

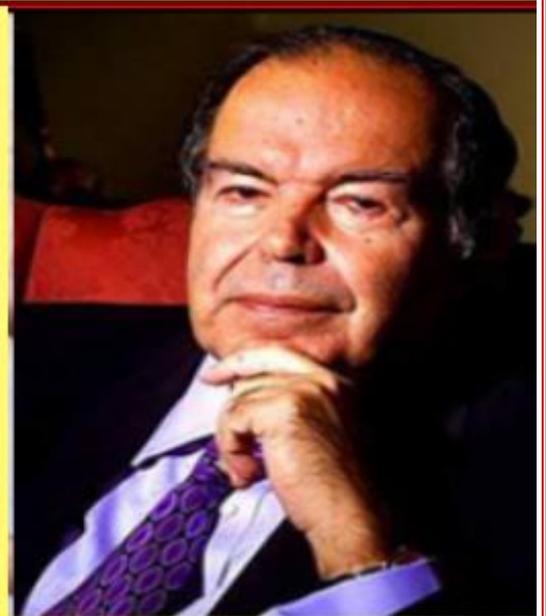
Maltese eNewsletter



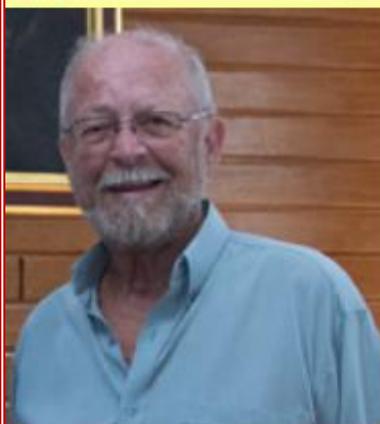
Editor
Frank Scicluna

Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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Dr. Edward DeBono



(Above)
An outstanding
Maltese - Australian
Prof. Stephen Gatt

(Left) Roderick "RIGU"
BOVINGDON
Singer - Poet - Author



Joe Axiaq

Our Maltese Journal
So proud of our achievers

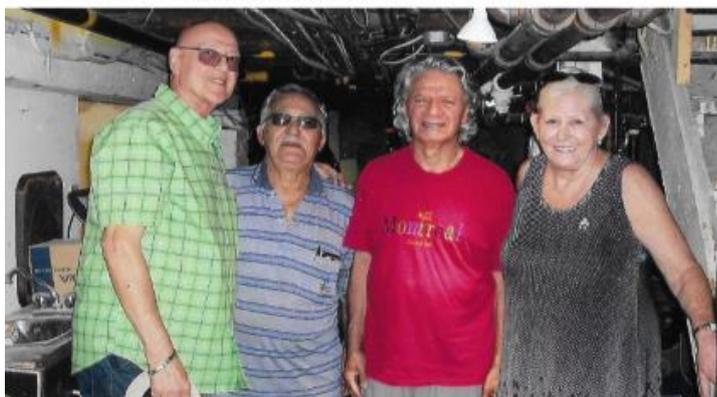


The Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto Committee of 1934
A special committee was set up by the Society to arrange for the Float (see right). This committee was named the "Knights of Malta Committee"



**CLOSURE OF THE
MALTES-CANADIAN
SOCIETY OF
TORONTO
CANADA**

. The people in the photo are volunteers clearing out what was left of the M.C.S.T.'s belongings. Many of the Society's earlier records, etc. are preserved in a section at the National Archives of Canada at Ottawa, and other archives here and in Malta.



It was truly a sad day in the Toronto Maltese-Canadian community with the closure of the 97 year old Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto (M.C.S.T.). The building at 3132 Dundas Street, West, in West Toronto "Junction" was sold in August, 2019. According to Ms. Merrica Bonett, who was at the Society these past few years, she said that a Croatian gentleman bought the building.

The main reason for the founding of the Society in downtown Toronto (Dundas and McCaul Streets area) in 1922 was to promote and the establishment of a Maltese Roman Catholic church. The small community at the time was using the church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and its hall. The Society's main goal was achieved with the erection of the first St. Paul the Apostle Church at 3224 Dundas Street, West in the "Junction" in 1930.

During its illustrious history the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto played an integral role in the lives of Maltese migrants settling in Canada, especially Toronto. Through the following decades the M.C. S.T. (until more clubs were founded in the 1960's) was the main voice of the Maltese in Toronto. In 1934, when Toronto was celebrating it's first one hundred years, the float which the Society had organized for the centennial parade won first prize. During WW11 the Society was in charge of the "Malta Relief Fund" for the beleaguered Island of Malta.

When a new and larger church was required by the community the founders and members of the Society were involved in this undertaking as well, the new church was completed in 1956 and the auditoriums in 1960. The Society kept financially supporting St. Paul's until it began to rent premises for it's own use in the mid-1960's. It was during this time that other Maltese associations/clubs were forming in the "Junction" (West Toronto) and the importance of the M.C.S.T. began to falter. When other clubs were purchasing their own buildings, it took many years for the M.C.S.T. to do likewise since it had been supporting St. Paul's. The "heart" of the Society was taken away when it's large adult band decided to leave in 1971 and formed the Malta Band Club.

The Society struggled to remain active and it was served for many years by dedicated executive committees and M.C.S.T. members. With a shrinking and aging "Junction" Maltese community and no new emigrants coming to Toronto it was difficult to find volunteers to serve the club.

Information about the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto is preserved at the National Public Archives of Canada at Ottawa, as well as other archives here in Canada and in Malta. The Maltese-Canadian Museum/Archives at the St. Paul the Apostle Church Complex houses many old photos, archival documents, memorabilia

L-ISQFIJJIET MALTIN JIFIRHU LILL-ARĊISQOF-ELETT ANTOINE CAMILLERI

Il-Konferenza Episkopali Maltija tifraħ lill-Monsinjur Antoine Camilleri għall-hatra tiegħu mill-Papa Frangisku bhala Arċisqof Titulari ta' Skálholt u Nunzju Appostoliku. L-Arċisqof Charles J. Scicluna, l-Isqof Mario Grech u l-Isqof Awżiljajru Joseph Galea-Curmi, miġburin waqt laqgħa tal-Konferenza Episkopali, laqgħu din l-aħbar u wegħdu t-talb tal-Knisja f'Malta u Għawdex għal din il-missjoni ġdida fdata lill-Monsinjur



**ARCHDIOCESE
OF MALTA**

Camilleri Nomina dell'Arcivescovo titolare di Skálholt Il Santo Padre ha nominato Arcivescovo titolare di Skálholt il Reverendo Monsignore Antoine Camilleri, finora Sotto-Segretario per i Rapporti con gli Stati della Segreteria di Stato, affidandogli allo stesso tempo l'ufficio di Nunzio Apostolico.

**Rev.do Mons. Antoine Camilleri**

Nato a Sliema (Malta) il 20 agosto 1965. Ordinato sacerdote il 5 luglio 1991. Incardinato a Malta. Laureato in Giurisprudenza e in Diritto Canonico. Entrato nel Servizio diplomatico della Santa Sede il 9 gennaio 1999, ha prestato la propria opera presso le Rappresentanze Pontificie in Papua

Nuova Guinea, Uganda, Cuba e presso la Sezione per i Rapporti con gli Stati della Segreteria di Stato. Nominato Sotto-Segretario della Sezione Rapporti con gli Stati della Segreteria di Stato, il 22 febbraio 2013. Lingue conosciute: maltese, italiano, inglese, spagnolo, francese, portoghese, rumeno, russo.

ITTRA LI DEHRET F 'L-ORIZZONT' TAL-ERBGHA 21 T'AWWISSU 2019

l-orizzont
GURNAL INDIPENDENTI TA' KULJUM



MALTESE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA
IL-GAZZETTA TAL-MALTIN TA' BARRA
IPPUBLIKATA FL-AWSTRALJA

Sur Editur - Niringrazzjak li dan l-aħhar ippublikajli l-ittra dwar wahda miz-zewg gazzetti Maltin fl-Awstralja dwar il-Maltin u l-Ghawdxin li qed jagħmlu isem lill-art twelidhom b'kitbiethom u b'dak kollu li jista jkun ta' nteress għal min isegwihom.

Kont semmejt The Voice of the Maltese bl-editur tagħha ikun Lawrence Dimech li fil-fatt kien l-ewwel editur ta din il-gazzetta fi NSW l-Awstralja. Qed tohrog gazzetta ohra li mid-dehra tagħha din qed tkun segwita minn hafna minn dawk li jhobbu jkunu jafu xi jkun għaddej f'Malta tagħna Ikoll.

Din jisima "MALTESE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA" u hija mmexxija mill-editur tagħha is-Sur Frank Scicluna. Jiena nircivieha minghand qrabati li joqogħodu f'Sydney u fiha wiehed isib hafna tagħrif dwar Malta u dak li jkun għaddej fiha.

Jiena nirrakomandha dan il-gazzettal lil kull min għandu qrabatu fl-Awstralja u f'pajjizi ohra. Huwa tajjeb li wiehed ikun jaf li l-Maltin u l-Ghawdxin, għalkemm Alla għamilna pajjiz zghir u minghajr rizorsi naturali hliet gebla tal-bini tal-franka, għandna x'nofru f'dik li hija l-

industrija tat-turizmu u l-gentilezza tagħna lejn il-barranin.

Maltralian : The Maltese Ethnolect of Australia

Roderick Bovingdon, also known as Rigu, is a respected and well-known Maltese author residing in Australia. Born in Attard, Malta in 1942. He emigrated with his parents to Australia when still a teenager. Other than many publications on Maltese linguistics, he is also known for a number of songs he released in vinyl or compact disk.



MALTRALIAN : *The Maltese Ethnolect of Australia is the latest contribution by Roderick Bovingdon of Sydney, Australia which was presented to the Rector Professor Alfred J. Vella in appreciation of Malta's linguistic contribution to a more comprehensive understanding of the Maltese language 'in toto' from a numerically leading section of the world's Maltese diaspora.*

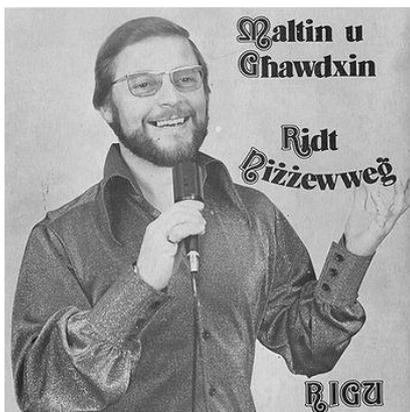
*This fresh work is a revised and supplemented edition of the 2001 publication *The Maltese Language of Australia : Maltraljan* with two additional chapters where a more detailed linguistic delving is given along*

with two comparative samples of Italoaustralian and Egyptian Maltese.

The major drift of this fresh work reveals the innovative and creative nature of language as such, as well as the adaptability of settler groups, in this case the Maltese emigres, in foreign lands away from their indigenous environment.

Ir-Rigu tal-għana lura magħna bil-poeżija - APORIJA

Din hija l-intervista li xxandret fuq **ONE NEWS - MALTA** fl-1 Settembru 2019 minn Kelly Peplow



Probabbli se tagħrfuh minn meta dari kien stilla tal-għana, ir-Rigu.

Illum, Roderick Bovingdon qed jiċcelebra kisba kemmxejn differenti. Wara ghomru jinvesti l-imħabba tiegħu lejn il-kitba, partikolarment il-poeżija, issa għabar kull poeżija li qatt kiteb fi ktieb wieħed, bl-isem APORIJA. Kelma li konvinti li bħalna, ma smajtuhiex qabel...

Bovingdon qalilna “Essenzjalment tfisser dubju ezistenzjalista, mhux tiddubuta fis-sinċerità imma tiddubita minn ċertu intelligenza umana li dejjem trid tkun taf iżjed”.

It-titlu tal-ktieb huwa fil-fatt riflessjoni perfetta ta’ dak li l-qarrejja se jsibu fil-paġni ta’ ħajjet il-poeta.

Hu tenna li “F’dak il-ktieb għandi diversi esperjenzi, dubji, glori ta’ Malta ta’ ħolmti. Malta li xi darba kienet meta kont tifel mqabbla ma’ tal-lum, imma Malta għalija dejjem tibqa’ kbira fiċ-ċokon tagħha”.

Roderick ried li Aporija jkun riflessjoni ta’ ħajtu, ta’ dak li wegġgħu, li għallmu, u li ferħu. Dan għamlu b’sensiela ta’ poeżiji qosra dwar kull suġġet li tista’ taħseb fih, iżda b’mod kemmxejn differenti.

L-istorja tiegħu qed jgħidha b’bosta djaletti Maltin. Malti ta’ dari, Malti modern, u anke Malti tal-Awstralja, il-Maltralian. Fi kliem il-poeta dan huwa mezz biex verament inti tilhaq lil kulhadd, u fl-istess ħin tgħarraf lill-qarrejja dwar kemm il-lingwa ta’ pajjiż daqstant ċkejken tista’ tinbidel meta tiġi mitkellma f’pajjiż barrani għal għexieren ta’ snin.

“Kwalunkwe Malti nuża jien. Fil-poeżija imma tkun trid, meta qed tithadded fuq drawwiet antiki, bilfors trid tuża kliem li forsi illum m ghadux jintuża”, kompla jgħid Bovingdon.

Il-ktieb li se jiddokumenta l-vjaġġ tal-poeta b’varjetà mill-isbaħ ta’ lsienna se jasal fil-ħwienet lokali lejn l-aħħar ta’ Awwissu...

...u allura, la rnexxielu jikkumpila l-poeżiji kollha tiegħu fi ktieb wieħed, daqshekk kiteb ir-Rigu?

Hu temm jgħid li “Ma nistax ngħid li daqshekk. Dal-lejl stess daħlitli waħda f’moħhi u għid niktibha. Tibqa’ tħammem f’moħhi sakemm ir-ruħ ma toqgħodx kwieta u bilfors trid kompulsivament taqbad karta u lapas u tiktibha



CURRENT AFFAIRS

**Step by Step to
Auschwitz
documentary
wins
international
award**

TV documentary Step
by Step to Auschwitz

won the award for the best documentary of the month at the Glasgow International Festival – TMFF.

Director: Jonathan Farrugia

The documentary was co-produced by PBS and Flash Productions. Other documentaries from Israel and the United Kingdom were presented at the festival.

The TMFF festival has been held monthly in Glasgow for the past five years. Nine judges, including film directors, documentary producers, scriptwriters, musicians and film critics select the best monthly documentaries.

Philip Vella wins 43rd edition of L-Ghanja tal-Poplu

Report: Antonia Micallef



Veteran singer-composer Philip Vella of Mellieha has won the 43rd edition of the L-Ghanja tal-Poplu festival of Maltese song with the song 'Il-Verita'. The finalist songs were accompanied by a live orchestra at the Pjazza Teatru Rjal.

'Il-Verita' was interpreted by Philip Vella who also wrote the lyrics.

The song relates to a situation in which everyone, at one time or

another, was a victim of a lie. At times, many people may have hurt others with a lie. The song suggests that when we use the communication means we tell the truth so that we are trusted.

Sixteen songs participated at the Saturday final evening of the Ghanja tal-Poplu festival after being selected from 111 submissions. The finalist songs, judged by a team of Maltese personalities, were accompanied by the Malta Concert Orchestra composed of 40 musicians under the direction of Conductors Joe Brown and Paul Abela.

The song 'Tfewwaħ', interpreted and with lyrics by Cherylis, placed second and also won the award for best singer-songwriter.

'Minn Kajfas Għal Għand Pilatu' interpreted and written by Rachell Lowell was third. The song also won the award for the best original song.

The best interpretation award went to Janice Mangion with the song 'Għadu Mhux il-Waqt'.

Singers Mike Spiteri and Hooligan were honoured with the award 'Gieħ l-għanja li tibqa' as a recognition for their contribution to the Maltese song. The festival was transmitted live on TVM2.

Food for thought: Are Maltese conscious about what they eat?

Report: Daphne Cassar



If we've heard it once, we've heard it a thousand times – the Maltese are the most obese nation in the European

Union, but in reality how much attention do they pay to campaigns calling for moderation in food consumption?

A third of the Maltese population have an obesity problem. This was confirmed last year in studies carried out by Eurostat and the World Health Organisation who found that almost 30% of Maltese are obese. This is not just a question of being overweight but a situation which could pose a danger to their health.

This does not augur well for the younger generations because the obesity rate among eleven year old boys and girls is almost 38% for boys, and 32% for girls. Expert nutritionist Mario Caruana said that the Maltese are greedy but attributed the obesity phenomenon to a combination of factors including lifestyle, lack of exercise, and portion sizes. He said that this, along

with the popularity of junk food such as cheesecakes, pies, burgers and chips, and alcoholic beverages are leading to calorie consumption in excess of that which is recommended.

Dr Caruana appealed for solutions not to be drastic but recommended wisdom and a mentality based on moderation and facts.

“There are thousands of diets at the moment and recently a book was released, an encyclopedia on various diets that have emerged since the seventies. One, however, must be careful from a medical standpoint when cutting out certain food groups, because it is not just a question of calories. There are basic and essential nutrients which if cut out in the long-term, could also have repercussions on human health ”

It appears however that health campaigns are not falling on deaf ears entirely because there were some who claimed to pay attention to what they eat and drink.

According to a Eurostat study there is a clear link between obesity and education levels , because the obesity rate among those with higher levels of education has halved



Junior Eurovision 2019: Eliana given trophy

Posted On September 2, 2019 - Updated 2 September, 2019 1:49pm



The winner of Malta Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2019, Eliana Gomez Blanco, was officially awarded a trophy during a meeting at PBS.

After having won the competition this year, she will be the Maltese representative for the Junior Eurovision to be held in Poland.

She was accompanied by Leah Cauchi, who was in second place and Martina Cutajar who came third.

Chief Executive, Engineer Charles Dalli, congratulated the young singers auguring them a great career in music and

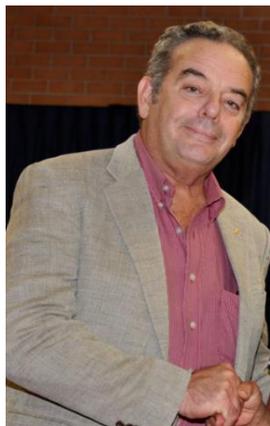
singing.

He said that this year the PBS gave a platform to twelve finalists of this competition. The winner was partly determined by a vote taken by a professional jury (50%) and partly (50%) by public vote.

tvm.com.mt will continue to follow the journey of Eliana to the final to be held on 24 November at Arena Gliwice in Poland.

Maltese doctor honoured in Australia and UK

Prof. Stephen Gatt's Maltese-Australian Connection



Frank Scicluna

Late last year, THE MALTESE JOURNAL reported that Professor Stephen Gatt, a Royal University of Malta MD graduate, resident, for the last 44 years, in Sydney, NSW, Australia, had been granted Honorary Life Membership of the Society of Obstetric Medicine, its highest accolade which has never been awarded to anyone outside of obstetric medicine... and, in either case, only 5 times in 30 years. Now, the Royal College of Anaesthetists of the United Kingdom has conferred an Honorary Fellowship of the RCA, FRCA *Honoris Causa*, for extensive contributions to the field of anaesthesia internationally. Prof. Gatt had previously held FRCA, by election, of the RCA and holds fellowships by examination in anaesthesia (FANZCA), intensive care medicine (FCICM) and health service management (FACHSM) as well as associate fellowship in medical administration (AFRACMA) in Australia and New Zealand, amongst others.

The award was made for extensive contributions to anaesthesia and especially to obstetric anaesthesia. As President of the Obstetric Anaesthesia Society of Asia and Oceania for over 25 years and, as of last year, Emeritus Life President of OASAO, Prof. Gatt is the most recognisable obstetric anaesthetist across Asia - Pacific. He has given more than 500 lectures in more than 100 cities in more than 34 countries. His bibliography is prodigious – 5 books, more than 280 scientific papers and more than 45 journal reviews. This amounts to an average of one publication every 5.5 weeks over the last 35 years. “When it comes to writing and editing books, it is surprising what gives the most satisfaction. One particular authoritative textbook, superbly illustrated and researched sold in the US for more than US\$550... and, yet, it came and went. It took supreme effort and sits in the most prestigious medical libraries without producing a great deal of personal satisfaction. On the contrary, I once picked up for 80c Aussie, in Mangga Dua, one of the grottiest street markets in Jakarta, a pirated copy, the Bahasa version of my Hypertextbook. The latter had reached many thousands of impoverished doctors and used to death as the local wisdom for a decade. Now that is real, tangible success”.

Dr. Gatt sees himself as “simply a lucky guy who was in the right place at the right time but who was also blessed with a wild imagination which gave him rare insights into the ways ‘things’ should work and an unusual ability to see problems’ solutions in pictures and images”. He attributes much of the success to being constantly surrounded by remarkably talented friends, researchers, mentors and family and especially his spouse, Alice Dingli, whom he married in Malta before departing, in 1975, for lovely Sydney and a privileged career lifetime in a country of endless opportunity. Forty-three years later, “the past is history; a great story of achievement” says Dr. Gatt.



While all this was happening in the worlds of intensive care medicine, anaesthesia and obstetric medicine, few are aware of Dr. Gatt's efforts on behalf of Malta and the Maltese and his prodigious effort, all *pro bono*, for mothers and babies across the Asia-Pacific and especially in Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

Ever the eternal student, Dr. Gatt has diversified into strange but wonderful disciplines – upholstery (‘tomorrow is my ‘class’ in furniture restoration), leadership (at UNSW), stained glass (at Boston College), woodwork (‘I built, solo, for my four children a Federation tree house’), food safety, negotiation (at Harvard Law School), hydroponics and aquaponics, risk management, safety in health care, cartography, diplomacy and protocol, crusader history, Maltese specialty cooking (“I reckon I can make the best kannoli in the country... I know – I start very day

with a kannoli tar-rikotta breakfast”) and genealogy (‘our family ‘bush’ in Malta goes back to 1313 includes some 2,000 entries and took six years to compile and draw”).

His life partner, Alice, thinks that her husband collects and studiously organises 'everything' – opium pipes, old keys ('muftieħijiet'), Order of Malta stamps, coins and artefacts, Central African spears and Asian arrows, Russian Palekh and Faberge plates, icons and crosses, Melitensia, DVDs and CDs of fine music and film, tea pots and caddies, old maps of Malta, the crusades and the Ottoman Empire, Malta First Day Covers (complete set since 1956), a large library of books and a cellar of fine Aussie wines, the many expressions of the Maltese 8-pointed cross... he even gathers in the Coles Little Shop tokens ('for 'my' dear grandchildren aged 2 and 4'... and Pop!!) of which he has more than 300 (tokens, not grandchildren).

His areas of interest and favourite sport are, like many Maltese Australians, endless.... waterpolo (many aeons ago, he played with Exiles in Ta' Xbiex and Sliema), scouting ('my dad was the scoutmaster of the Sliema Group and Campfire Chief for Malta and his lifelong interest rubbed off onto his three boys'), travelling to the ends of the world (try Lesotho, Patagonia, Lapland, Tibet, Myanmar, Galapagos, Botswana and Nepal for the first mouthful... often with family or a group of friends in tow), football ('I am sorry for those Maltese Australian soccer aficionados who side with anyone except the Champions, Sydney fc... I have been, together with our 15-strong family and friends group, a Platinum Plus supporter since the A-league started 12 years ago and have hardly ever missed a home game'), heraldry ('likewise, a contributor to and supporter of Heraldry Australia'), gardening and plant propagation, fine chamber music, care of the frail and elderly, exercise for health ('my Isreali Commando fitness trainer thinks I'm pretty lousy; one can but try')... all add up to a fun-filled, happy, colourful life.

The International Bali News of July 4th carried an article drafted by the Faculty of the University entitled "Udayana University Anaesthesiology Professor Garners Top International Accolades". This full-page article highlighted the work in Indonesia and especially in Jakarta and Bali as well as across Asia – mostly as aid in his capacity, for some 25 years, as President and, recently, Emeritus Life President of the Asia and Oceania Society of Obstetric Anaesthesia (OASAO) but also as a Professor in Bali. For these initiatives and aid programmes in Bali and Java, Indonesia, Prof. Gatt has been made Professor at Udayana University Bali and has been decorated many times by IndoAnesthesia.

The Times of Malta of the 31st August in their article "Maltese Doctor Honoured in Australia and the UK" covered mainly the recent grant of awards and then went on to select some of the reasons for those awards. Both articles failed to cover the mountains of work as volunteer at the service of Maltese communities across the diaspora which Dr. Gatt has, over a 44-year period, brought to us Maltese Australians, il-Maltin tal-Egittu, Maltese Living Abroad and so on. Wearing a variety of hats, including the Federation of Maltese Abroad (President), the Order of Malta (Knight), the Maltese National Order of Merit (Member) and the Dominican Sisters of Malta (Chairman of the Board), Dr. Gatt has supported and aided hundreds of Maltese on a broad platform of issues – immigration, medical problems, ethnic-specific aged care, discrimination, documentation notarisation (he is a Justice of the Peace), women's rights, commerce with Malta, care of the elderly and those with special needs, citizenship, passports, Maltese culture, education, socioreligious issues (euthanasia, legalisation of cannabis as well as medical use of cannabinoids, termination of pregnancy; the list is endless. "Whilst it is hard to split away a lifetime at the pointy end of medicine from community work and our nation's profile, it is often the latter which has brought the greatest personal satisfaction".

Stephen Gatt came from a different mould to many Maltese of the 1940s to 1970s who had been transplanted to another country. Theirs was, sadly, sometimes a model of cultural cringe; they tried to distance themselves from their 'Malteseness' mostly because they were harassed, bullied and discriminated against. Steve Gatt tells us that he operated from a diametrically opposite corner of the boxing ring; from a position of what Leontyne Price used to call 'operating arrogance'. 'Nothing was better than an education in Malta'. 'Our university was best in class'. 'Malta is years ahead of where 'we Australians' are now'. 'We have had a Medical School for 440 years... not just three weeks'. 'Malta has had compulsory universal education since the 1930s'. 'The Royal University granted MDs not MB,BSs because we were there first and made the rules'. Dr. Gatt was no 'desperate refugee' but a champion of the Maltese underdog.

He was very cognizant of what Malta had given him – a superb education, a stable environment in which to grow, a caring, loving and gentle way of life and, in spite of petty, introspective perceptions of some Maltese from the 1950s to date, a remarkably stable socio-political and homogeneous religious and spiritual environment. His education in Malta was 'free' at all stages – Government Primary School in Sliema, Govt Scholarship to St. Aloysius College in Birkirkara ('our SAC Old Boys... and V1th Form Girls... in Sydney is alive and well') and a Royal University of Malta free education enriched by the best Mizzi (tal-karozzi)



Interfaculty Scholarship available to any student in the University. You did not need to come from a wealthy family to do well in Malta's educational system. "I arrived with Alice in Sydney with £20 in our pockets (and "with our engagement and wedding presents following us") on a '10-pound Pom' Australian Migrant ("£20 total airfare for two") package with a job lined up at Parramatta Hospital and a headful of dreams and aspirations".

For many years, Dr. Gatt was asked to present about twenty or so certificates to senior citizens at Maltese Welfare's Night of Recognition. "I realise now that there are hundreds of Maltese like me who came out to Australia with exactly the same dreams as I had – of getting meaningful job opportunity, of allowing their children to grow in freedom, of opening a successful business, of acquiring new skills... and, boy, did they succeed". "There are thousands of heroes out here who lifted themselves out of awkward life situations and carved out of their heritage and history using tenacity, perseverance and hard work a strong life for their themselves and their offspring".

For the Maltese community in Australia, Dr. Gatt has produced, in Maltese, multiple series of two TV programmes – 'Konsulta' and 'Opinjoni Medika mal-Prof's Gatt'. The TV programmes, in Maltese and English, are shown nationally.

Dr. Gatt sits or has sat on the Editorial Boards of some 14 peer-reviewed journals in acute pain, anesthesiology, obstetric medicine and critical care but admits that his favourite is the Obstetric Anaesthesia Digest (OAD), which brings together for external review all current papers in obstetric anaesthesia in synopsis. He has penned over 35 editorials for this one journal alone, in more recent years in collaboration with Maltese medical research clinicians.

"I have been given unbelievable opportunities which, sadly, may no longer be as extensively available to the generations which follow ours, in the naïve world's golden age wide-open to improvement and innovation... a place to dream, experiment and achieve." Thankfully, Malta is going through its own Renaissance, sometimes hidden from those with their noses too close to the cliff face. There is so much daily improvement, innovation, value-addition and enrichment to both the Maltese and Australian ways of life. "For me and my family it has been a journey from the best to the best".

How can a Maltese person in Australia, given the right timing and balance and with a positive mind-set ever fail?



MICHAEL ZERAFI: 'I'M NOT A STRIPPER; I'M A BOXER' BY

RYAN SONGALIA

Photo credit: Louie Abigail/Rockfingr

Michael Zerafa knows that stepping up to the world stage of boxing means increased scrutiny and expectation. Now he also knows it means being trolled on social media.

The Australian boxer, who faces Peter Quillin on Sept. 12 at Foxwoods Resort in Mashantucket, Conn., concedes he is a major underdog against the former WBO middleweight titleholder. What he isn't, he seeks to clarify, is a male stripper or a Chippendales dancer.

A photo taken from one of his social media accounts has circulated in internet forums and Facebook groups showing the 23-year-old fighter wearing traditional Chippendales garb, shirtless with a bowtie. Zerafa asserts that the photo was taken at a dress-up party and that he's a fighter through and through.

"I'm not a stripper, not a dancer; I'm a professional boxer," the Melbourne, Australia resident Zerafa (17-1, 9 knockouts) tells RingTV. Zerafa says the only job he carries aside from pursuing his boxing career is training clients at Powerplay Gym in Melbourne.

"They saw a photo of myself and took it a little too far and thought I was a Chippendales dancer. That's obviously not true. It's obviously a photo that was put up and went viral. I'm just a local boy from Melbourne who dedicates his time three times a day training and pushing as hard as I can to make the most out of this opportunity."

Zerafa is jumping from the club scene of Australia to a Premier Boxing Champions event on NBC, having competed in two six-rounders in his last outings. He had gone 10 rounds on four occasions prior, including his lone defeat to Arif Magomedov in Russia last October.

Odds for the fight have installed Quillin (31-0-1, 22 KOs) to be as high as a -10000 favorite to defeat Zerafa. Many feel that the fight, which is being contested at a catchweight of 163 pounds, is simply a transition bout for Quillin into the super middleweight division after he missed weight prior to his draw with Andy Lee in April. "It's just more fuel for me, more adrenaline to get out there and upset the world," Zerafa says of the odds. "It's boxing; it's a sport at the end of the day. Win, lose or draw, as long as I walk out there and give it my absolute all, that's all you can do. We know we've got a hard task but we're very confident.

"It's because of the unknown. Zerafa only has one internationally known name on his record and this is Magomedov. That doesn't bother me because it means Zerafa will be coming in under the radar," says Zerafa's manager Mike Altamura, who signed the fighter in February of this year.

Zerafa, born to an Australian mother and a father born in Malta, says he first became interested in boxing at age 10. He had around 20 amateur fights, Altamura says, and turned pro at age 18 after failing to make Australia's World Youth Team after losing to 2012 Olympian Damien Hooper.

Zerafa looks at the fight as a "nothing to lose, everything to gain" situation, and he has good reason to feel confident after Quillin suffered the first knockdown of his career against Lee.

"Quillin doesn't like pressure and I consider myself to be a very big puncher in both hands, so I do think I have a little bit of an advantage there," says Zerafa. "Plus being 9 years younger than Quillin, I've got youth on my side."

BEST WATCH ON FULL SCREEN.

MALTA G.C - Do not miss. Excellent film there are clickable links other than the video.

<http://www.colonialfilm.org.uk/node/5732>



'My friends thought Hamrun was a slum. But I love it'
 Instagram account People of Hamrun documents life in this bustling town

Jessica Arena



Most people's daily commute does not hold much promise outside the drudgery of traffic, but for MariaTeresa Sette, the walk to and from her workplace is a journey brimming with potential and promise.

Ms Sette runs [People of Hamrun](#), an Instagram account that documents the life and times of the oft overlooked but bustling town. Settling in Malta around four years ago, Ms Sette lived in Sliema before moving to Hamrun two years ago.

"My friends thought I was crazy because for some reason they considered Hamrun to be like the slum of Malta," Ms Sette says. "But I loved it! I found this town completely different from Sliema and immediately fell in love.

"In terms of infrastructure and amenities it is completely underdeveloped when compared

to Sliema, but I found it very fascinating because you can see that it has kept its originality, it's very genuine.

"My experience of Malta up to that point had just been Sliema and then, when I came to Hamrun, I realised that there is another face of Malta that is extremely fascinating. In a lot of ways, it reminded me of the south of Italy, where I'm from, so I began to see a lot of similarities."



Having worked as a journalist for eight years, Ms Sette now works in the field of asylum and migration.

I like to steal photos, people just walking in the street

Photography and photojournalism have always been a passion of hers, however, People of Hamrun didn't actually start out as any sort of specific project.

"It was originally just so I could delete some pictures from my gallery," she says.



Having unwittingly amassed so many pictures while walking to work – of people doing seemingly ordinary things – she toyed with the idea of opening a blog to showcase her



spontaneous thematic gallery and, through the desire to avoid spamming her personal Instagram account, People of Ħamrun was born.

“Most of them are ‘stolen’ shots. I like to steal photos, people just walking in the street. I keep my phone out when I’m walking so if I see something interesting, I just take a picture. It’s not premeditated but completely spontaneous,” she says.

The photos captured by Ms Sette paint a portrait of a town in flux, one culturally rich in international influence while holding strong to its traditions and values.

The subjects are often themselves in motion, with many photos capturing a lot of character in a fleeting moment.

“I’m really interested in people’s lives and stories. If I could I would spend my life telling a story,” Ms Sette says.

“You can see a life behind someone’s face, there’s a story behind every one of us and that’s probably what fascinates me, that’s what’s behind that single moment.”

Herself a migrant, Ms Sette says she has always felt welcome in Ħamrun’s communities and sees a sense of respect and tolerance not only towards herself but towards the numerous other cultures whose people have made the town their home.

“I feel that people care about their neighbours, they want to know who he is.

“It’s a small place, I go to work every morning and I see the same faces, they know what time I come back. It’s nice.

“If you ask me what the real culture of Malta is, as a foreigner I would say it’s the mixture of cultures. Look at your language, it’s made of Arabic, Sicilian dialect, Italian, English. So that’s what makes the Maltese who they are, this blend of Mediterranean cultures that have enriched you and not destroyed you,” Ms Sette says

that they are in some way reminded of an island far away which their forefathers used to call home.



Brilli .. the Gozitan game which is destined to die

Report: Glen Falzon

It’s been around forever and today unique to the village of Gharb: the game “Brilli’ brings together a group of men in the street. TVM introduces us to this traditional game and to four charming characters who play the game on Sundays and holidays.

Every Sunday in St. Peter’s Square in Gharb a group of men meet for a game of Brillì (skittles).

Charlie Cauchi said “we don’t exactly know the origin of this game. We definitely know it is very old with some who suspect that it is coming from the Knights.”

The sound of the ball hitting the skittle interrupts the silence

“Basically you have 9 pins or skittles. Each worth different points and the purpose of the game is to reach 24 points.”

At least 5 must play this game which is played in the street.

“Sometimes the ball goes under a car and you can’t get it out but anyway, we keep aYou won’t come across this game in Malta or Gozo. It is only played in Gharb on days of rest, Sundays and holidays. Joseph Cassar “this too will die because it should be played in San Lawrenz, Kercem, Ghasri and Zebbug but it has only remained here.”

Leli Micallef “it will end. It will end because there are no new players. We have a new comer called Marju. There used to be two others but they no longer come.”

The pressure for this game not to end is pinned on a 19 year old.

Marju Gauci: “if children younger than myself want to play the game, I will teach them as it was taught to me and I will interest them in the game.” Joseph Cassar has been playing the game all his life. “I was the champion but now am no longer, as my hands have hardened.”

He regrets not being able to play as much as he wants. “you start playing but you can’t, you start to forget and that is a sign that you will soon meet your maker.” After 50 years in Australia, Chalie Spiteri, “Dundee”, remembers how to play the game. “Its not something you ever forget .Like a language. It comes back to you.” For Valerio Bugeja, a Maltese who has lived in Gharb for 9 years, the game is so fascinating that he has included it in the National Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory.

“We need to make a plaque saying that this game of skittles is played here for the whole world to know.” These senior citizens are hoping that this game will be recognized by UNESCO for the game ‘Brilli’ to remain forever enshrined as a national heritage. [Timesofmalta.com]



XI TKUN BAZILIKA?

Miktub minn Greg Caruana NSW

Letteralment il-kelma bazilika tfisser ,”id-dar tas-Sultan” jew ahjar ghal Mulej. Il-kelma n-nifisha gejjja mill-grieg, Basileus li tfisser sultan u (ikos) li tfisser dar u tatribwixxi dan it-titlu lil xi knejjes li jkollhom certa valur artistiku. F’Ruma tal-qedem, il-Bazilika kienet bini publiku uzat bhala post ghal laghqat publici u ghal amministrazzjoni tal-gustizzja. Bil-latin Bazilika tfisser dar irjali jew dar tas-Sultan.

Mela originalment kif qedin taraw il-bazilika ma kellha x’taqsam xejn la mal-knisja u lanqas ma l-ebda twemmin iehor....issa nafu li l-knisja ta San Pawl ir-Rabat u l-knisja parrokkjali ta Kristu Re ta Rahal Gdid ,beda process biex din ukoll issir bazilika..Issa meta knisja tinghata t-titlu ta Bazilika fost l-insinji li jissibolizzaw it-titlu ta’ Bazilika ; insibu L-Umbrellun Bazikali ; dan ikun umbrellun kbir b’faxex homor u sofor; u qampiena zghira imsejha *Tintinnabulum* li tingar fill-purcissjoni flimkien ma l-umbrellun (ritratt).

Go l- gzejjer Maltin insibu 10 bazilki : li huma: Il-knisja ta Portu Salvu jew San Duminku l-belt; is-Santwarju tal-Madonna tal-Karmnu l-belt; Il-Bazilika tat-Twelid tal-Bambina l-Isla Malta; is-Santwarju ta’ Pinu L-Gharb ghawdex; il-bazilika kolleggjata ta’ Sant Elena Birkirkara: Il-bazilika ta San Gorg, Victoria Ghawdex ;il-bazilika ta San Pietru u

San Pawl , Nadur ghawdex; il-Bazilika Marija Bambina , Xaghra ghawdex ; il-Bazilika tal-Vizitazzjoni l-gharb ghawdex; U l-Bazilika ta Marija Mtellgha s-Sema r-Rotunda tal-Mosta .



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Maltese Guides and Scouts attend European regional conference

The Maltese delegation attending the European Guide and Scout conference in Split Croatia.

A Maltese delegation of Girl Guides and Scouts attended the 16th European Guide and Scout Conference and the concurrently organised 16th European Guide and 23rd European Scout conferences. All were held last month in Split, Croatia.

Representatives from both the Scout Association of Malta (TSAM) and the Malta Girl Guides (MGG) attended. Chief Commissioner Anton Pisani and delegates Mike Borg and Claudette Camilleri represented TSAM, while Chief Commissioner Claire Duff and International Commissioner Jeanelle Camilleri represented MGG.

MGG volunteer Stephanie Darmanin has been successfully elected as a member of the Europe Region's Committee of the World Association for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. This conference marks the end of Kevin Camilleri's term as chairman of the Europe Region Committee of the World Organisation Scout Movement. Malta has had representatives at European Region Committee levels for the fourth consecutive year now. The two global bodies, to which some 60 million Scouts and Guides from around the world belong, are WAGGGS – the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, and WOSM – the World Organisation of the Scout Movement. Both bodies are organised in regions, with the Europe Region WAGGGS having 41 member organisations (MOs) and the Europe Region of WOSM gathering 40 national scout organisations (NSOs). The members of the two regions gather at a European Region Conference every three years.

The European Guide and European Scout conferences are the general assemblies of the two regions with clearly defined mandates. Delegates of all MOs and NSOs of the two regions come together for four days to discuss and adopt regional policies, strategies and general orientations for the coming years. They report on past and current activities and also elect the regions' governing bodies, the Europe Committee WAGGGS and the European Scout Committee of WOSM.



Joe Axiaq at SBS radio, Melbourne.

The last Maltese voice on Australia's airwaves

Joe Axiaq is the last man standing

Gabriel Schembri

Joe Axiaq stands timidly at the entrance to SBS offices in Melbourne's Federation square.

"*Meħba* (welcome)," he says with a smile, as he whisks me into the enormous building. This soft-spoken man is the last bastion of the Maltese language on Australian public radio.

Australia was, and for many young migrants today still is, the land of opportunity.

Workers here enjoy the highest national minimum wage in the world. Work is in abundance and conditions are among the best in the world. But the thousands of Maltese who decided to take the risky leap to Australia also had to endure loneliness and the scar of detachment from their island nation.

In an age before the internet, switching on the local radio and hearing broadcasts in their mother tongue brought a heart-warming smile to the faces of Maltese migrants.

Many of the Maltese who first migrated to Australia are now in their late 60s and as the Maltese-speaking population continues to decline, so too does the demand for Maltese programmes on public radio.

Mr Axiaq is, quite literally, the last of a dying breed.

"SBS radio provides news and programmes in more than a hundred different languages. There has been an increase of workers from Asia, particularly China and India. That's why so many desks carry these two particular flags," he explains as we walk through the newsroom.

The census showed that the community who spoke Maltese in Australia had dropped to around 34,000

Past another cluster of small desks and we finally land on a small cubicle space with photos of Malta on it.

"This is where I work from. I hold the only Maltese desk in this office."

Mr Axiaq arrived in Australia in 1974. A year later, SBS started ethnic broadcasting services and that is when he wanted to get involved. "I started off as a volunteer. Then I decided to take broadcasting more seriously so I took a course in media and radio."

For several years later, he worked at the radio station on a part-time basis. But as he became more involved in radio, he decided to take the leap forward and dedicate his full-time hours on SBS radio.

"I had to leave my managerial job at a leading telephony company and pursue a career in radio. In 2005, I became executive producer for the Maltese programmes."

Maltese enjoyed a privileged position in the SBS programming schedule. It was one of the first six languages SBS initially broadcast in, with Maltese community leaders lobbying for its inclusion on the airwaves.

Up until 2013, with Mr Axiaq as executive producer, the Maltese language community enjoyed daily programmes transmitted on SBS radio. He had six journalists working on Maltese language productions.

"Things changed after the 2012 census results. SBS had to undergo serious revision in the programme schedules after it had remained unchanged for almost 20 years. The census results showed that the community who spoke Maltese in Australia had dropped to around 34,000. These results also showed that there were other ethnic communities which were growing rapidly. SBS, understandably, had to address this change in demand."

From a team of seven broadcasters, the Maltese representation at SBS offices was reduced to one.

"And now here I am. The last one," he tells me defiantly, as he explains how daily programmes have now been reduced to just twice a week.

Like his fellow producers, he had to adapt and evolve. Nowadays, radio producers provide an on-demand service and podcasts which can be heard online.

For Mr Axiaq, the service offered by SBS is relevant to the Maltese community now more than ever.

"Through SBS radio, we are still reaching an isolated segment of the Maltese community in Australia who is not able to use the internet to keep in touch. We tend to assume that everyone has access to unlimited information through the simple touch of a button. When we make these assumptions, we tend to forget about these senior Maltese nationals in Australia."

Throughout his long career at SBS, he has had the opportunity to interview dozens of Maltese political leaders and MPs who landed in Melbourne or Sydney for an official visit.

"I have interviewed presidents, prime ministers, members of parliament and archbishops. But one thing which always amazes me is how when they're here, irrespective of their political colour, they conjure this high sense of unity among the Maltese community in Australia.

"I have also interviewed people who were willing to tell their story of how they came to Australia. And it's then when you realise that coming this far away from home is a story of pain and sacrifice. But they are also stories that show you how the Maltese are a determined people who adapt easily in order to survive."

Future 'not promising'

Research shows that the average Maltese SBS radio listener is over 65 years old. That means many of the radio shows Mr Axiaq produces could soon become irrelevant as they lose all their audiences.

"The future does not look promising," he admits. "Not only for the Maltese programmes on SBS, but for all the government services offered to the Maltese community in Australia. My dream is to have some form of Maltese content on SBS radio after I leave this place."

But he understands that the services offered at SBS work in direct relationship with the demand for that language. And although future generations of Maltese migrants will most probably not speak Maltese, one can only hope that they are in some way reminded of an island far away which their forefathers used to call home.

READ THE TIMES OF MALTA ONLINE

Veraison: grapes in technicolor

A grape's colour, size and firmness tell a story



Georges Meekers

Adopted into English use, veraison is originally a French viticultural term meaning 'the onset of grape ripening' and heralds harvest time.

Although stunningly dramatic, veraison is only a short, intermediate stage when the skins of young, immature grapes, rapidly start to take on their final colour. Characterised by an extraordinary kaleidoscopic palette of tints in the vineyard, it refers to those few weeks when vines show bunches part green and part yellow or red, depending

on the variety.

At first, the colour of all grapes is bright green due to the presence of green chlorophyll in their skin but it changes rapidly as chlorophyll is replaced by other organic pigments such as anthocyanins in red grapes or carotenoids in white varieties.

As the skin becomes more transparent, the colour of white wine grapes will turn from green to a yellowish green or even golden yellow. In red grapes the transition is visually more noticeable since the berry skins go from a similar green colour to a bright ruby, deepening to a dark black cherry hue.

The final depth and exact shade will depend on the variety itself. For example, grape varieties such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Merlot will be almost black whereas grapes such as G llewza, Grenache and Sangiovese will be lighter and redder or purple in comparison.

But the change in the colour of the grapes is only part of the story. Other important changes in grape development occur also.

The berries grow to about twice their size and start to soften. The summer months offer the vines an abundance of long days and bright sunshine which creates energy resulting in amounts of grape sugars. Glucose and fructose begin to be deposited inside the berries while sour acids get broken down as the grapes mature. Berries change from being very tart, herbaceous and acidic to tasting more fruity and complex.

This is the time of year when Malta's vineyards are spattered with brightly coloured dots in new shades of yellow and red hues peeping through leafy vine canopies ready to have their ripe crop picked.



President to attend ceremony marking start of WWII

Dolores Cristina to be acting President

__Facebook__Twitter__Email

President George Vella

President George Vella is attending a ceremony in Warsaw on the 80th anniversary of the start of the second world war. He was invited by the Polish government. The ceremony is being held in Pilsudski Square, where Polish President Andrzej Duda and German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier will deliver a speech to mark the occasion. During Dr Vella's time in Warsaw, Dolores Cristina will be acting President.



**Someday...everything will
make perfect sense”**

Dr. Edward De Bono

Born on 19th May 1933, there are few people who have lived as many lives as Edward de Bono. Following his completion of a medical degree at the University of Malta, his continued thirst for excellence led him to pursue a Masters degree in Psychology and Physiology

at the University of Oxford where he also set two canoeing records and was part of the Oxford polo team. He later read for a PhD in medicine at Trinity College in Cambridge and has written over fifty books, his most acclaimed being the ‘Six Thinking Caps’. Much like the planet named after him, he carries his own gravity!

As someone who is an internationally recognised symbol of Maltese excellence who has reached iconic status both in his field and off, Edwards Lowell felt a particular resonance with de Bono’s vision for all encompassing excellence and it is for this reason that he was chosen to be the first in their series of achievers of excellence. The “Someday...everything will make perfect sense” campaign will see Edwards Lowell collaborating with people who have reached the peak of their careers and set a benchmark for future generations.

Having himself coined the widely used term ‘lateral thinking’ to explain thinking outside of the box with imagination, Edward de Bono is nothing if not an innovator. Always striving to refine his thoughts and ideas and present them in a new way, his recent conference which took place at Verdala Palace under the patronage of H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca on 19th May 2018 saw de Bono use the palace as the setting for his first ever ‘Palace of New Thinking’ conference. Believing that a new idea and approach is able to better solve problems of conflict, the ‘Palace of New Thinking’ conference is to be held once every year and is focused on discussing creative ideas about different world issues. Commenting about his choice of venue, de Bono was quick to point out that in order for people to be able to discuss stubborn issues of international concern, one must have a place of dignity and importance which has a very clear function. The setting plays a big part in the formulation of a higher and more innovative way of thinking.

A name synonymous with setting new, high standards both here as well as abroad, Edwards Lowell have long been considered to be pioneers in their own field when it comes to both luxury goods as well as service and, like Edward de Bono who is defined by his work and passion, they have succeeded in constantly coming up with innovative, state-of-the-art concepts executed to the highest of standards. Established in 1925 by Charles E. Lowell, the company has always strived for quality and excellence within the luxury goods field and has not only succeeded in holding onto the sterling reputation that its founding father forged, but it has gone from strength to strength since its conception and today, the company is still the exclusive Maltese distributor for all the luxury brands it represents, paying great attention to detail and perfecting every facet of the impeccable service they offer.

Edwards Lowell felt that the “Someday...everything will make perfect sense” slogan would be an ideal title for their campaign to illustrate the importance of patience, resilience and a willingness to grow and achieve. Success like that of Edward de Bono, who has been nominated as one of the 150 people who have contributed the most to the whole history of humanity, is not achieved overnight; however, if one is willing to put time and effort into their work, everything will, naturally, make perfect sense



Report: Ruth Castillo

Two brothers' curiosity on their father's role in the British Royal Navy during the war, which they only knew through photos, brought Graham and Garry Morris to Malta. They brought with them photo albums and presented medals of their father, Oscar Morris, to Fort St Angelo's curator.

The Morris brothers came to Malta to acquaint themselves more with their father's role when he was stationed on the island. "He died last year and we'd never been here before so we wanted to see where he was."

Graham and Gary recounted that their father did not speak much about the War years and not even on the battles he was involved in. Oscar Morris was stationed in Malta between May 1943 and November 1946.

"He never really spoke to us about his military service. He would show us an album and that's it. He never told us what he did, where he'd been. We didn't really know anything about the Malta experience if you'd like and we now have found

Brothers' visit to discover their father's war years in Malta

that subsequently, he was in Italy, he was in Normandy, Anzio, all these places. We did not know anything so we had to find out. Our starting point had to be Malta. This is his base. This was his home."

During his time in Malta Oscar Morris was a footballer and captain of the HMS St Angelo's team. Graham said at the time he was a local football legend and Oscar's career resumed following the war with stints with Liverpool and other clubs in North Wales.

The Morris brothers presented copies of their father's photographic collection to Fort St Angelo's curator and a number of medals.

"Well, again the medals were in his tin where he kept all his bits and pieces and we found these medals. He has football medals and his war service medals. Now, this is where his life was, his military service and football and it just feels fitting now that they should be here that they should come home." Curator Matthew Balzan said that the collection is very important for the ongoing research on Fort St Angelo and its use by the Royal Navy since 1979.

He added that currently the Fort is hosting an exhibition with the them 'Behind Closed Doors: Fort St Angelo and the Royal Navy 1906-1979', which will continue till the 8th

MALTA



On Sunday, August 25th, after hearing the 10:30 A.M. Maltese Mass with his family at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Toronto, the director of the National Archives of Malta (at Rabat) Dr. Charles Farrugia visited the Maltese-Canadian Museum/Archives at St. Pauls' Church Complex. Dr. Farrugia is in Canada visiting

family. Due to his interest and dedication regarding Maltese migrants and their historical significance to their country of adoption he visited the museum/archives and some Maltese organizations. Dr. Farrugia was impressed with the holdings of this, the only Maltese museum/archives of its type, in North America. The curator Richard Cumbo, pastor of St. Pauls' Father Mario Micallef, MSSP, as well as the new and popular Consul General of Malta-Dr. Raymond Xerri gave Dr.





MALTESE-CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS The Malta Band Club
 The Malta Band Club is the largest Maltese diaspora Club with
 a long-list of events and owing the largest premises in Canada.
 Established nearly half century ago in 1971 it is the only
 Maltese Band in Canada.
 The Consul-General Dr. Xerri presenting a Maltese flag
 to the band

Farrugia and his family a personal tour of the museum. Museum volunteers-Ms. Carmen Galea, Ms. Rose Cassar and Mr. Mani Mifsud were also present. Dr. Farrugia told the curator that he looks forward to the continuous co-operation between the National Archives of Malta (NAM) and the Maltese-Canadian Museum/Archives. Dr. Farrugia said that "the museum is a jewel we should all be proud of". After the tour, parish priest Father Mario Micallef hosted a small reception (with goods from Malta Bake Shop) in the dining room of the rectory of St. Paul. Curator Richard Cumbo added that with the arrival of the new pastor at St. Paul's and the new Consul General of Malta interest in the community and museum has already increased. Consul General of Malta Dr. Raymond Xerri stated that the Consulate is more than ready to assist the museum where ever possible. Dr. Farrugia on behalf of his family thanked all present for their hospitality and in the work they are doing to preserve and conserve the important history of the Maltese in Canada. **by: Richard S. Cumbo**



Widower finds solace and happiness in gospel music

Report: Glen Falzon

Preparations for a Maltese choir that sings Gospel music are in their final stages before choir members leave Malta for another engagement abroad, this time in Ireland.

At the Santa Lucija Parish, in recent weeks the Joy Gospel Singers choir were meeting with another choir to practise for a gospel music concert which will take place at the end of this week in Ireland.

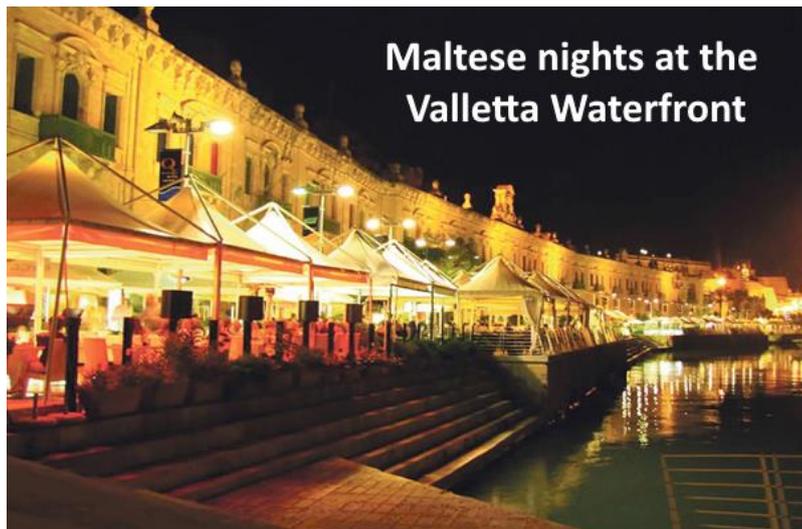
Music choir Director, Michelle Abela, said that the program in Ireland is packed with activities. "Friday will be the first time we meet. There will be 100 of us, divided into two groups of 50 people each. Then Saturday we have this concert in a prestigious place. Sunday there will be a Mass."

She explained that the aim of Gospel music was a way of giving joy and having fun while urging the the congregation to join in the choir. "We have a few negro spiritual songs like Swing Low, Sweet Chariot, Amazing Grace. But then we'll switch to something more contemporary like Happy Days, I Will Follow Him and things that most people join in and clap to the music."

Although the arguments during rehearsals do not abate, pianist Avertano Grech can't imagine doing anything else. "We get on well with Michelle. Even though she says that we don't get on but anyway. But maybe we can agree on music. We have a bit of arguments here and there. I play and everyone talking," said the pianist Avertano Grech.

The oldest member of the choir is Victor Gatt who is 82 years old. "I lost my wife two years ago and God forbid I didn't find this group because I would have finished up badly. They urged me to sing with them and we took it from there."

Victor Gatt best describes the meaning of active aging. "I tell them that as much as possible they should meet people and continue doing out because if they stay indoors, their life is over." The Joy Gospel Singers have 49 choir singers and have been entertaining people with Gospel music since 2002.



Maltese nights at the Valletta Waterfront

The centre of Valletta turns very quiet when the last office workers and shopkeepers leave for the evening, and the only regular nightlife to speak of are events at the Manoel Theatre and St James Centre, plus a handful of bars.

However, one can take in the scenic Grand Harbour views and relive traditional Malta at the Valletta Waterfront every Thursday evening from 8pm.

The Valletta Waterfront combines food, retail and entertainment within a maritime hub, which for the past years

has proved to be a highly popular destination.

For those in search of a relaxing time with good food and entertainment, the Waterfront's many restaurants and bars cater for different tastes, with dining right by the water's edge.

The establishments' indoor dining areas are situated inside the tastefully refurbished, historical stores, originally constructed by Grand Master Pinto in 1752.

Today, ushering in a modern era, the iconic doors have been revived with an artistic impression of colour, representing the storage of goods from days past: blue for fish, green for produce, yellow for wheat and red for wine.

Patrons can go back in time through the Maltese islands' history and experience traditional folk dancing, falconry displays, the terramaxka – a musical instrument which was popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Maltese games, as well as battles between the Knights of St John and the Ottoman Turks, among other activities. The small chapel of the Flight to Egypt by the Holy Family further creates a unique 'village' ambience.

Maltese nights will continue every Thursday through to the end of September.

For more information visit www.valletta-waterfront.com/maltesenights



NOSTALGIA

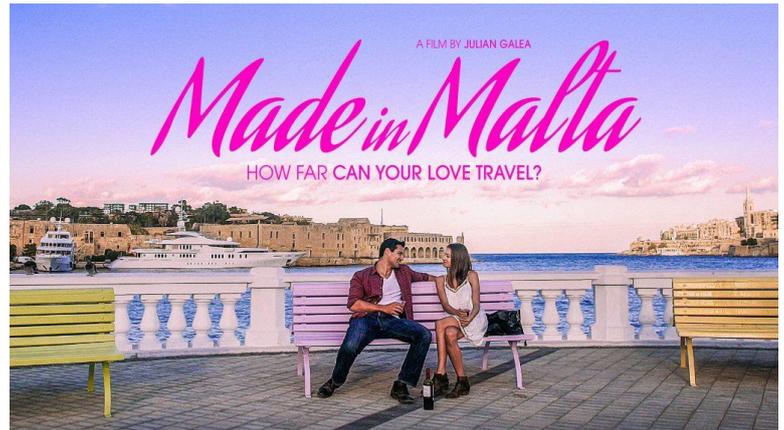
Ġunju 1916. Il-pagġi tal-Isqof fi triqthom lejn il-Palazz tal-Isqof fil-Belt.

Ritratt: Kollezjoni Tony Terribile, I-Arkivji Nazzjonali ta' Malta

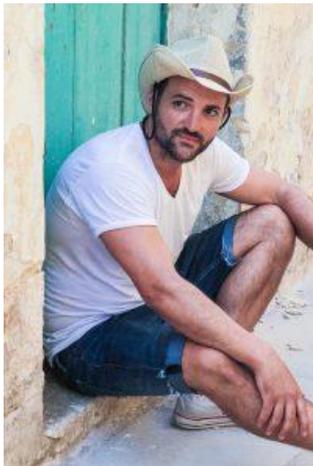
Made in Malta – feature film

John Parker

Director Julian Galea's second feature film graded with FilmConvert, '[Made in Malta](#)', was released theatrically on June 5th 2019, and is [available now on iTunes](#).



Julian Galea



How the film came about

Julian Galea

I got the idea for *Made in Malta* while I was in Malta shooting my first feature film – [Love to Paradise](#) (which I also used FilmConvert on) about an American filmmaker in Malta for the European premiere of his film when a Spanish ex-lover who walked out of his life five years later walks back in.

Exactly one year later, I returned to Malta to promote the theatrical release of the first film and shoot the second. In fact, I used the movie posters and marketing materials of *Love to Paradise* that was being advertised by the cinemas in Malta as the actual film of the main character that was being premiered in the movie which was really cool.

Inspiration

[Made in Malta](#) is a very personal and honest exploration of love. Lost love. A love that brings you to your knees unable to breathe. A love that keeps you wondering if it was all real. When letting go is the hardest part. What if years down the road, when you least expect it, that love walks back into your life? Can love really travel that far? These are the questions I wanted answers to. That I needed answers to. And through my search, *Made in Malta* became, at its core, a story about human connection – a coming-of-age romantic drama about love, loss, hope, and second chances.

It was imperative that *Made in Malta* shine despite the financial limitations we had. Embracing these restrictions as fuel for creative freedom. Pushing performance and camera with a truly independent spirit and transcending energy while creating an intimate production environment.

Location played a major role and would become the third essential character in this two-hander. I wanted a culturally rich, charming and timeless canvas for this romantic adventure to unfold and the exotic Maltese islands were the quintessential setting that I knew I could bring to life – richly and organically with the help of FilmConvert.

How did FilmConvert help your workflow

Having used FilmConvert on *Love to Paradise*, I was very aware of its capabilities to help achieve the naturalistic look with cinematic quality I was aiming for. We shot in 4K with vintage primes which provided a nice starting point – then graded in DaVinci Resolve using FilmConvert as a plug-in that worked flawlessly. As the director, editor and colourist on the film, it was terrific having everything in one interface within DaVinci Resolve that I could experiment with and go back and forth from the edit to the grade with FilmConvert without having to export and import every time I made a change. I really feel that I nailed the post workflow on this one and couldn't be happier with the results we achieved, especially given the budget constraints of the film.

Both *Love to Paradise* and *Made in Malta* had theatrical releases – and seeing these films projected in large cinemas off the DCP master really put FilmConvert to the test, and I have to say – it looked pretty damn close to film. [Made in Malta is available now available on iTunes](#) for pre-order for a promotional price of \$1.99 for a limited time.



Emma Muscat Is Teaching Malta An important lesson about language. Let's learn from it.

By [Chris Peregin](#)

Why can a Maltese person learn a foreign language fluently within a few months but still struggle to grasp their own

native language after decades living on the island?

It's a question we should probably start trying to answer if we really treasure our national language and our bilingualism.

Pop starlet Emma Muscat is the latest public example. She learnt Italian from scratch during her six-month stint on Italy's reality talent show *Amici*. But by [her own admission](#), she's not as fluent in Maltese, despite living on the island for 18 years.

"I always make an effort whenever I have to speak in Maltese, even though I know that I make mistakes. Sometimes I blank out and resort to saying a sentence in English when it doesn't come to mind," she said, echoing a sentiment shared by thousands of Maltese people who for some reason or another failed to achieve fluency in their national language.

Emma Muscat was forced to open up about her language struggles because her interviews on Maltese TV turned some of her fans into rabid haters overnight.

"Diġa nsejna l-Malti? Tal-mistħija!" (Have we already forgotten Maltese? Shameful!)

It's a familiar refrain when you've been at the receiving end of criticism for not having perfect Maltese.

But that's part of the problem, isn't it? Language extremists seem to think that people like Emma "forgot" Maltese and did so out of choice. What they fail to realise is that Emma is still learning Maltese and comments like these only delay her fluency.

"Language extremists seem to think that people like Emma "forgot" Maltese and did so out of choice. What they fail to realise is that Emma is still learning Maltese and comments like these only delay her fluency."

If it were her choice, Emma would have been fluent in Maltese from day one, and so would the rest of us. Nobody would choose to be bad at something, let alone a high achiever like Emma – and especially not when it comes to something as crucial as one's national language.

But the reality remains that there is a section of the Maltese population which grew up with little to no exposure to Maltese.

Many of us were raised by mothers who just a few decades ago were penalised at schools for speaking Maltese. We then went to schools where the language of instruction was English – partly because of textbooks and partly because of inclusive policies for foreign students. And so most of our peers were also English-speaking. To top things off, we grew up watching British and American television, listening to English music and reading books exclusively in English. The Maltese alternatives were simply not good enough or not as available to us.

And yet, when it came to Maltese classes and exams, we were somehow expected to know Maltese instinctively as our mother tongue, even though it was basically a foreign language to us.

"This isn't the equivalent of an Italian person going through their adolescence and failing to learn Italian. It's the equivalent of a Canadian person failing to learn French, because they happened to be born in that section of the country."

The problem is that despite Malta's complex linguistic realities, Maltese people are expected to be perfectly fluent in both our official languages from day one – and if they're not – which is more often the case – they're slammed for it, which creates a vicious circle that's not conducive to language learning.

Emma Muscat is a bright girl. She's pitch perfect, she plays piano beautifully and she's got great a grasp of language, as you can see with her songwriting and the fact that she learnt Italian so quickly.

But in Italy nobody shamed her for not knowing Italian. They helped her learn it. Encouragement is crucial in language learning because a lot of it boils down to confidence. You need to have the confidence to use the language and make mistakes until you eventually stop making them.

When you're in a foreign country trying to learn a language, your mistakes are endearing to native speakers. They giggle a little and then they tell you politely where you went wrong. When it's your own mother tongue you're still trying to learn, some people prefer to shoot you down and make you feel "ashamed". If we want Maltese to thrive, we should really find ways of encouraging learners, not pushing them away from the island. We can do so with better teaching platforms, such as with the proposed scheme to introduce Maltese as a foreign language.

We can also try being a bit more respectful of each other's realities, and encouraging of each person's efforts.

And that's something that cuts both ways. Because for every English-speaking person like Emma who is criticised for not speaking Maltese, there's a native speaker who is slammed for not speaking perfect English. And all of the same arguments apply.

Sometimes it takes a celebrity to make us reflect on something in our society that we've swept under the rug for too long. Let's use this experience to teach us to stop weaponising language and start using it to build bridges instead. After all, that is for what it was intended.

What's your experience with learning English and Maltese?



MALTA AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

This inscription at our Mdina repository recalls a little-known part of our history that began 221 years ago. At dawn on the 3rd of September 1798 Notary Emanuele Vitale and Santu Formosa from Żurrieq led Maltese rebels in an assault on the Mdina bastions, entering the old city of Malta through a hidden door. Santu Formosa, known as 'it-tigra' (the Tiger), spearheaded his battalion of 65 men to chase the defending republican troops. Formosa killed

24 men with his sword. By the end of the fighting the sword broke in half in the chest of his final victim. The city was taken and for the first time ever the red and white flag of Malta flew atop Mdina bastions. The revolution against the French occupation had begun. [The National Archives of Malta](#)

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