition was backed by 249 supporters and other relatives also set up a Facebook page in a bid to keep him in Australia.



*Juvenes Translatores winner
for Malta, André Mifsud*

17-year-old clinches gold for St Aloysius College in Europe contest for young translators

St Aloysius' College win the Juvenes Translatores competition for the third time, after a three-year domination by the Junior College

Malta's André Mifsud from St Aloysius' College was one of 28 winners in the European Commission's 'Juvenes Translatores' – young translators – with a translation from English to Maltese.

The 28 winners, one from each Member State, will be invited to Brussels on the 10 April to receive their trophies and diplomas from Commissioner Günther H. Oettinger.

"It is amazing



to see so many talented young people. Learning languages is a skill that is vital for your careers and personal development.

Multilingualism defines us as Europeans," Oettinger, who is responsible for the EU budget and human resources, said.

30 students from six Maltese sixth form colleges – equivalent to the number of Malta's MEPs – participated this year. The schools were Junior College, St Aloysius', De La Salle, Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary, St.

Martin's and Gozo's Sir. M.A. Refalo. Eight other Maltese participants were given a special mention for the quality of their translation.

The contest continues to garner strong support. This year, over 3300 students from across the EU translated texts on the 60th anniversary of the European Union. They could choose from any of the 552 possible combinations between any two of the EU's 24 official languages. Students sat the competition in 144 language combinations, including Polish into Finnish, and from Czech into Greek. All winners chose to translate into their strongest language or mother tongue, as the staff translators in EU Institutions do.

The European Commission's DG Translation has been organising the Juvenes Translatores (Latin for 'young translators') contest every year since 2007. Its aim is to promote language learning and give young people a taste of what it is like to be a translator. It is open to 17-year-old students and takes place at the same time in all selected schools across the EU.

The most successful Maltese school since 2007 is the Msida Junior College with five victories. De La Salle won the contest twice and the Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary once. This is St. Aloysius' College third success

The Journal of the
MALTESE DIASPORA

Maltese
e NEWSLETTER



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MESSAGE FROM THE HON GRACE PORTOLESI FOR THE READERS OF THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Chair of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission



South Australia is fortunate to have such a vibrant, multicultural society, which is a model for the rest of the country and the envy of the world.

In so many way, migrants and refugees who have settled in our state have enriched our community and in the process have brought enormous economic, cultural and social benefits to our state.

Recently, more than 80 different cultural clubs and associations participated in the annual Australia Day Parade with more than 2000 people walking and dancing from

Victoria Square to Elder Park, Adelaide. In March, we will see a number of individuals and organisations recognised for their outstanding work at the Governor's Multicultural Awards.

As Chair, I have always looked forward to getting out to as many events and celebrations as possible not only to honour different cultures and traditions, but also to let clubs and associations know that they have friends at SAMEAC who will be their advocates and support their right to promote and practice their unique culture and faiths.

During this time, I have particularly enjoyed my relationship with the Maltese community. The Maltese migrant experience in South Australia is a wonderful story of a proud community, which, over many generations, has devoted its skill, hard work and enterprise to help to build our state, and share its vibrant culture which has helped influence our state's lifestyle and cosmopolitan society.

South Australia's 7,000-strong Maltese community should be proud of its achievements and its contribution to promote and celebrate multiculturalism in our state. I look forward to working with the leaders and representatives of all Maltese clubs and associations in 2018 to help fulfil your future plans and aspirations.

A walk through Buskett and Girgenti



Buskett offers lovely walking treks and is steeped with heritage since its gardens were originally planted by the Knights of Malta as hunting grounds.

Nestled in Malta's only woodland area, Buskett is undoubtedly Malta's gem of the West. While you certainly won't spot any wild boar in sight, you will be treated to one of the greenest areas in Malta, rife with shrubs and delightful fruit trees. At the edge of the gardens is the official residence of

the President of Malta – known as 'Verdala Palace' – originally a hunting lodge built in the sixteenth century by Grandmaster de Verdalle.

An extremely pleasant walk may be traced from Buskett itself, through Girgenti and to the village of Siggiewi. When trekking or walking at a relaxed pace you may wish to plan a 6 hour walk assuming regular stops to take photographs or to rest. These are the places you must not miss:

- The prehistoric cart ruts known as Clapham Junction or 'Misrah Ghar il-Kbir'. These are tracks forced in the rock which seem to indicate transportation activity dating back more than four thousand years.

- “Ghar il-Kbir” (literally translated to ‘the big cave’) is set beside the cart ruts and presents a complex network of caves partially hidden by a curtain of caper plants and once inhabited by Troglodytes (or cave goers).
- Rock-cut Punic tombs in the area known as: “Ta’ Zuta” which date back to roughly 600BC and which offer an insight into burial traditions of times gone by.
- The Girgenti Palace which is located in the lush Girgenti vally. Presently the Palace acts as the summer residence of the Prime Minister of Malta yet previously served as the residence of the Inquisitor of Malta.
- Several chapels and wayside churches are visible. One of the prettiest ones is the ‘Kappella tal-Providenza’ in Siggiewi which dates back to the eighteenth century.

During this walk take time to enjoy spots of local tradition and look out for religious events held in the area such as: the feast of St. Peter & St. Paul (held on the 29th of June and known in Maltese as “Imnarja”) as well as Good Friday events. Take in the smell of citrus orchards, carob and fig trees and the tall pecan nut trees. Note the topography of the region, the quality of the limestone terrain and the particular village core architecture. The trek is a fairly easy one and is suitable for children with the supervision of adults. A light pair of hiking shoes is desirable and walking poles may assist stability in the area beside the cart ruts.

Chadwick Lakes: A Countryside Walk in Malta



The region known as ‘Chadwick Lakes’ in Malta takes its name from the British engineer who built the water-management dam in this area in 1890: Mr. Osbert Chadwick.

Situated between Rabat and Mtarfa this oasis of serene fresh water presents a perfect day of **walking and trekking**. The lakes form a miniature ecosystem which cradle a delicate habitat for various flora and fauna. Water constantly flows eastwards towards Mosta through a series of man-made structures.

When visiting the lakes it’s common to see families setting up picnics or teams organizing incentive activities. Weekends are particularly busy with the Spring and Winter seasons being particularly active as the weather is more clement and the lakes increasingly active (unfortunately the warm Summer months tend

to dry-up the lakes).

A popular countryside-walking trek to be considered in the area is one which departs from Rabat and ends in Mosta with Chadwick Lakes being the central part of the walk. The curved walking path is around eight kilometers in length and is a beautiful meditative walk when the Willow and Water Cress are in full bloom.



STREET SIGNS SOMEWHERE IN
THE OUTBACK OF AUSTRALIA





BONNIE LEE GALEA Adelaide Fringe 2018

I am doing a fringe show on
March 2, March 9 & March 10
called

BLONDE BOMBSHELLS OF JAZZ.

2 singers & a 4 piece band
JAZZ in CHEEK Quartet.

I am sending you info and
links for tickets plus a little

3min 24sec youtube promo for it.

I'm not doing any Maltese songs but I am in it!! ;>

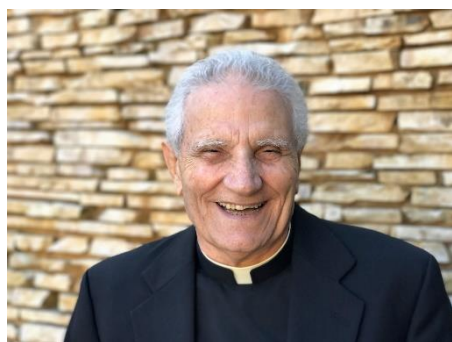
BONNIE LEE GALEA & KERRY REID with the JAZZ in CHEEK Quartet.

We are also going to Whyalla for the Fringe they have asked us and are flying us there on Mar 31.

my website is here <https://bonnieleegalea.com/blonde-bombshells-of-jazz-tribute-show/>

and more info with links at the bottom of it and this is the ticket link

<https://www.adelaidefringe.com.au/fringetix/blonde-bombshells-of-jazz-af2018>



FRANK X ZAMMIT MSSP FLORIDA - USA

My name is Fr. Frank Zammit, living in Florida U.S.A. I like to inform you that I really appreciate your work done by editing the Maltese News Letter. I look forward to read it and pass it on to friends. Some time ago I had the surprise of my life when I did receive an American flag with the above certificate. It was a great honour for me as a Maltese Citizen and I like to share this honour with you and the readers

of the Maltese e-Newsletter..



This is to certify that the accompanying flag was flown
over the United States Capital on September, 8, 2014.

At the request of the Honorable Ander Crenshaw, Member of Congress
this flag was flown for Rev. Francis X Zammit to celebratel his birthday and
to thank him for his services to this country

Fr. Zammit was born at Paula, Malta, on September 8, 1935. He entered the dockyard as an apprentice and after 5 years Frank left the dockyard and joined the SSP at St.Agatha, Rabat. After completed his philosophy he went to Australia and finished his theological studeies at Corpus Christi College, Melbourne. Frankl was ordained priest on July 23, 1966. After 10 years in Australia he went to Florida, U.S.A and in 1973 joined the diocese of Orlando. Even though he has been retired for nearly 12 years, Fr. Frank Zammit still helps out at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Daytona Beach on weekdays and at

St. Peter Parish in DeLand on weekends. "I find in my life the more you give to the Lord, it comes back to you 10 times more," Fr. Zammit said. "When I go to the Lord, I want to continue to help."

For Fr. Zammit, supporting Catholic education in the Diocese of Orlando is an ideal way to assure the future of the Church he loves.

Wistin Born OP



Patri **Wistin Born** (23 May 1910 - 21 August 1986) was a Maltese broadcaster and writer from Kalkara.

Henry Born was educated at the Freres and the Lyceum in [Valletta](#). At the age of 16, he joined the Dominican Order and was given the name of Fra Wistin. He continued his studies at the St Thomas College in [Rabat](#), and became priest in 1933. He wished to further his studies but had to stop for health reasons. During World War 2 he, was a military chaplain.

His broadcasting career started in 1947 with a programme in English by the name of *Kiddies' Playbox* with [Melita Rustage](#). He was also requested by [Effie Ciantar](#) to produce and present a programme in Maltese about the United Nations, which he did; a programme called *Natus*. Born was unofficially the Spiritual Director of Rediffusion in his times.

When the studios were transferred to [Gwardamangia](#), Fr Born was made Literary Editor. He used to receive radioplay scripts and choose the best ones for broadcasting. When the Drama Panel was established, he was the first chairman. He also served in the roles of Radio Head of Programmes and Television Censor.

Fr Born was script writer himself. He wrote more than 1,000 radio drama episodes. These include *Ħitan tas-Sejjieħ*, *Il-Familja Maltija* and *Spiru Cefai* with [Johnnie Navarro](#) in the main role.

He was the founder of [De Porres Theatre](#) in [Sliema](#). He used to ask for help on the radio, and when the theatre was built, he used to write and direct the plays.

His novels include classic *Is-Salib tal-Fidda*, *Mard Bla Fejġan*, *Jum it-Tama*, *Mhux il-Faqar* and *Memé Grech – Ditektiv Privat*. He also published *Nerfġħu Qlubna 'l Fuq*, a collection of his own spiritual broadcasts. He was also the editor of *The Maltese Rosary* for local schools.



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



**Our Journal is reaching readers from all over the world.
It is serving as a link especially among the Maltese
living in Malta and those living overseas.
It is free non-political and easy to read. Share it with
your relatives and friends. Become a member of our
family - contact: maltesejournal@gmail.com**

MALTESE COMMUNITY OF ADELAIDE FAMILY REUNION PICNIS

Date: March 4, 2018

Time: 11.00 am onwards

Place: Bonython Park, Port Road (Opposite Coca Cola)

BYO: Food, Drinks Charirs, and any photos you may have to share

Come along and enjoy the fun activities, games and sharing memories

Contact: Lawrie Caruana on 0407 886 899

Catherine Saliba on 0438 825 174

PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD!!!!



MALTESE TENOR JOSEPH CALLEJA TOPS THE UK CHARTS

Maltese superstar Joseph Calleja has hit number one in the UK charts. The opera singer topped the classical chart with his latest album. Verdi is currently sitting at

number one in the Specialist Classical Chart. It was also the highest new entry on the Classic FM chart.

The opera star said that he was delighted by the album's success.

He said: 'I am also thrilled that the Royal Opera House live relay of our performance of Tosca topped the cinema charts at Number 1 in the UK, beating all the mainstream films. That doesn't happen often!'

Joseph told BBC Breakfast: 'Singing opera is like a sport. You're like an athlete and your body is the instrument.'



Christabelle 'honoured' to fly the flag for Malta at the European Song Festival 2018

Christabelle Borg has thanked the Maltese public following her Eurovision success.

The singer, 25, won the right to represent Malta at this year's Eurovision Song Contest.

Her track, Taboo, scooped maximum points during the

national final at the MFCC in Ta' Qali.

Christabelle posted on Facebook: 'Thank you so much. What an honour to be on that stage. I never felt so good! I am overwhelmed by your support and comments.'

'The awareness Taboo has raised in the past weeks is already a positive result in itself.'

The song's lyrics are intended to raise awareness about mental illness.

Christabelle, from Ta' L-Ibrag, came first on Saturday night after winning 123 points from the public and the jury.

It was her fourth attempt to represent Malta at Eurovision, after finishing second in 2015 and fourth in 2016.

Hundreds of fans took to social media to praise her voice and stage performance, describing her as 'amazing' and urging her to 'make Malta proud'.

However, there was a mixed reaction to the result on international Eurovision forums.

Some commentators on esctoday.com described Taboo as 'utterly boring' and 'nothing special' while others said it was their 'favourite of the whole competition so far'.

Christabelle will perform for Malta at the Eurovision semi-final in Lisbon on May 10.

She won several Bay Music Awards in the past, including Best Solo Artist in 2008, 2009, 2011 and 2012.



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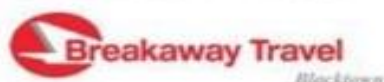
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