



# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

Building Bridges between individuals and communities



Editor : Frank L Scicluna

maltesejournal@gmail.com



**The new Governor-General of Australia  
His Excellency David Hurley**



THE FOUNDING OF THE CAPITAL CITY OF MALTA - VALLETTA

**The Maltese Journal**



**Celebrating 6 years online**



**Catherine Cutajar with her sons  
Mario and Joseph in Sydney, 1958.  
Reproduced courtesy  
Joseph Cutajar**

**On March 31, 1958, the liner Skaubryn,  
en route to Australia, caught fire with  
1,288 passengers on board,  
169 of them Maltese migrants**

**NEW ZEALAND - MAORI HAKA**





## Order of Malta

### Upholding human dignity and caring for people in need

The Sovereign Order of Malta is one of the oldest institutions of Western and Christian civilisation. A lay religious order of the Catholic Church since 1113 and a subject of international law, the Sovereign Order of Malta has diplomatic relations with over 100 states and the European Union, and permanent observer status at the United Nations. It is neutral, impartial and apolitical.

Today, the Order of Malta is active in 120 countries caring for people in need through its medical, social and humanitarian works. Day-to-day, its broad spectrum of social projects provides a constant support for forgotten or excluded members of society. It is especially involved in helping people living in the midst of armed conflicts and natural disasters by providing medical assistance, caring for refugees, and distributing medicines and basic equipment for survival. Across the world, the Order

of Malta is dedicated to the preservation of human dignity and the care of all those in need, regardless of their race or religion.

Founded in Jerusalem in the 11th century, the Order of Malta has a long history of service to the vulnerable and the sick. This 900-year history is reflected in its full name: Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta. Since 1834 the Order of Malta's government seat has been in Rome, where it is guaranteed extraterritorial rights.

The Order of Malta operates through 12 Priories, 48 national Associations, 133 diplomatic missions, 1 worldwide relief agency and 33 national volunteer corps, as well as numerous hospitals, medical centres and specialist foundations. It does not pursue any economic or political goal and does not depend on any other state or government.

The Islands and Small States Institute (ISSI) of the University of Malta is offering a Master by research in Islands and Small States studies (full-time or part-time), commencing in October 2019. Full information about the course is available on the [Institute's website](https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/search?level=Postgraduate&entity=issi). <https://www.um.edu.mt/courses/search?level=Postgraduate&entity=issi>



NEWSPOINT

### Distance tuition and scholarships at the Islands and Small States Institute

The University of Malta offers scholarship for the waiving of the fees; [access this link for full details](https://www.um.edu.mt/journey/feesfunding/scholarships/masterresearchphd).

The deadline for the application is 30 June 2019. If you require further information, including enquiries about our Ph.D. programme, please write to [islands@um.edu.mt](mailto:islands@um.edu.mt).



## Fr. Bernard Mallia SJ : 25 years a Jesuit



I am Jesuit from the Eastern Africa Province, which I joined in 1974, from the Maltese Province. I joined the Society of Jesus on 10th

October 1959 and was ordained a priest on 8th December, 1973. I pronounced my final vows in 1980 in Dodoma, Tanzania.

I did my novitiate in Malta and we were housed in half of the third floor of a very big house which made up a community of about a hundred Jesuits. We lived in small hardboard cubicles but we were happy just the same. After finishing the novitiate I lived my Juniorate, also in a cubicle, in the other half of the same floor for four more years, as I was studying at the University of Malta to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in English literature. I admit that the novitiate in Arusha is certainly much healthier and in much better surroundings than was my novitiate.

I did my philosophy for two years at the old Heythrop College in Oxfordshire, England, and after a year's regency in Malta I did three years of Theology in French, in Belgium, and one year in Italian in Naples, Italy. During the long holidays, I worked in hospitals in England and in Austria and I also worked as a guide at Loyola in Spain. I travelled around mostly by hitch-hiking! It was quite an experience. I did my Tertianship and my MA in Theology in Colombia in 1979.

I feel that my original vocation when I joined the novitiate keeps me going. I still remember how strongly I was influenced by the Ignatian meditation on the call of Christ the King in a retreat I made when I was still a candidate. It continued to influence me throughout my life, both in my formation and up to this day. I almost missed being ordained and continuing as a Jesuit just before I was due to be ordained, but the good Lord cleared up all obstacles for me and I was able to push on peacefully in my vocation as a Jesuit priest.

After my ordination I was missioned to Tanzania: From 1974 to 1979 I was assistant Parish-priest in Tabora together with Fr. Salvador Ferrao, SJ. It was a huge parish and on Sundays I often had to say five Masses! This was indeed my training ground as a

missionary. From 1980 to 1986 I was Parish priest at *Kiwanja Cha Ndege* Parish in Dodoma which had just started. Of course, the Goan Jesuits, especially Fr. Hector Almeida, SJ, had already been doing pastoral work in that area. In 1986 Fr. Louis Plamondon, SJ, the then Provincial, sent me to work as librarian and to teach at St. Paul's National Major Seminary in Juba, South Sudan, when Fr. Paul Besanceney, SJ., was Rector there. In 1990, we all fled due to the war; we went to set up the seminary in Khartoum, in North Sudan.

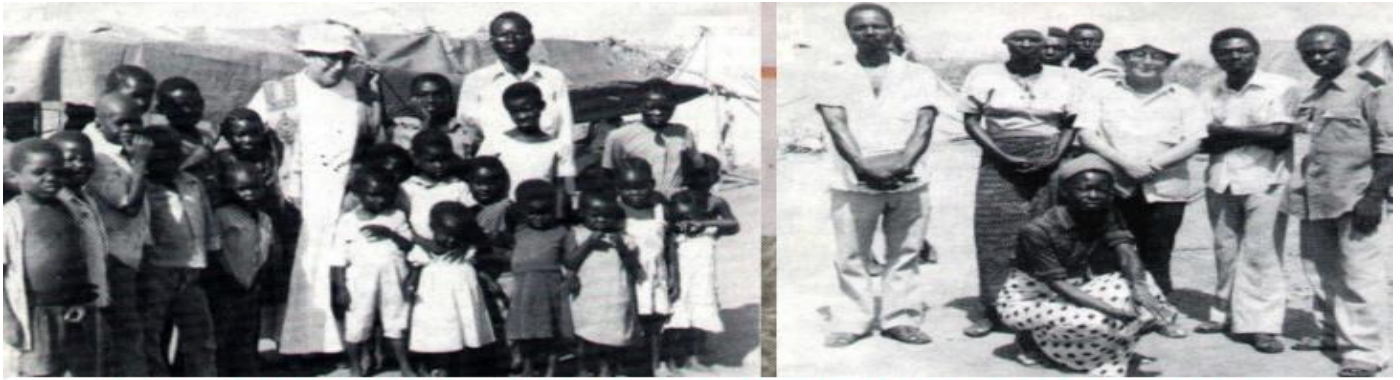
I remained there till 2007, working as librarian, teaching theology, helping in a parish and being a prison chaplain. From 2008 until 2013 I was sent to be in charge of a sub-Parish in Rumbek, South Sudan. A little while later I was missioned to the Novitiate in Arusha, Tanzania.

I must say that I am very happy to be here. When I was asked about the possibility of my coming here I felt quite at peace in agreeing and I do not regret it. I feel I was very warmly welcomed right from the start both by the formation team and by the novices. Here I feel renewed in spirit, and even in health, and I am very glad to participate, even in a small way, in the formation of my younger brothers.

I admire my younger brothers both for their individual characters and for the talents and life experience each one of them brought with him. What I like very much about our novitiate is that there is a lot of sharing of the word of God and of their experiences in the novitiate and also much cooperation in work. What is also marvelous is that though they come from different countries and family and social backgrounds, they click so well and make such a good community. Their training is very well planned and they are quite challenged in their spiritual and apostolic experiments.

The basic challenge they face is coming to know and love their vocation better and how they may grow in their commitment to it through their on-going process of human and spiritual maturation. That is what may truly help them to lay a good foundation on which they would continue to build up their future of on-going formation and apostolic service as Jesuits. Everything in the life of the novice is geared towards that purpose.

**Interview by Lawrence Mwanzia, SJ (edited)**



## APPRECIATION FOR YOUR JOURNAL FROM AFRICA

G'Day Frank, I do send your valued Maltese/Australian Electronic Newsletter to my brother Bernard who is a Jesuit Priest in Africa amongst a lot of others all over the world. Bernard has entered the priesthood when I was still in my early teens and now I am nearly seventy years old.

He has been away from Malta and serving in Tanzania for over fifty years. I am attaching part of his email in which he said how much he does appreciate it.

**Dan, thanks so much for the Malta-Australia Newsletter. It's great! Everything in it is interesting. Those who produce it really work hard and extremely well. It's very positive and global minded while keeping a lively and healthy interest in our miniscule island. Fr. Bernard, sj**

I am also attaching two pictures that I do have of my brother in Africa

Regards Daniel Mallia Greystanes NSW Australia



## Mobiles and Wifi

### Mobile Phones

Malta uses the GSM900 mobile network (not compatible with the USA's and Canada's GSM1900).

There are 130 mobile phones per 100 population in Malta, so not only are mobiles widespread, but many locals have more than one number. Mobile-phone numbers begin with either 79 or 99. Malta uses the GSM900 mobile phone network, which is compatible with the rest of Europe, Australia and New Zealand, but not with the USA and Canada's GSM1900. If you have a GSM phone, check with your service provider about using it in Malta and beware of calls being routed internationally (expensive for a 'local'

call).

You may consider buying a Maltese SIM card, which gives you a Maltese mobile number. (Your mobile may be locked to the local network in your home country, so ask your home network for advice before going abroad.) Prepaid vouchers for topping up credit are available at many stores and kiosks throughout Malta.

**Phone Codes** - The international direct dialling code is 00, followed by the relevant country code and then the number. To call Malta from abroad, dial the international access code, 356 (the country code for Malta) and then the number. There are no area codes in Malta; all Maltese phone numbers are eight-digit numbers.

**Public Phones & Phonecards** - Public telephones are widely available, and most are card-operated (there are also coin-operated phones, but these are not as common). You can buy phonecards from Easyline or Hello at many kiosks, post offices and souvenir shops.

**Internet Access** - Malta has extensive wi-fi coverage – most towns and even some of the sleepiest villages have a wi-fi hot spot in their main square. Many establishments, including hotels, cafes, bars and restaurants, also offer wi-fi. The wi-fi at most guesthouses, hostels and hotels is usually free. Signals are of varying quality.

**If you're visiting from outside Europe, you may need a voltage converter to adjust the current in Europe (240V) to one your electronic device can handle. You do not usually need these for laptop computers and digital-camera battery chargers.**



## NSW Governor David Hurley will be Australia's new Governor-General

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has approved the recommendation of the Prime Minister of Australia, Hon Scott Morrison, to appoint His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) as Australia's next Governor-General.

General Hurley will be Australia's 27th Governor-General.

General Hurley is currently the Governor of New South Wales, having been appointed to the role in October 2014.

He has been a very popular Governor of NSW. From his weekly boxing workouts with Indigenous children as part of the Tribal Warriors program to his frequent regional trips, Governor Hurley is known for being generous and approachable to old and young alike.

General Hurley will be sworn in on 28 June 2019, to allow for the fulfillment of his duties as Governor of New South Wales.

Her Majesty The Queen has agreed to extend the appointment of the current Governor General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), until that time. Prior to his appointment as Governor of New South Wales, General Hurley served in the

Australian Army for 42 years, including as the Chief of the Defence Force from 2011 to 2014.



*Former Australian Defence Force chief and current governor of the state of New South Wales David Hurley has been appointed as the next governor general*



He was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2010 for eminent service to the Australian Defence Force and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his leadership during Operation SOLACE in Somalia in 1993.

General Hurley and Mrs Hurley have been married for 41 years and they have three adult children: Caitlin, Marcus and Amelia. The Governor-General holds office at the pleasure of the Queen. However the term is usually understood to be five years.

General Cosgrove has discharged his duties to date with distinction and grace and he will continue in the

role to assist in the transition.

## We need your help to keep us going





## New passport with higher level of security

Report: Antonia Micallef TVM

The security of the Maltese passport will be further strengthened when by the end of this year a new passport will enter into circulation following a 10-year process since the introduction of the biometric passport. A spokesperson for Identity Malta said that the new passports will have a greater

level of security.

Although much of the travelling in various European countries is today done with the identity cards, the passport remains an important document for travelling. The Maltese passport enjoys a good reputation and is classified among the first 10 world passports because, together with a visa or without it, one can travel to over 180 countries which accept the Maltese passport validity.

Joanne Caruana, coordinator at the passport section, says that Identity Malta is further strengthening the Maltese passport's security with the use of the latest technology.

"Following the introduction of the biometric passport, the Maltese Government felt the need to move a step forward and have a passport with the most advanced technology and higher security level. These factors make it more difficult for the falsification of the passport, and therefore the Maltese will have a passport of a higher level".

She added: "The biodata page of the new passport will be in the form of a card attached inside the passport and its details are laser engraved. The inside pages will include images of national heritage, printed with special ink to increase the aesthetic and level of security".

Ms Caruana said that the biometric passports will remain valid until expiry. Identity Malta issues an average of 40,000 passports a year, with the process of issuing each passport taking around four days. In extraordinary cases, Identity Malta also provides urgent services of passport issue, which are processed within four hours.

Although the idea of a passport was invented by King Henry V in England in 1414, it was at the first world war that European countries started imposing the need of a passport for travelling.



**Ghanafest** is a two day festival produced by Festivals Malta. Ghanafest is a celebration of Maltese heritage within a Mediterranean context with particular focus on the Maltese folk music spectrum - including għana, local folk bands such as The Travellers, Skald and Mistura and guest mediterranean artists Sherazade et Lavion Rose. This festival which has recently been

awarded the EFFE label by the European Festival Academy, also embraces and promotes several Maltese traditions such as Maltese gastronomy and craftsmanship. Visitors can witness the art of lacemaking, filigree, and other crafts while wandering through the beautiful botanical gardens of Argotti. The venue is also equipped with a children's area featuring traditional children's games and storytelling. **Venue: Argotti Botanical Gardens** **Date 21-22 June 2019**

**2 Day Ticket Promotion** Buy a ticket for both days and pay EUR 8 instead of EUR 10 (EUR 4.00 per Ticket) **Ticket Concessions:** Children under the age of 12 enter FREE

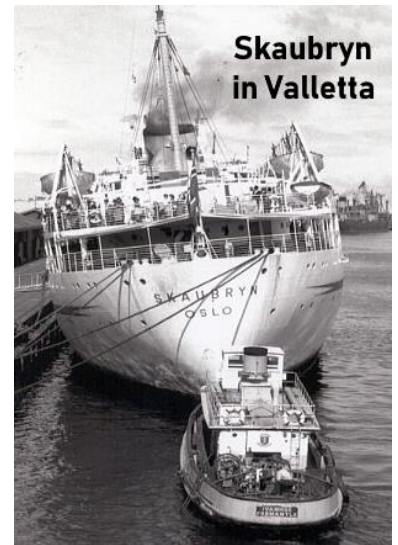


## 61 years on: The migrant ship Skaubryn catches fire in the Indian Ocean – 169 Maltese migrants



**Fr. Tabone and Maltese survivors in Aden, April 1958**

**The** Norwegian ship SKAUBRYN ship was built in 1951 and made six between Malta and Australia from 1952 to her journey in 1958. On that fateful journey the ship carried 169 passengers from Malta while in all she had on her 1,082 passengers with 208 members of the crew. Among the passengers were 200 children and 40 babies. The Maltese had their own chaplain with them, Fr S. Tabone from Kalkara. He was going to visit his two brothers who had left Malta eight years before. The Skaubryn left Grand Harbour on March 22, 1958, and after a short stop at Port Said the ship passed Aden to enter the vastness of the Indian Ocean. That ocean was incredibly calm and the ship continued on her way in a very relaxed atmosphere.



**Skaubryn in Valletta**

On Monday, March 31, captain of the ship ordered his crew and passengers to meet on deck at 2.30 pm for an emergency drill. Some of the people on board complained at this interference as they preferred their siesta at that time. Once the drill was over some of the passengers went to the hall where a band was playing with a few dancers on the floor. It was very calm and very hot. As darkness fell many went to their cabins for the night's sleep. All one could hear was the regular humming of the ship's engines.

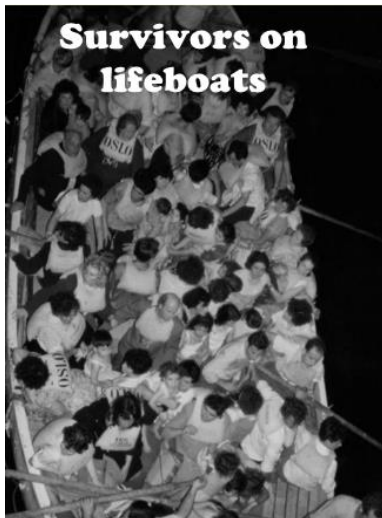


But suddenly the lights on the ship dimmed and then there was complete darkness. The people were moving excitedly. Their first thought was that some passengers had decided to go on deck to watch the Soviet satellite Sputnik as they had been told that there was a good chance of seeing the satellite from their position in the ocean.

The reason for the commotion was that the engine room was on fire.

According to the report given by Captain Feste the fire was caused by a misunderstanding between two members of the crew when they caused oil from an open line in the engine room to spurt on hot exhaust pipes. In a very short time all passengers on board were told which lifeboats they had to take. This efficiency saved the lives of all concerned except for an elderly German who died of a heart attack. The ocean remained mercifully calm.

Luckily the merchant ship City of Sydney happened to be nearby and she picked all the passengers. From, her decks the migrants could watch with awe their own Skaubryn being devoured by the flames. It was April 1. The City of Sydney had accommodation for only thirty passengers. Messages for help were sent to any possible vessel that happened to be near area. The luxury liner Roma under captain Nimira, picked the messages and was soon near the City of Sydney. The Roma was on her return journey from Australia to Italy. (16)



Fr Tabone remembered everything in detail. "All of us were taken on board the Italian luxury vessel. The crew fed us and gave us new clothes. Some of the passengers gave their own cabins to those of us who were in need of rest. The Roma took us to Aden where we disembarked on Good Friday. We in Aden for three days and the local authorities treated us very kindly. We were given 10 pounds as pocket money. In Aden we knew that our relatives in Malta and in Australia had been told what had happened to us.

A Maltese bride, Evellina Vassallo, was going to Australia to get married. She lost everything including her cherished wedding dress. After three days we were taken by the Orsova to continue our journey to Australia. When we arrived at Freemantle we were met by the local authorities and by the Maltese

Commissioner who stayed with us until we reached Melbourne. The Commissioner offered us. 50pounds each in the name of the Government of Malta.



Survivors of the Skaubryn, Maltese immigrants  
Zaren and Georgina Camenzuli and their daughters  
(L-R) Lina, Lucy, Joyce and Mary in 1996

Those who were in the age group between fourteen to twenty were given 25 pounds each and 10 pounds were given to all youngsters under the age of fourteen years". While on the Orsova the survivors received a telegram from Mr A.R. Downer, Minister for Immigration in Canberra. It said: "On behalf of the Government and the People, I welcome you to Australia. We sympathise with you in your loss and congratulate you on your safe deliverance. In Australia you will find friends anxious to help you

settle happily. I look forward personally to greet you on your arrival in Melbourne. 17th April 1958. "More financial backing was forthcoming. The Australian Government gave 20,000 pounds in compensation, while philanthropic bodies such as the Australia Red Cross and the St Vincent de Paule Society donated money and clothes. *Source: The Safety Valve (1997), author Fr Lawrence E. Attard,*

**SHE was carrying 1,080 passengers and 208 crew when a fire broke out in the engine room on the evening of 31 March 1958. The vessel was approximately 800 miles from the British port city of Aden (now part of Yemen) and 360 miles from the African coast. Among the passengers were 736 German migrants, 169 Maltese migrants and 176 private passengers.**



## The Skaubryn disaster - Joseph Cutajar, Malta

On 22 March 1958, my mother Catherine Cutajar (née de Battista; born 1927), myself aged eight and my two younger brothers, Mario (five) and Frank (three), boarded the *Skaubryn* in Valletta, Malta. My father, Charles Cutajar (born 1928), was already in Australia – he came out a month earlier. He was a cook in the British Army.



*Catherine Cutajar with her sons Mario (left) and Joseph (right) in Centennial Park, Sydney, 1958. Reproduced courtesy Joseph Cutajar.*

I was born in Pietà [on the outskirts of Valletta] in 1950. I remember my Holy Communion when I was about five or six, with lots of parties and being dressed up. Then all of a sudden we were moving to Australia. It was a £10 passage, like the British [Malta was a British colony until 1964]. We had to go and get checks for the Australian government to accept us. My youngest brother Frank had something wrong with his legs – they were in plaster, there were some issues maybe. They were so picky at that time.

I remember the hullabaloo of all the people around the wharf area in Valletta. All these people everywhere. *Skaubryn* was a tourist-type ship with a mix of passengers, mostly German and Maltese.

The first week was uneventful. Then on 31 March, Mum was at the movies with a friend and we had a babysitter. We boys were woken up by smoke filling our cabin. I think the babysitter went looking for Mum and they must have panicked. Mum grabbed my brothers, Mario and Frank; a man (a family friend) grabbed me. This guy just pulled me out of the bed basically. I was taken and put in a lifeboat,

separated from my family. In the lifeboat people were screaming and vomiting. I was terrified. In my eyes, as a child, the lifeboat was overloaded. I could see sharks circling the lifeboat and the *Skaubryn* burning.



*A lifeboat from Skaubryn in the Indian Ocean at night, 1958. ANMM Collection Gift from Barbara Alysén ANMS0214[010]. Reproduced courtesy International Organisation for Migration.*

It was a clear night with a calm sea. That's what really stuck in my mind. It was like daylight – the moon was so bright, the ocean flat. If it was really rough, a lot of people would have drowned. One German man had a heart attack and died [he was the only casualty of the *Skaubryn* disaster].

Some people had been dressed up for dinner and the movies, while others were in pyjamas. We had nothing except the underwear we had on. We lost everything basically until we got to Aden and they gave us money. People tried to take their bags onto the lifeboats, but the sailors were throwing them overboard into the water and saying, 'The people before the bags.' I remember some things floating around in the water. And I definitely remember looking back, seeing the *Skaubryn* alight.

We were first picked up by an oil tanker. I can't remember how I got up there – I remember feeling the rope but I don't know whether I climbed or somebody pulled me up there. And then I didn't see Mum until she found me. She was on another lifeboat, separate to me, with the other two boys. I was alone, I don't know how long for, but it seemed like ages to me. Mum was terrified – she never left our sight again.

On the oil tanker, they gave us food of some sort to eat and blankets to put around us, because we were in underpants and singlet tops. Later we were transferred to Aden on the Italian ship *Roma*. When we arrived in Aden, we were taken to the local hospital to wash us. The Australian government gave us some

clothes and some money, about £50. They gave us food and documentation so we could continue our journey to Australia on the Orient liner *Orsova*.

We arrived in Sydney in April 1958. It took four ships to get to Australia. Dad's sister Nina and her husband Joe were living at La Perouse [in Sydney's south-east], so we stayed with them until we got settled. They had three girls and five boys. And us three boys, so it was a bit crowded!



*Brothers Mario Cutajar (left) and Frank (right) in Malta, early 1950s. Reproduced courtesy Joseph Cutajar.*

We went to school in La Perouse. Then we shifted from there to Surry Hills and then Paddington [both in inner-city Sydney]. My cousin got Dad a job at the Bunnerong Power Station in Matraville [in Sydney's south-east]. When they closed Bunnerong, Dad chose to be transferred to the Tallawarra Power Station [on the south coast of New South Wales] and we moved to Wollongong.

After school I got a job at Port Kembla Hospital as a kitchen hand. My boss was a single man who left Germany on his own

at 19. One day we were just talking about things in history, our backgrounds, and then we discovered we were on the same ship! After that I worked with Dad for 15 years in the power industry, then I went back to the area health service where I have been for 40-odd years. My wife Susan is English. Her family also came out as £10 Poms and her father ended up working in the steel industry. We have two children and four grandchildren.



*Charles Cutajar with his youngest son Frank in Paddington, Sydney, late 1950s. Reproduced courtesy Joseph Cutajar.*

The *Skaubryn* fire has affected me somewhere along the line. Before I went on another ship in the 1980s, I kept avoiding it and thinking about it. The first ship I went back on was the older *Fairstar*. I got on and thought, 'It can't happen to me again.' When I hear about other tragedies, I think about how lucky we were. We might not be here.

On another cruise, I met a German fellow and we started a conversation about the *Costa Concordia* [the Italian cruise ship that sank in 2012]. He was also a passenger on *Skaubryn* and remembers the water in the swimming pool boiling from the heat of the fire. The fact that that guy was on the same ship really concreted in my mind what I did see that night. It wasn't a child thing that I thought of – it really did happen.

When the *Titanic* exhibition was here [at the Australian National Maritime Museum], there was a display on boarding passes and our name was on there, in a section about ships that sank in the past. After seeing our names, I just kept thinking, 'We're in history.' I decided to put our names down on the Welcome Wall as we're part of history and it's something for the grandkids to see when I'm gone. This article also appeared in Signals Magazine (Issue #122).





## New €100 and €200 banknotes start circulating

Notes have new and upgraded security features



The new €100 and €200 banknotes, the last notes in the Europa series, start circulating on Tuesday. The banknotes use new and innovative security features



and are easy to check using the “feel, look and tilt” method.

At the top of the silvery stripe a satellite hologram shows small € symbols that move around the number when the banknote is tilted and become clearer under direct light.

The silvery stripe also shows a portrait of Europa, the architectural motif and a large € symbol.

The new €100 and €200 banknotes also feature an enhanced emerald number. While the emerald number is present on all the other notes of the Europa series, this enhanced version also shows € symbols inside the number.

The new €100 and €200 notes are now the same height as the €50 banknote, which makes them easier to handle and process by machines. They will also fit better in people’s wallets and last longer, as they will be subject to less wear and tear.

The €100 is the third most widely used euro banknote, after the €50 and the €20. The demand for €100 and €200 banknotes is increasing, at an annual rate of 7.6% for the €100 and 8.6% for the €200.

The €100 and €200 banknotes of the first series, like all the other denominations, will remain legal tender. They will continue to circulate alongside the new notes and will be gradually withdrawn from circulation.

## PS Simon Schembri Left Speechless as State Fund gifts him Special Motorbike one year after Hit-And-Run

Simon Schembri will now be able to ride his favourite vehicle with one arm



**Tim Diacono**

One year ago, police sergeant Simon Schembri’s life changed forever when he was run over in Luqa by an underage driver and had to amputate his right arm.

And as a sign of gratitude, the Maltese state, through the Good Causes Fund, gifted Schembri, a motorbike enthusiast, a special bike with all the necessary adjustments that will allow him to ride with one arm. The gift was unveiled yesterday at a reception in Schembri’s honour, leaving the

police stunned. “I could sense that some surprise was coming, but this has left me breathless and I don’t know what to say,” he said. “I thank you all, but I felt my heart was going to hit the floor. You truly left me speechless.”

Schembri was run over by 17-year-old Liam Debono, who he had stopped after noticing his car’s dark tinted windows and later found out he was driving without a seatbelt or a license. Debono has been charged with attempted murder and is pleading not guilty. Schembri has since set up the Blue Light Foundation, which provides financial and psychological aid to first responders involved in serious incidents.

*Cover photo: Simon Schembri Blue Light Foundation*

## The Maori Haka: Its Meaning & History



### NEW ZEALAND'S CULTURE

#### WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE HAKA?

If you have heard anything about the New Zealand culture, no doubt you will have heard about the Haka. This captivating chant seen at many important New Zealand events, most famously before a rugby match against the All Blacks, has made the world more intrigued by the Maori culture. Of course, a great way to learn more is to come and experience

the Maori culture for yourself in New Zealand. But to give you more context about the importance of the Haka and what the Haka means to the Maori people, we have put together this quick guide to the Maori Haka. The Maori culture goes way beyond the Haka though, so we recommend you immerse yourself either by attending a cultural show, experiencing a hangi meal, learn about greenstone carving and more!

**WHERE DID THE HAKA COME FROM?** Because Maori history has been passed down through songs and the spoken word, there's not a clear story on where the haka first came from. However, there are a couple of common stories associated with the haka.

**THE HAKA IN MAORI LEGEND** There are many Maori legends to suggest where the Haka came from, but one common legend is that of the sun god, Ra. His summer maid, Hine-raumati, made the air seem to dance and quiver on hot days. This is reflected in the quivering motion that haka performers do with their hands.

**THE HAKA IS MAORI HISTORY** One early rendition of the haka being used was by chief Tinirau and the women in his tribe. He wanted revenge on a tohunga (priest) called Kae who was responsible for killing Tinirau's pet whale. He sent his tribes' women to hunt Kae down but all they knew about him was that he had crooked teeth. Upon arriving at their opposing tribe, they performed the haka to make the men smile and reveal Kae's teeth, thus his identity.

**DIFFERENT TYPES OF HAKA** While there are far more haka than the one listed below, here are a few of the main types of Maori haka.

**PERUPERU HAKA** The Peruperu is a type of haka performed as a "war dance", as it was traditionally performed before a battle. It is characterised by leaps where the legs are pressed under the body and weapons are usually used. The sticking out of the tongue and bulging eyes is meant to intimidate the opponents, as well as invoke the God of War.

**NGERI HAKA** The Ngeri haka has a different purpose to motivate both performers and warriors. It's usually performed without weapons and movements are more free as a sign of the performers expressing themselves.

**MANAWA WERA HAKA** This haka is usually performed at funerals or after somebody's death. Again, no weapons are used and the movement is more free..

**WHO CAN PERFORM THE HAKA?** Long answer short; anyone can perform the haka as long as it is done with seriousness and respect. Traditionally, both males and females perform the haka, but there are certain haka involving only women and same goes for the men. Of course, traditionally, only the Maori performed the Haka but since New Zealand had a mixed population of Maori and Pakeha (non-Maori New Zealanders) are involved in performing haka. In fact, they even teach the haka in New Zealand schools.

**THE ALL BLACKS HAKA** The most famous haka heard internationally is the Ka Mate Haka. This is the haka performed by the national New Zealand rugby team, the All Blacks. The main body of the chant goes like this:



**KA MATE HAKA**

Ka mate, ka mate! ka ora! ka ora!  
 Ka mate! ka mate! ka ora! ka ora!  
 Tēnei te tangata pūhuru hūru  
 Nāna nei i tiki mai whakawhiti te rā  
 Ā, upane! ka upane!  
 Ā, upane, ka upane, whiti te ra!

**ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE KA MATE HAKA**

'Tis death! 'tis death! (or: I may die) 'Tis life! 'tis life! (or: I may live)  
 'Tis death! 'tis death! 'Tis life! 'tis life!  
 This is the man  
 Who brought the sun and caused it to shine  
 A step upward, another step upward!  
 A step upward, another... the Sun shines!



**THE HISTORY OF THE KA MATE HAKA** The Ka Mate Haka was composed in 1820 by a war leader of the Ngati Toa iwi (tribe) called Te Rauparaha. He was fleeing his enemies from the Ngati Maniapoto iwi and the Waikato. He was given refuge on the shores of Lake Rotoaira at a site called Opotaka. He hid in a kumara pit. It was here that he was said to utter the words "Ka mate, ka mate, ka ora, ka ora", continuing to compose the lyrics to the Ka Mate haka until his pursuers never found him and when Te Rauparaha emerged from the pit and was befriended by the tribe at Opotaka. Te Rauparaha's haka was a celebration of life over death, rather than a war dance.

## Corroborees & Ceremonies

**ABORIGINAL CULTURE**

The word corroboree was first used by early European invaders to describe Aboriginal ceremonies that involved singing and dancing. Corroboree was the English version of the Aboriginal word Caribberie.

Not all songs and dances were sacred, like those taught in

initiation ceremonies. Everyone watched and performed the songs and dances and played the instruments from a young age. Songs and dances performed during the ceremonies passed on information about The Dreaming.

In some dances all participated, however others were reserved for a small few due to the sacred nature of dance. There are some women's and men's dances and songs and those used by both men and women.

As a part of these dances members of the language would paint particular designs on their bodies to indicate the type of ceremony being held and the language group and family group performing. Special costumes were worn and special instruments were used.

## QUEEN VITORIA AND HER MALTESE LACE



Leslie Vella

The British formally ruled Malta between 1814 and 1964 for a total of 150 years. During this period, the longest serving British monarch was undoubtedly Queen Victoria who ruled for sixty three years and seven months, which was a longer reign than that of any other British monarch and the longest of any female monarch in history until overtaken by Queen Elizabeth II in 2015.

Memories of Victoria's reign in Malta are generally related to place names. The capital of the island of Gozo, Rabat, was renamed Victoria in 1897 on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee while the largest British fortification on Malta, a defensive infantry wall criss-crossing the island at its widest point from east to west along a geological fault is known as the Victoria Lines. A residential area known as Victoria Gardens also probably owes its name to the Victorian era.

However the most visible and universally known manifestation of Queen Victoria in Malta is undoubtedly the white marble statue that graces the paradoxically named Republic Square in the capital, Valletta. Such is the presence of the statue, with the monarch on an elevated pedestal, staring haughtily at an unfocussed point across the square, that the

space is universally known as *Pjazza Regina* or Queen's Square in spite of its obviously anti-royalist nomenclature!

The monument is the work of the Sicilian sculptor Giuseppe Valenti and was erected in 1891 to commemorate Victoria's 50th anniversary as monarch. It survived the intensive bombings of the Second World War which leveled most of the buildings surrounding it and only sports minor damage in the form of a chipped index finger. Over the decades it also bore the brunt of thousands of pigeon droppings but was recently given a good clean-up and had some minor damage repaired by a team of restorers in 2011.

Haughty Queen Victoria's most humanly touching link with her Maltese subjects is reputed to have taken place when the Monarch placed an order for 'eight dozen pairs long and eight dozen pairs short mitts, besides a scarf' of Malta lace. The objective of this was to encourage the re-emergence of the old art of lace-making "so that the poor would be able to obtain a modicum of enjoyment from their lives".

This small story is unknown by most but is more than adequately represented in the Valletta statue through the intricately sculpted lace shawl covering the Queen's lap. I have passed by the statue hundreds if not thousands of times in all my years, but never did I actually stop to enjoy the life-like realism and minute detail of the lace shawl: even more so when considering that one is here talking about a marble statue and not something carved out of some softer medium.

So next time you are in Valletta stop for a coffee in one of the square's many cafes and spend some time enjoying this one time ruler of Malta and an empire on which the sun never set, clad as she is in her beautiful and impressive Maltese lace!

Send us your comments, stories and  
articles to share with other readers  
[maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com)





## Seed Dance Studios to follow New York success with Malta performance

Friday, 31 May 2019, 13:59 Last update: about 22 hours ago



Students from one the, Seed Dance Studios, are soon to hold a unique dance event, following their performance as part of the final of a major dance competition in New York.

Led by the school's artistic director Marisha Bonnici, 14 young dancers from Seed were selected through a series of regional semi-finals held worldwide to be a part of the New York final of the Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP), where they performed 'In the

Village'.

Fresh from this one-of-a-kind experience, students from #TeamSeed are now preparing for a new show that will be performed at St Agatha in Rabat on 22 June. The hour-long performance and awards ceremony will showcase classical ballet, contemporary dance, Spanish dance and street jazz routines, performers will include students graduating from the school and who are moving on to full-time international vocational training. The event will be free of charge, but booking is essential.

While giving the opportunity for younger students to aspire to the successes of these Seed graduates, the show also aims to encourage those who may be considering attending the school over the next scholastic year.

Seed Dance Studios is home to one of just 10 Royal Ballet International Scholars in the world, and many students have successfully auditioned for various summer intensives and short term visits to the Royal Ballet School, Paris Opera, Princesse Grace Monaco, English National Ballet School, Rosella High Tower Cannes, American Ballet Theatre, Ballettchule Theatre Basel, Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary, and Elmhurst Ballet School.

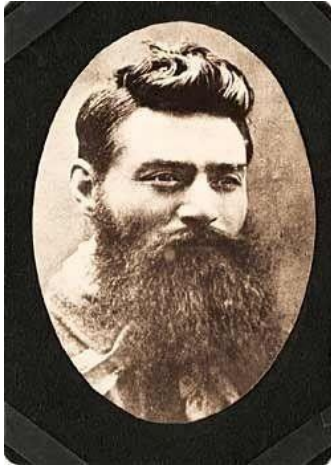
*The Seed Dance Studios performance and awards ceremony will be held at St Agatha in Rabat, at 6pm on 22 June. More information and ticketing details may be found by visiting the Seed Dance Studios Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/pg/Seedancestudios/](http://www.facebook.com/pg/Seedancestudios/).*



**A BIT OF  
NOSTALGIA**

**AN OLD PHOTO TAKEN IN GOZO CIRCA 1939**

**A farmer wearing the traditional waistcoat called Sidrija and a group of ladies chatting at the village square wearing the traditional headdress called the Ghonnella**



## Ned Kelly A Famous Australian Bushranger - "Such Is Life"

Ned Kelly (1854-1880) was an Australian bushranger, who was considered a folk hero among many for his defiance of the colonial authorities at the time. Ned Kelly was born in Victoria to an Irish convict father (convicts were a major proportion of Australia at this time). After an incident at his home in 1878, Ned Kelly's mother and friends were convicted and taken away. Ned Kelly fled and ended up murdering three policemen (in self defence), from that day Ned Kelly and his gang became wanted outlaws. Soon the entire Victorian and New South Wales police force began hunting down Ned Kelly. He not only evaded capture, but he started to fight back; robbing banks and distributing the money to his supporters for legal fees. Ned Kelly made his final stand in a violent confrontation with police at Glenrowan, using home made steel plate armor. He suffered 28 bullet wounds before being captured and sent to jail. He was hanged for murdering the three policeman at the Old Melbourne Gaol in 1880. Ned Kelly's final words were "Such is life".

## BARBEQUE The Barbie



Barbie is Australian slang for barbeque (or barbecue). Barbies are an important part of lifestyle in Australia, during Summer especially most people will have at least one week-end barbie a week. There is nothing more Australian than a barbie. Other countries like to drink beer. Other countries have a pub culture. There is no a culture in the world that enjoys barbeques quite like the Australians, we have the perfect climate for it and we have the perfect mateship for it. It is very much a part of our way of life and is enjoyed everywhere and by everyone. Australian barbies are a simple and easy way to catch up with friends, family or neighbours, but there are some requirements. Requirements for an Australian Barbie are: - Beer –Meat –Friends and more Beer.



## The success of Vegemite: all down to a researcher at the University of Adelaide?

Vegemite started as a wartime substitute for Marmite, but it's now as symbolic of Australia as Sydney Harbour Bridge and the koala. How did this salty spread become so popular?

What's the link between German U-boats, the beer industry, processed cheese and the Men At Work's 1983 hit, Down Under?

The answer is, they all played a part in turning Vegemite from a humble yeast spread into an Australian icon. Stop any Aussie on any street, anywhere in the world, and they will have a view on Vegemite – for, or against.

Now, on the eve of its 90th birthday, the first official history has just been published. The Man Who Invented Vegemite is written by Jamie Callister, grandson of the man who created it.

"My grandfather Cyril created something that all Australians associate with their childhood. It never leaves you," he says.

Vegemite is a nutritious, and undeniably delicious start to the day. Sure, it's great on toast, but what if we add an egg? Or a slice of tomato? Or some cheese or creamy Aussie avo? Rich in B vitamins to kick start your day, open the lid on a world of ways



# ARE YOU OK?



RU OK?'s vision is a world where we're all connected and are protected from loneliness, depression and suicide/self-harm.

Our aim is to inspire and empower everyone to meaningfully connect with people around them and support anyone struggling with life.

Our goals are to:

1. Boost our confidence to meaningfully connect and ask about life's ups and downs

2. Nurture our sense of responsibility to regularly connect and support others

3. Strengthen our sense of belonging because we know people are there for us

4. Be relevant, strong and dynamic.

Looking out for one another and lending support is a key life skill for any age group.. RU OK? Day (Thursday 12 September, 2019) is our national day of action dedicated to reminding everyone that any day is the day to ask, "Are you OK?" and support those struggling with life .



## LET'S SHARE - WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER

HELPING A  
DEPRESSED  
FRIEND  
OR FAMILY  
MEMBER



*As a community we are Stronger Together. Knowledge is culture, and emotional wellbeing can be learned from family members such as parents and grandparents. Together we look out for each other as well as providing guidance on what to do if someone answers "No, I'm not OK".*



Official Partners



HSBC

MALTA AIRPORT FOUNDATION

melita

THE PHOENICIA MALTA

airmalta

## Valletta Film Festival 2019

Fri, Jun 14, 2019  
9:00 AM Sun, Jun 23,  
2019 10:00 PM  
Valletta

The 5th edition of  
the Valletta Film  
Festival will take  
place on Friday 14 to  
Sunday 23 June

## Emvin Cremona 1919-1987.



Emvin Cremona was among the foremost Maltese painters of the twentieth century, soon becoming a formidable name in the fields of landscape, church decoration and, later, stamp-design and abstract painting.

Born in Valletta, Cremona showed that he had great artistic talent from a young age and in spite of lack of family support he studied art at the Malta School of Arts under Edward Caruana Dingli and Karmenu Mangion, in company with Willie Apap, Anton Inglott, Esprit Barthet and Victor Diacono. Cremona used to participate in group painting sessions in the countryside, which prepared him for his later work in Rome, where he was to excel in this field.

In 1938 Cremona started a scholarship to study in Rome at the Regia Accademia delle Belle Arti along with fellow artists, Anton Inglott, Esprit Barthet and George Preca. This was an important time for Cremona as his first encounters with Modernism in Rome were developed in his later artistic progress.

However once WWII broke out their situation became very difficult and in 1941 Emvin Cremona returned to Malta with Anton Inglott (1) and was conscripted into the army. Besides designing camouflage (2), he produced scenery for troop drama productions and also restored heraldic emblems at the Main Guard in Palace Square, Valletta (3).

In 1945 and 1946 Cremona continued his studies not in Rome, but in London at the renowned Slade School of Art where he had his first personal experience of a cultural climate far more up-to-date with current trends than Rome. He later attended the Parisian Ecole Supérieur de Beaux Arts.

Following two decades of Impressionistic landscape painting and some of the first examples of abstraction in Malta, his art took a dramatic turn in 1960 in reaction to the grave politico-religious crisis. Cremona's art was seen all over the grand celebrations to mark the anniversary of St Paul's coming to Malta in 1960, as his strong, fascist-influenced style was ideally suited to the religious feeling and the tense political climate of the times.

**Celebrating 6 years online**  
*Maltese eNewsletter*

Reading this journal I feel I am living in my beloved Malta which I left over 50 years ago. It brings me back a lot of nice memories.  
Josephine Ellul (Canada)





## Anne Visits Malta



**Author: Anne Pflug** I presently live in Venice Florida USA but was born on the island of Malta. I have relatives there and visit quite often. I am in the process of writing a travelogue and memoir about my visits and memories of Malta. I would like to use my blog to show the many photos I have taken and the beautiful sights that I have seen in Malta. [annepflugcom.wordpress.com](http://annepflugcom.wordpress.com) This blog [annevisitsmalta.com](http://annevisitsmalta.com) enhances my book *Return to Malta*

### The Miracle in Mosta The Unexploded Bomb

This bomb landed in the center of an already famous church in Malta during World War II. The Maltese people are sure that it was a miracle considering the many bombs that fell during the war and all of them exploded, creating great damage to this little island. The blog titled "The Church Ceiling in Mosta" shows exactly, in the ceiling, where the bomb entered the church. Miracle or not, it was an amazing occurrence, one that was not repeated again.

### The Church Ceiling in Mosta

#### **The repaired dome in the church in Mosta**

During World War II, a bomb fell through the dome of this church but did not explode. The Maltese people thought it was a miracle and neutralized the bomb and now have it on display. If you look carefully, you will see where the bomb had fallen through and where the dome was repaired. If you divide the decorated dome into quadrants, you can see the 'not so perfect' repair job in the upper left quadrant. I have a feeling that it wasn't repaired perfectly so that all who look up can see this evidence of this miracle.

### **A donkey ride in the country**

This is an old photograph of me riding a donkey in the Maltese countryside Here I am, as a child, over 60 years ago. We enjoyed these rides taken to visit relatives far from the cities



### The Seven Storey Street - Amazing, this street goes down seven stories.

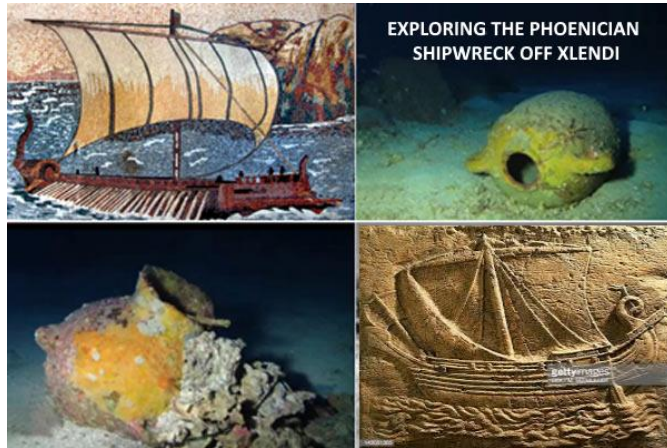


Malta, the country where I was born, tends to be very hilly in some places. The last time I was there, I spent time in a hotel in Mellieha. The Preluna Hotel and Spa occupied seven stories and all of them went out to the street. The street itself is made up of steps, seven stories worth and all the floors had an exit to the street. It had swimming pools on three levels, all street-side.

At first it was very confusing and hard to imagine. Once we got used to it, it had advantages. No matter what floor you were on, you can walk out to the street on that level. This is not the only hilly street in Malta; the capital city, Valletta, also has its share. Walking around town becomes an exhausting experience.

## EXHIBITION

## 2,700-year-old Phoenician Shipwreck Discovered in Maltese Waters



*Exploring the Phoenician Shipwreck off Xlendi, Gozo* is the latest Heritage Malta exhibition. The exhibition focuses on the discovery of a Phoenician shipwreck which dates back to 700 BC. Discovered off Xlendi in 2007, at a depth of 110m, this intriguing ancient vessel has attracted worldwide attention since it is the oldest wreck ever found so far in this region.

The exhibition was officially inaugurated by the Hon. Dr. Justyne Caruana, Minister of Gozo, Dr. Anton Refalo, Chairman of Heritage Malta, and Prof. Timmy Gambin, Head of Heritage Malta's Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit, at the Gozo Area Office at the Cittadella. The public will be able to visit this

exhibition until the 31st August 2019.

The Phoenicians were renowned as skillful and brave maritime traders who managed to create an impressive commercial network across several countries. Their trading routes are known to have extended as far up into Britain and to Mesopotamian ports and also east to mainland Greece and Crete. Yet the exact routes on which they travelled have remained elusive. The discovery of shipwrecks which date to the Phoenician Period shed further light on the possible trade routes of these mysterious Phoenician merchants.

Based on more than 10 years of research, the University of Malta, in collaboration with a number of partners, has utilized state of the art technologies to study and explore one of the most exciting underwater archaeological discoveries in the Central Mediterranean. The exhibition will highlight some of the innovative techniques that were used in this project, including the methods utilized to recover a number of artefacts from the shipwreck, some of which were previously unknown in the archaeological record.

Besides following the results of this interesting study, visitors at this exhibition will be able to explore a number of artefacts which were recovered from the Phoenician shipwreck. Moreover, they can use the audio-visual aids to transport themselves into an underwater world of historical discovery. The exhibition will also explain stories of trade, exchange, production, and consumption in the Archaic Mediterranean.

Research is ongoing and the results will form a significant permanent part of the Gozo Museum, which Heritage Malta and the Ministry for Gozo are collaborating to open.

The material from this exhibition has also been exhibited in Brussels during Malta's European Presidency, and was met with considerable international interest. This exhibition is being held at Heritage Malta's Gozo Area Office, Exhibition Hall, St Martin's Quarter Street, Cittadella. **Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8.00am till 4.00pm (until 31 August 2019). Admission free of charge**







## Gallant Malta Commemorates its George Cross in stamps

On 14 April 2012, the Maltese Post Office issued a miniature sheet to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the award of the George Cross to the island of Malta "to bear witness to the heroism and devotion of its people" during the terrible German assault on the island during the Second World War. German and Italian aircraft launched continuous air-raids against the island during the period of the siege of Malta and the brave people suffered greatly and starved as Axis forces attacked convoys of Allied ships attempting to bring food supplies to the island. In honour of the peoples' bravery, King George VI made the award of the highest civilian honour to the island on 15 April 1942. Subsequently the distinction was marked by placing a representation of the medal in the canton of the island's national flag. The award is depicted on the 68c value of the definitive series which was issued on 29 December 2009 (above) and the 70th anniversary issue depicts a photograph taken at the presentation ceremony in 1942 (below).



Over the years Malta has made a number of stamp issues which commemorate the great honour. The first special issue to commemorate the award of the George Cross to the island was released on 15 April 1957, the fifteenth anniversary, and was designed by the great Maltese stamp designer, Chevalier EV Cremona. The set comprised three values:- 1-1/2d, 3d and 1/-. The stamps are in typical Cremona style and are typical of what was really a golden age of Maltese stamps.



Earlier, the 3d value of the 1953-57 definitive series had featured the letter from King George VI to the Governor of Malta which accompanied the award of the medal.

On 15 April 1958, the sixteenth anniversary of the award was commemorated by another set of three stamps again beautifully designed by Chevalier Cremona. The designs dramatically portrayed the siege with a convoy of ships being attacked appearing on the 3d value and searchlights lighting up the skies being depicted on the other two values.

The following year a further set of 3 stamps was issued on 15 April 1959 to commemorate the 17th anniversary of the award of the honour and was again designed by Chevalier Cremona.



Although no George Medal stamp issue was made in 1960, a fourth set designed by Chevalier Cremona was released on 15 April 1961.

Strangely the opportunity to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the award of the medal was missed in 1962 and no further issue was made on the subject until 1 March 1967 when the award's 25th anniversary was commemorated by the last stamps on this theme to be designed by Chevalier Cremona. In these the award is the central point of three interestingly shaped stamps.



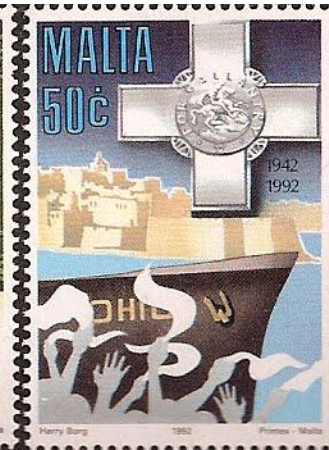
The 50th anniversary of the award of the George Medal was commemorated on 15 April 1992 by three stamps designed by Harry Borg. These are certainly not up to the standard of those designed by EV Cremona but the medal featured prominently on each value. No issue was made in 2002 on the 60th

anniversary of the award of the honour.





The issue of 1957 had not been the first to feature the George Cross. The medal made its first appearance appropriately on the two Victory stamps which were issued on 3 December 1946, next to the country name at the top of the stamp (a Maltese cross appears at the other end of the inscription).



The medal similarly appeared on the stamps issued on 4 January 1949 to commemorate the royal silver wedding anniversary and on the 4 stamps released on 10 October 1949 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union.

Finally, the three delightful stamps issued on 1 December 1950 to commemorate the visit of Princess Elizabeth also bore a depiction of the George Medal at the lower right of the stamp.

The valiant people of Malta endured immeasurable loss and suffering as a result of the vicious, prolonged assault on their island home and fully deserved the recognition they received from their king in the form of the award of the George Cross. The issue of this miniature sheet in 2012 is one stamp issue that is fully justified and not to be missed.

## New shared bus service with seat booking on TD Plus



A new shared on demand service with six new premium buses operating between St Julian's and Valletta, has been launched by Malta Public Transport.

It said that this innovative service offers customers the possibility to book their bus seat on one of the new premium buses through the popular and updated Tallinja App.

MPT explained that TD Plus is a pilot project which allows passengers to choose when and where they would like to be picked up from and dropped off. The system then checks the best ride available and provides the passenger with

their trip confirmation.

"This is a completely new approach to urban transportation and the feedback we received after an intensive testing period in the past weeks has been immensely encouraging," said Konrad Pulé, General Manager at Malta Public Transport.

MPT said that this is a first for Malta. The bus company partnered with Ecolane, an on-demand scheduling and dispatching software company, to provide this innovative service.

TD Plus uses technology that matches the requests made by different passengers to select the most efficient route. It offers greater flexibility, more comfort and added value while saving time. Customers can book multiple passengers on a single trip, and request access for wheelchairs or pushchairs.



The system will also send notifications to alert the passengers that the bus is on its way to the bus stop.

Malta Public Transport is initially operating TD Plus on a select number of bus stops in the following localities: Valletta, Floriana, Pietà, Blata l-Bajda, Msida, San Gwann, St. Julian's, Swieqi and Pembroke. The service is available every day between 5:30am and 10:30pm.

MPT added that as a special introductory offer, the service will be available at €2 per trip for all those customers who book through the Tallinja App during the month of June. Customers may choose to pay for their trip with the credit on their Tallinja Card or using their credit card.

The fleet includes six new premium minibuses which are low floor and fully wheelchair accessible. Free WiFi is available and seats are equipped with USB charging ports for added convenience. The minibuses can accommodate up to 16 passengers.

The updated Tallinja App can be downloaded for free from App Store and Google Play Store.

## Barracca garden tops at Malta



It is one of the most beautiful gardens of Valletta; It was built in 1775 on the bastion of Saints Peter and Paul thanks to the financial contribution of an Italian knight who wanted to offer his compatriots a place of pleasant rest. It is the highest point on the ramparts and offers a magnificent view over the Grand Port and the localities of Senglea, Cospicua and Vittoriosa. The beautiful colonnade was

originally covered; But in 1775 priests gathered discreetly under his roof, to attack the Order and get rid of the Great Master Ximenes. Their plan failed and, in order to avoid discrete gatherings and future threats, the roof was suppressed. The garden is decorated with numerous statues, including the "Statue of Gavroches" by Antonio Sciortino, quite original. Below are the 11 guns that are used to fire a salvo every day at noon; There is also the customs building built in the 17th century. By Giuseppe Bonnici.

## Buskett gardens at Malta



There was a time when there were many trees in Malta, but their use for the construction of ships and for everyday life decimated the forests. It is the Knights of Malta who have planted the varied vegetation of this stretch, a mixture of conifers (maritime pines, cypresses) and other broad-leaved trees, with a garigue, a maquis and fruit trees. It is a place very popular with

Maltese people who come in the summer for shade and greenery. There are many birds in the park. At its center is the Verdala Palace built in 1586 by Gerolamo Cassar. It is both a beautiful Renaissance palace and a strong stronghold reinforced by its four corner towers. Today it is the summer residence of the president of the republic. It can not be visited; The interior contains numerous paintings of Maltese personalities and a bust of the Grand Master Verdalle



### Games of the Small States of Europe Montenegro 2019

The Games of Small States of Europe Montenegro **2019** are being held in the cities of Budvar, Bar, Tivat, Cetinje and Podgorica, Montenegro. The event took place between 27 May - 1 June **2019**.



Gianluca Chetcuti (left) and William Chetcuti pose after the double trap final.  
Photo: Matthew Mirabelli



Jordan Gusman won the 10,000m race. Photo: Matthew Mirabelli



Lisa Marie Bezzina gold double in 5,000m and 10,000m. Photo: Matthew Mirabelli



Elaine Genovese (left) and Francesca Curmi have reached the final of the women's doubles

**It was a golden day for Team Malta at the 2019 Games of the Small States of Europe as the Maltese athletes won three gold and three silver medals to take their overall tally to 25 medals – six gold, 11 silver and eight bronze.**



**Thank you**  
**from Frank**