

Maltese eNewsletter



Editor
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Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

maltesejournal@gmail.com



THE
MALTESE GUILD
OF
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
CELEBRATED
MALTA NATIONAL
DAY
IN ADELAIDE
Sept. 7, 2019



HON JING LEE
Member of the South Australian
Parliament



MALTESE COMMUNITY OF
NSW CELEBRATES
IL-VITORJA



THE MAKING OF A
MEDICO
A MEMOIR
2019
MAURICE CAUCHI

Malta DownUnder
Maltese Australian TV Show



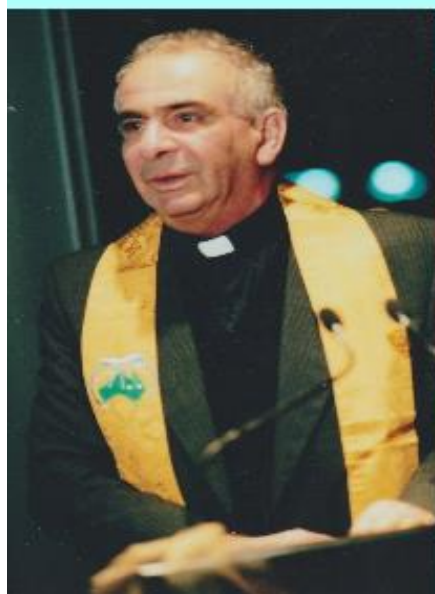
MARLENE

MARK

**FAREWELL MASS TO FR. GABRIEL S. MICALLEF O.F.M.
AT CHRIST THE KING PARISH CHURCH LOCKLEYS, S.A.**

CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC PARISH CHURCH - LOCKLEYS - SOUTH AUSTRALIA

THE CHURCH THAT THE MALTESE FRANCISCAN FATHERS BUILT



A Solemn Mass is being concelebrated by Fr Gabriel, Chaplain to the Maltese Community in Australia for these last twenty-three years and who for some time served as *assistant priest and parish administrator* at the Maltese Parish of Christ the King at Lockleys. Those concelebrating are **Fr Philip Marshall** - Administrator Delegate, **Fr Alfred Farrugia** - Parish Priest, **Fr Tony Densley** – ex Parish-Priest of Lockleys, and those participating in this Eucharistic Celebration are:

1st Reading: **Frank Scicluna**, Hon. Consul of Malta in South Australia

Responsorial PSALM Sung by **Daniela DiSilva**

2nd Reading: **Aldo Floreani** - *President of the Lockleys Parish Pastoral Council*

The Gospel: **Fr Philip Marshall** *Administrator Delegate*

The Homily: **P. Alfred Farrugia, P.P**

Intercessions: **Jennie Chitti** – Representing the Italian Community at our Parish

The offertry : **TONY AND SAM FORMOSA** – *Fr Gabriel's Sister and her husband* **JOE CASSAR** – *Chairperson of the Maltese Chaplaincy Festivities Group*, **EDGAR AGIUS** - *Chairperson of the Maltese Community Council*, **CARMEN ZAMMIT**-*St Raphael's Home accompanied by* **SR. VITTORIANA** *Regional Superior of the Maltese Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.* **Joe Camilleri** - *President of the M.Q.V.Band*, **MaryJane Agius** - *representing the Maltese Youth in S.A..*

Distribution of the Eucharist by the concelebrating Priests.

The Choir of the MALTESE CHAPLAINCY FESTIVITIES GROUP is under the direction of **SR. BONNIE ATTARD** and **DANIEL D'SILVA** - **the organist** is **LINDA EYERS**. **Commentator:** **CHARLES ZARB**



FAREWELL TO OUR MALTESE CHAPLAIN

Frank L Scicluna
**Hon Consul for Malta in South
Australia**

We bid farewell to our esteem friend -Father Gabriel Micallef. We all know that Fr. Gabriel will be leaving us soon. He served at the parish of Christ the King Church, Lockleys, SA. This church was built and administered by the Maltese Franciscan priests since its inception - over 50 year ago. He served as Chaplain of the Maltese community and as an assistant priest of the parish for 23 years. It is always hard to say goodbye especially if the person has made unforgettable memories in our minds. We will remember Fr. Gabriel celebrating Mass in our Maltese language every second Sunday of the month. His sermons were always inspirational and beautifully delivered. During all these years Father Gabriel looked after us spiritually by baptising our children, celebrating our weddings, blessing our houses, visiting and anointing our sick in



hospitals and performing funerals to so many members of our community.

Every year, with the help of the Chaplaincy Festivities Group, he organised the feasts of St. Paul, I-Imnarja, the feast of Santa Maria, Christmas and Easter celebrations and the feast of "Il-Bambina" on Malta National Day. Fr. Gabriel was also the Spiritual Director of all the Maltese societies here in Adelaide, of the Maltese

Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus and an honorary member of the Maltese Community Council of South Australia.

On behalf of the Maltese community of South Australia, I extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation to our dear Fr. Gabriel, for the so many years of faithful and joyful service he has provided for us. As you bid your goodbye to us and continue with your journey, it is our sincere prayer that Christ bless your love of Him and your service to the Church; and reward you for being a faithful servant of God. We treasure the spiritual care and guidance you have shared with us. But

there is one request we ask from you, as you leave this place take with you only the good memories and beautiful experiences you have had in this parish and with the community and leave behind the unpleasant ones. Again, thank you and we wish you God's blessings for all your future mission as a priest. You've been a tremendous blessing to us and I can assure you that every member of our community truly loves, honours and respects you.



MESSAĠĠ LIL PATRI GABRIJEL MICALLEF OFM
FI TMIEM IL-HIDMA PASTORALI TIEGĦU
F'ADELAIDE L-AWSTRALJA

Ningħaqad fil-ferħ u fir-radd ta' ħajr lil Alla miegħek, Patri Gabrijel Micallef tal-Aħwa Frangiskani Minuri, li flimkien mal-komunità Maltija f'Adelaide, fl-Awstralja, qed trodd ħajr lil Alla għal tlieta u ghoxrin sena tal-hidma pastorali tiegħek.

Ġesù, is-Saċerdot il-Kbir, li sejjaħlek biex taqdi lilu fil-poplu tiegħu fuq il-passi ta' San Frangisk, għaqqdek miegħu fil-missjoni tiegħek. Hu rabtek miegħu u għadda minn idejk, biex ta lilu nnifsu fl-Ewkaristija, lilek u lil dawk li hu, b'fiduċja kbira, afda f'idejk. Hu wettaq il-hidma tiegħek biex ikun hu l-qawwa u l-imħabba li tgħajjex u twassal lilek u lil dawk afdati f'idejk, għall-qdusija f'xejb shiħ miegħu.

Nitlob il-barka ta' Alla fuqek u fuq il-Komunità Maltija f'Adelaide, l-interċessjoni qawwija ta' Ommna Marija u ta' San Frangisk, biex filwaqt li troddulu ħajr dejjem, tfittxu dejjem iżjed li tingħaqdu ma' Ġesù msallab u mqajjem minn bejn l-imwiet, fl-għotja tiegħu għas-salvazzjoni tal-bnedmin kollha.

Nagħti lilek u lil dawk miġburin miegħek il-Barka pastorali tiegħi.

✠ **Charles Jude Scicluna**
Arcisqof ta' Malta

6 ta' Settembru 2019



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA – H.E. DR GEORGE VELLA

Dear Father Gabriel Micallef

I have never had the privilege of meeting Father Gabriel Micallef in person.

However, I feel that, on behalf of and together with the members of the Maltese Community in Adelaide, I should express my gratitude to Father Gabriel for the long years of service he gave to the parishioners.

Fifty years of priesthood, including twenty-three years in Adelaide, besides

other missionary work in Libya, testify to the

determination of Father Gabriel to put into practice his ordination vows to be of spiritual service to others.

After all these years away from home, I fully understand Father Gabriel's yearning to be back in Gozo to enjoy his extended family.

People like Father Gabriel do not retire they may slow down a little, but somehow keep contributing towards the needs of society.

I wish Father Gabriel all the best for the future and look forward to have the occasion to meet him in the near future. May I also send my regards and best wishes to all Maltese and Gozitans in Adelaide. **H.E. Dr. George Vella - President of the Republic of Malta**

TRIBUTE TO FR. GABRIEL S. MICALLEF OFM.



Aldo Floreani - President of the Lockleys Parish Pastoral Council

It is with mixed emotions that I inform you that Fr Gabriel Micallef OFM has decided to resign from his pastoral duties as CHAPLAIN TO THE MALTESE COMMUNITY in South Australia and from his services around the Adelaide Archdiocese and especially in the Parish of Lockleys, the birthplace of the Maltese Franciscan Fathers Mission in South Australia.

Fr Gabriel cites several main reasons, primarily retirement age and deteriorating health.

A recent article in the May edition of the Southern Cross shared the following reflections: Father Gabriel Micallef OFM came to Adelaide from Malta in 1996 for three months to assist with the closure of the Maltese Franciscan mission.

Twentythree years later he is still here, serving as chaplain to the ageing Maltese community which showed its gratitude and deep affection for the Maltese priest when he celebrated his 75th birthday and 50th anniversary as a priest in March.

Based at the parish of Lockleys, the Maltese community chaplaincy has its origins in the years immediately after World War II when the Maltese began emigrating to countries like Australia in search of a more secure future.

But for Fr Gabriel, the reason for his journey to South Australia goes back to World War I when his father and a group of young men from Gozo were based in Thessaloniki in Greece

and served alongside Australian soldiers. "I am here because of my father," Fr Gabriel said. With 11 other young Maltese men from the island of Gozo, Fr Gabriel's father came to South Australia in 1922 and worked on the bridge at Murray Bridge.

"It was a very cold winter and so they decided to leave and go to Port Lincoln to work in the tuna industry but the industry closed down because of the Great Depression and they started walking eastwards from farm to farm as helping hands," he said.

"They (the farmers) would give them something to eat and then they would go to another farm. They walked all the way to Sydney."

Some of the group married and stayed but his father returned to the family farm in Gozo. When we were growing up he always told us how beautiful Adelaide is.

Named Stephen at birth, Fr Gabriel came from a large family – he was the 17th of 18 children. Several of his siblings died at a young age and he now has only one brother living in Gozo and a sister in Queensland.

"We were poor but happy," he said of his childhood in the picturesque fishing village of St Lawrence, Gozo. After attending primary and secondary school on the island, Stephen joined the Franciscan Order and was given the religious name of Gabriel.

"As a family we were always around priests," he said of his decision to join the priesthood.

"My father used to take care of the fields of the priests in the village, and their houses and estates." He was ordained priest on March 22 1969 and after a year of further study he started teaching at secondary schools.

In the 70s he volunteered as a missionary priest in Tripoli, Libya, where he catered for the Maltese and English-speaking Catholic communities, many of whom worked in the oil industry. He met the controversial President Colonel Gaddafi several times.

In 1979 Fr Gabriel was called to be Superior of the Novitiate House on Gozo and fulfilled his dream of building a centre for youths. His other achievements include renovating a retreat house and building a new church and friary.

In 1995 he was given the opportunity to attend a renewal theological course at Notre Dame University in Indianapolis, USA, but first he came to Australia to visit his sister in Queensland. While in Australia, he learnt that the Franciscans were thinking of closing their mission in Adelaide. "I told the Provincial please don't close it I will come here," he recalled. "He told me to do the course first and then come."

However, at the next chapter meeting, it was decided again to close the mission and Fr Gabriel was given permission to come and assist Fr Edward at the Lockleys parish, where the Maltese community is based, and to do all the "necessary things to pack and go home".

"But when I saw the need of the community we rang Malta and kept pushing and they gave us permission to stay," he explained. "With every Province chapter they wanted me to go back but we would get signatures and they let me stay." Having reached retirement age Fr Gabriel is now looking forward to returning to Gozo to be with his brother and many nieces and nephews.



We are still growing and going strong
If you like to receive this journal regularly
Send an email to Frank: maltesejournal@gmail.com



**Kummissarju Gholi ta' Malta****High Commissioner for Malta**

13 August 2019

Rev. Fr. Gabriel Micallef
Lockleys, South Australia

Dear Fr. Gabriel,

You would have touched many lives in your 50 years as a Catholic priest, but I am certain that you had left an indelible mark in the lives of the Maltese in Adelaide whom you have nurtured and encouraged during your 23 years in Australia.

For the Maltese or any believer for that matter, being away from home may pose a challenge to one's desire to grow and remain in the Faith. But like the Good Shepherd, you looked over your flock that they may not go astray or be found and returned when they do. These I am certain of, as I have had the privilege to have known you and those whom you know. We will all agree that you will not retire in vain and that you may quote St. Paul when he said in 2 Timothy 4:7 *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"*.

However, it is yet far from over. As this chapter ends a new one begins. In no time, you will be back in Malta/Gozo ministering to your family and old friends.

For this and on behalf of the Officers and Staff of the High Commission and Consulates of Malta in Australia, I would like to thank you for your dedicated and selfless pastoral service to the Maltese in Australia and wish you good health and a happy retirement. May God bless you as you continue to be a blessing to others.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles Muscat', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles Muscat
High Commissioner

Farewell Father Gabriel

*It was a very sad day for us when we heard
the news that due to your ill health you
have to leave from within our midst and
return to your birth place Gozo.*

*We felt sad that you were experiencing
ill health, and we have been praying
that the Lord will keep you
in his tender care.*

*It certainly was disheartening for us
to realize that we are losing our revered
Maltese Chaplain. For these twenty three years,
you have given our Maltese community in Adelaide
your untiring Pastoral Care;*

*With your many special Masses every month
at Kilburn at Beverly, and at Lockleys
in our Maltese tongue.*

*With your participation at our yearly feasts of
Il-Vitorja, Santa Katerina, San Pawl, Mnarja,
Christmas midnight Mass complete with
the young child's homily, not to mention the
Outdoors Way of the Cross at Easter.*

*As a member of our
Maltese Queen of Victories Band of South Australia,
I must say we are indebted to you for your
intercession on our behalf to establish a 'home base'
for our rehearsals. Thank you.*

*As an active member of our community you
were the 'glue' that aided the Maltese societies
to bond together.*

*As well as your many other acts of 'Reaching out'
to others, we personally thank you
for your friendship.*

God Bless You and keep you in his care.

Agnes and Ron Borg





**THE MAKING OF A
MEDICO**
A MEMOIR
2019
MAURICE CAUCHI

The Making of a Medico - A Memoir, 2019

This memoir covers a period of over 3ight decades, starting form a near-idyllic life in Gozo, through a strenuous, even challenging period at university, followed by further education overseas. While this is where the history of an average ‘medico’ normally ends, for emeritus Professor Cauchi it is really a beginning of a varied career, involving not only cancer research, involvement as leader of the Maltese as well as the general ethnic community in Australia, broadcaster, lecturer, writer of monographs on medical and social issues, contributions to scientific journals as well as newspapers in Malta, and finally, when arthritis interfered with playing the piano, he started playing the cello at the age of 79, and managing to achieve a reasonable level of expertise in that area also.

This memoir covers these many aspects of a person who has contributed

an enormous amount of effort, time, and energy to the community through his continuous involvement in many aspects of life, both in Malta and overseas.

“Professor Maurice. N. Cauchi is without any doubt one of the most solid and effective heads that the Maltese Community in Australia ever had”; The Maltese Herald. The book is available from BDL



New Pastor at St Jane Frances de Chantal in Toronto

August 10, 2019 Canada Fr. Charles M. Grech Pastor

On the 5th of November 2016 Fr. Charles Michael Grech ofm embarks on a new mission across the Atlantic heading towards Canada after responding to the needs

of the Franciscan Province of the Immaculate Conception (USA) to be part of the parish as an associate pastor at St Jane Frances de Chantal in Toronto.

In June 2017 he was asked to take the responsibility of Radio Maria Canada as Director. In the same year on 7th July, has been appointed as Parish administrator after the retirement of the pastor.

In October Fr. Charles has been elected to the Council of Priests representing the parishes in Zone 8.

During the Franciscan Chapter of the Immaculate Conception 17th – 22 June 2019 the Minister Provincial Fr. Robert Campagna ofm nominated Fr. Charles to Cardinal Thomas Collins Archbishop of Toronto to appoint him as Pastor with the approved letter dated 29th July 2019.

His Excellency, Most Revered Bishop John Boissonneau, Auxiliary bishop of Toronto, will celebrate the installation on the 5th of October 2019.

Fr. Charles says “While thanking Fr. Robert Campagna Minister Provincial of the Immaculate Conception Province (USA), and the definitors for entrusting me with this mission, would also like to thank the Minister Provincial of the Maltese Province Fr. Richard S. Grech for the constant support and encouragement throughout.”



BY VICTOR V VELLA

It was a typical Maltese feast even without the fireworks and the band marches'!. It was more a religious occasion, with the procession of the statue of Our Lady and of a congregation filling the Cathedral of St. Mary's in Sydney. This year the feast fell on its proper date the 8th of September, one of the national days of Malta. And whether you hail from Mellieha, or Naxxar, or I-Isla or the village of Xaghra in Gozo you joined the whole of the Island celebrating the birth of Our Lady. And amid the hustle and bustle of the feast we also remember the two historical victories which took place over the years: the one over the Turks in 1565 and the victory over the Germans and Italians in the Second World War. Though we are 'ten thousand miles' from our Island home, and could be 30, 40, 50 years or more since we heard the band marches and the ringing of bells, the large congregation joined together with hearts aglow brought together the present with the spirit of the past.

There was no sound of band marches or the cacophony mingling with the 'murtali'. The sound came from the voices of the choir of Marisa Privitera which filled the appropriate venue of the Gothic Cathedral with its majestic columns and glazed glass windows shining brightly in the evening sun. The choir, with the singing of traditional hymns and assisted by the solemn music of the famous organ of the Cathedral provided the musical accompaniment for the occasion. The ritual of the con-celebrated Mass itself with 5 priests taking part provided the hall mark of the occasion. The panegyric was delivered by the deacon Roderick Pirotta who combined the religious aspect of the feast with the Maltese historical background. The readings, one by the Hon Consul for Malta Lawrence Buhagiar and the second one by Dr. George Boffa, added the biblical as well as the social and civic part.

The whole celebration showed the able and tiresome preparation and organisation by Fr. Tarcisju Micallef and his aide Mrs. Antoinette Mascari. I should also mention the number of Maltese associations who took part with their banners and especially the Knights of Malta in Australia who every year enhance the occasion with their participation. The message from the Maltese High Commissioner in Australia His Excellency Charles Muscat, contributed the official touch and proved the unity and the support coming from all sections of society.

The most relevant aspect of a feast is that you get out of your own room or space and join with others in praying or marching or singing. And when one notices a whole cathedral full of a congregation participating in the same ritual and celebrating a common cause, one cannot but feel a touch of nostalgia, with a taste of 'qubbajt'. and the meeting of friends. With the passing of years and the dwindling numbers of friends and relatives, feasts offer a chance of meeting and of recalling of old memories. We realize that some familiar faces disappear. However the nurturing of old friendships on such feasts warms up the hearts and souls of the participants. Even without the 'zuntier' and the 'pjazza', after the religious part we had the chance to get together at the Society of St. Paul's house in Stanley Street, down the road from the Cathedral to share a cup of tea and a couple of pastizzi 'shan u tajbin'. which go down well with the sharing of healthy and not so healthy stories.

All in all it was another state occasion and a successful feast which as usual managed to combine the social, political and of course the religious aspect of our society. The Maltese came from near and far and were not deterred by the problem of distance or of ailing health : they came to celebrate together, attracted by so many dimensions of the occasion.

Everybody acknowledges that the number of Maltese migrants in Australia , especially the first generation, is dwindling fast. So it was very heartening to see so many of them in the congregation. Attendance or being there is becoming an imperative , mostly to support the organisers but especially to be able to celebrate together the Maltese culture and the identity which whether you accept it or not is part and parcel and is tied so strongly to the faith of our fathers. .



Maltese Australian TV show host shortlisted for Australian Community TV Awards



Marlene Scicluna, host and co-executive producer of community TV show **MALTESE DOWNUNDER** has been nominated for Best Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Personality at the 2019 Antenna Awards. These awards recognise outstanding community television programs broadcast around Australia. This is the first time ever a Maltese Australian TV show has been shortlisted for these awards.

Marlene Scicluna (formerly Galea) is a broadcast journalist and producer. She started in broadcast media as a 17-year old in Malta in 1987, as a radio presenter on *Mill-Gżira ta' Calypso*, formerly *Mit-Tokk t'Għawdex*, a show she presented for 10 years.

Following her return to her native country in 1998, she was the Senior Producer with Maltese Language Programs on SBS Radio for 15 years; altogether 18 years as a broadcast producer. In 2015, together with friend Mark Avellino, Marlene co-created Maltese DownUnder, a community TV show produced in Melbourne. She directed, produced, co-edited, hosted and co-presented 5 seasons of the show. An interesting fact is that although she is fluent in Maltese and has worked in Maltese media for over 30 years, Marlene is only Maltese by adoption. She is very proud of her diverse heritage; born to an Aboriginal Australian mother and American father with Irish and German ancestry.

Maltese DownUnder is a Melbourne based bi-lingual production, showcasing Maltese cultural heritage, featuring the arts, music, food, cultural events and sports. The show promotes Australian Maltese artists, personalities and associations outside traditional Maltese circles to a broader audience. The show is broadcast in Maltese and English to preserve and strengthen the cultural links for all Maltese Australians, on all things Maltese.

Since its first screening in February 2016, the quality of production has seen the show capture and engage a sizeable audience online and was the most viewed show on C31, in the culture category and in the top 5 shows overall. Through its YouTube platform, the show continues to reach audiences beyond Australian shores.

The 5 seasons of Maltese DownUnder are available on demand via YouTube Channel [Maltese DownUnder TV](#). Media Contact: maltesetv@gmail.com



Hon. JING LEE MLC

Working for all
South Australians.

Message from the Assistant Minister to the Premier, The Honourable Jing Lee MLC

It was a great honour to represent the Premier, the Hon. Steven Marshall MP, to join you on the celebration of Malta National Day - Il-Vitorja on Saturday, 7th September 2019.

Thank you to the President and Committee of Maltese Guild of South Australia for their hard work and outstanding commitment to preserve the history of Malta and enrich us with the unique Maltese culture in South Australia.

Sincere thanks also goes to the Honorary Consul of Malta, Mr Frank Scicluna for sharing his wonderful knowledge about the significance of Malta's Victory Day as we acknowledged the heroic sacrifices and bravery of those who defended it.

It was a great privilege to join distinguished guests and the Maltese community of South Australia to celebrate Malta National Day - one of the most important days in its history. Congratulations once again for a successful event. It was certainly a very special evening and I am deeply touched and honoured to be announced as an honorary member of the Maltese Community.

Thank you once again for your warm and generous hospitality. I can still hear the patriotic music played by Maltese Queen of Victories Band of South Australia as guests waved the Malta flags with pride. It was a beautiful evening!

Thank you!

The Honourable Jing Lee MLC

Assistant Minister to the Premier

Member of the Legislative Council of the South Australian Parliament



We encourage all South Australians to come together at the Multicultural Festival.

Come and enjoy all the festivities, bring your family and friends, wear your favourite traditional costumes, learn about different traditions, build intercultural relationships and connections with our culturally and linguistically diverse community!

SEND US YOUR STORY

SHARE IT WITH OTHERS

Loranne Vella explained: going home a winner



Prize-winning Maltese author Loranne Vella will be the special guest of the Malta Book Festival 2019 for a series of events celebrating her works and career, the Maltese literary landscape and more.

She prefers to write in Maltese, read in English, translate from French, and dream in Japanese

The beginning of Vella's writing career coincides with when she left the island to work as a Maltese translator. Moving away from home, she believes, is what forced her to take stock of her 'Malteseness'. This is when she decided to shed the habit, shared by many others of her generation, of naturally gravitating towards written English, and made the intentional effort to write everything, from taking notes, communication via email, text messages, and more, in Maltese.

She translates in an office, reads in bed, writes in cafes and occasionally performs in the street

Vella is a writer, translator and performer. Her creative career spanned literature, teaching, translation, theatre, before returning to long-form literature. Her first foray into novel writing is marked by the publication of *It-Trilogija tal-Fiddien* (Merlin Publishers, 2007, 2009, 2009), a trilogy for adolescents written together with Simon Bartolo, which steadily achieved a huge following and won her the National Book Prize twice.

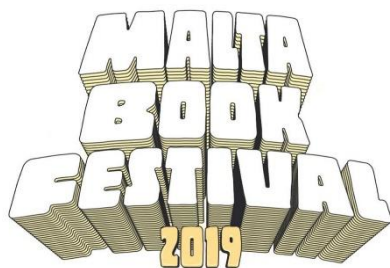
Loranne Vella

Her fantasy novel *Rokit* (Merlin Publishers), a story about time, space, photography, roots, geometry, revolution and ultimately hope, was also awarded first prize in 2018 in the category 'Novels in Maltese and English'. Crossing genre boundaries between adult and young adult fiction, *Rokit* is a wonderful exercise of eco-fiction, exploring the fragmentation of Europe through the eyes of Petrel as he returns to discover his grandmother's Maltese roots and find Malta under siege by the effects of global warming.

Vella now lives in Brussels, where she directs the interdisciplinary performance art group Barumbara Collective, which focuses on collaboration with artists from different spheres.

At the end of the day, she still tries to get her eight hours of sleep

The Malta Book Festival 2019 will take place at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta, starting from Wednesday, November 6 until Sunday, November 10.



On the evening of Wednesday, November 7, Vella will be joining three international guest authors, for the annual conference organised by the National Book Council, which this year will revolve around the theme of science fiction and fantasy writing in Malta and abroad. An author event dedicated to Vella will be taking place on Friday, November 8 at 7 pm at the Activity Area in the Sacra Infermeria Hall. The audience will have the opportunity to talk to Vella, ask questions and have their books signed.

Imposed on all Maltese authors and publishers, the obligation to deposit two free copies of each of their publications, one at the National Library of Malta and the other at the National Library (Gozo).

For this reason, the National Library has become the main source of Melitensia with the function of placing the written heritage of Malta at the disposal of the general public.





Malta National Day or “Il-Vitorja” is one of Malta’s most important days in its history. The 8th of September commemorates the end of the Great Siege in 1565 with victory over the Ottoman Empire, the end of the French occupation of Malta in 1800 and the fall of the Fascist regime in Italy in 1943.

The annual Dinner Dance celebration was hosted by the Maltese Guild of SA Inc. and held on the 7th of September 2019. Guests enjoyed a four-course dinner and entertainment was provided by The Godfather Band. A powerful speech was given by the Honorary Consul for Malta in South Australia – Mr Frank Scicluna. Guests were moved as Mr Scicluna described Malta’s long and colourful history and explained the event’s significance. Member of Parliament in the Legislative Council - Assistant Minister to the Premier, The Honourable Jing Lee, also acknowledged the determination and strong spirit shown by the population of Malta. She thanked the Guild’s Committee for their time and effort in organising the event and was overjoyed to be made an Honorary Life Member of the Maltese Guild.

Later in the night the Maltese Queen of Victories Band played the ‘brijju’ which created merriment for the night, similar to that of the festas. Special thanks went to Chevalier Mr Charles Figallo for his generosity and endless contributions towards the Maltese community and its cultural events.

Everyone who attended will agree, the Maltese Guild’s National Day Dinner Dance was a huge success and lots of fun! **Margaret Abela Secretary Maltese Guild of SA Inc**



Società Filarmonica Nazionale LA VALETTE
 OPERISTIC AND SYMPHONIC CONCERT
OMAGGIO A GIUSEPPE VERDI
 With the participation of TENOR KALUDI KALUDOV and SOPRANO ANNA DYTRY

On the 145th anniversary of its foundation, and 92 years from its historical victory
 in the International Band Competition, Como, Italy

Together with Coro Bel Canto
 Direction: Mro Dominic Darmanin

Saturday 9 ta' November 2019 at 7.30pm
Auditorium, Catholic Institute, Floriana

Tickets from Soc. Fil. Naz La Valette
 Republic Street, Valletta
 Catholic Institute, Floriana
 Email: lavaletteband1874@gmail.com Tel: 20997001
 €10 donation

Operatic and Symphony Celebrity Concert - OMAGGIO A GIUSEPPE VERDI (1813-1901)

The Società Filarmonica Nazionale La Valette AD 1874 of Valletta will be presenting a special Operatic and Symphony Band Concert entitled Omaggio a Giuseppe Verdi /Tribute to Giuseppe Verdi, encompassing overtures, arias, duettos and choir selections from Verdi's repertoire.

The La Valette Symphony Band is marking the 145th anniversary of its foundation and the 92nd anniversary of its historical victory at the International Bands Competition held in Como, Italy. It will be held on Saturday 9 November 2019 at 7.30pm, Auditorium, Catholic Institute Floriana, under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency Dr George Vella, President of Malta.

Renowned Tenor Kaludi Kaludov from Bulgaria and Soprano Anna Dytry from Poland will perform arias and duettos from Verdi's major operas. — La Traviata, Aida, Rigoletto, Il Trovatore, La Forza del destino. The Coro Bel Canto will perform selections from Nabucco, La Traviata, Aida, Il Trovatore.

Kaludi Kaludov from Sofia, Bulgaria, enjoys a highly successful international career having performed at the La Scala of Milan; and various opera houses of Trieste, Genova, Paris, Buenos Aires, Chicago and Houston in the USA, Berlin and Hamburg in Germany, and Vienna; he distinguished himself in Verdi's Aida conducted by Mro Zubin Mehta in Tel Aviv, Israel, performing with world famous opera singers including Renato Bruson, Plácido Domingo, Sherill Milnes, Mirella Freni, under famous conductors like Claudio Abbado and Riccardo Muti. Kaludi has a rich repertoire of Verdi's operas - Attila, Ernani, La forza del destino, La Traviata, Il Trovatore, Aida.

Anna Dytry was born in Poland and specialized in singing under the expertise of Kaludi himself. She performed leading roles of Micaela in Georges Bizet's Carmen, Desdemona in Otello, Leonora in Il Trovatore, Elisabetta in Verdi's Don Carlo, Liu in Madame Butterfly and Tosca in Giacomo Puccini's operas, Elvira in Mozart's Don Giovanni, Giulietta in Les Contes d'Hoffman by Jacques Offenbach, performing in opera houses of Vienna, Maastricht, Poland, Bulgaria and Slovakia. The La Valette Symphony Band will perform under the baton of Mro Dominic Darmanin.

OMAGGIO A GIUSEPPE VERDI promises to be a tribute to Italian Opera by Malta's leading Symphony Band —
 - Not to be missed!

Booking from Società Filarmonica Nazionale La Valette, Republic Street, Valletta; Telephone: 20997001
 Email: lavaletteband1874@gmail.com Catholic Institute, Floriana



Maltese and International artists come together for a music festival

Posted On September 10, 2019 - Updated 10 September, 2019 7:58am

Report: Daphne Cassar

A number of Maltese and international artists who are well-known and enjoy huge fandom will come together for a music festival that celebrates Mediterranean culture and

traditions checkered with European pop music.

Alessandra Amoroso, Gigi D'Alessio, Elisa, Emma, Umberto Tozzi, Mahmoud, Raf, Ira Losco and The Travelers are among those who will participate in the third edition of Radio Italia Live: The concert, as part of the Mediterranean Stars Festival.

The performers will be accompanied by the Mediterranean Orchestra which is composed of sixty musicians under the musical direction of conductor Bruno Santori.

The Mediterranean Stars Festival will be held at the Floriana Granaries on 4 October and is being put up by the Foundation for Mediterranean Tourism which was established in 2016 to promote peace and stability in the Mediterranean in collaboration with Maltese entities and Radio Italia Live. The concert will be free of charge.

The Tourism Minister, Konrad Mizzi, said that the festival will be accompanied by a number of events such as Notte Bianca, which will further promote Malta as a tourist destination. He said that Italy was a major destination for Malta with direct connections to seventeen airport in Italy and an average of four hundred thousand tourists from Italy visit Malta annually.



Mike Spiteri reflects on his 50 year music career

Report: Keith Demicoli

Songs like "Flower in the Vault" and "Wherever the Heart Loves" are among the most popular songs in the Maltese language, despite having never won anything at a song festival.

To mark fifty years since the beginning of his music career, Mike Spiteri told us that he has sung these songs thousands of times and that it is not true that the Maltese is too harsh a language and does not lend itself to melodious songs.

Fifty years ago, Mike Spiteri sang on stage for the first time and soon after was invited to be the lead singer of the rock group, Dragster which was very popular with students.

From there he became one with progressive rock music and began a full-time career as a professional singer.

"Raising a family from a music career is a bit tough but I managed because I was very careful."

The father of three children says that the life of a performer and entertainer is not easy but that he managed to stay put because he was determined and willing to make many sacrifices.

"There was a time when I would simply sleep and sing. You can't live like that. Today I appreciate where I live. I like the quiet, the peace and the greenery and it is important for me because the life of a performer, at night, takes its toll."

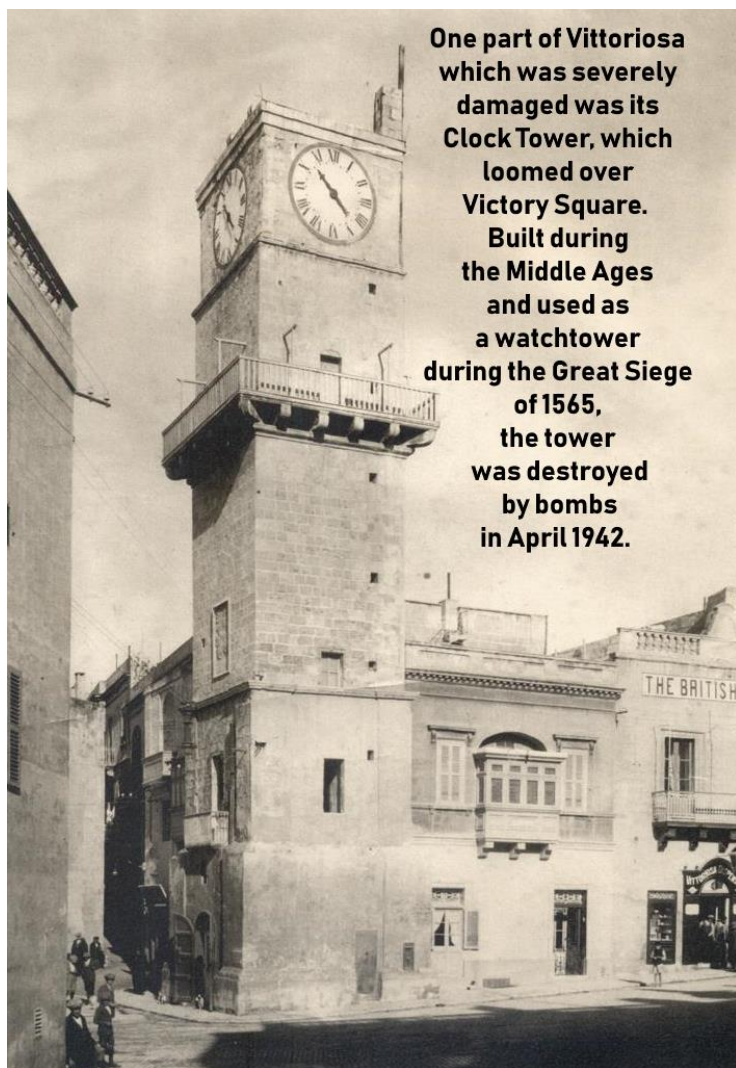
After some years working in Tunisia, in the early eighties, he returned to Malta and won the International Malta Song festival with the song 'Computer'. But the songs he is most famous for are Flower in the Vault and 'Wherever the heart loves' even if never won festivals with them.

"I personally prefer 'Wherever the heart loves', but 'Flower in the Vault' is very popular and is a happy, upbeat song.

The most cherished moment in his long career was in 1995 when he took part in the Eurovision Song Contest with the song 'Keep me in mind', where he came in tenth place among 23 countries.

"When you are representing Malta and you are called up on stage "and now this is Malta" at that moment you feel many many things." "And those are moments that you never forget."

In the latest edition of "Għajna tal-Poplu", Mike Spiteri and Hooligan were recognised for their contribution to Maltese song which Mike Spiteri believes should be nurtured and given the importance it deserves. "There was a time when we criticised our language for being harsh and not melodious but it is not true because if you have a melodious song then you have a good song."



One part of Vittoriosa which was severely damaged was its Clock Tower, which loomed over Victory Square. Built during the Middle Ages and used as a watchtower during the Great Siege of 1565, the tower was destroyed by bombs in April 1942.

VITTORIOSA, COSPICUA AND SENGLEA THE THREE CITIES

Having been in existence long before Valletta, the Three Cities were for a long time the most significant hives of activity in the country. Vittoriosa was for a period Malta's capital when the Order of St. John moved into Malta, while Cospicua was a centre for industry during the British period through the dockyards which, at their height, employed some 14,000 people – 20% of the Maltese working population.

Today things have, however changed. Malta's capital became Valletta soon after the Great Siege of 1565 while the dockyards are far from the industrial centres that they were in the twentieth century, having been privatised in 2010. The vista from across the water looking over where one of the main areas of the dockyards once was has long changed, as has the vista looking towards Vittoriosa's seafront, with yachts now dominating the marina.

The effect that the Second World War had on

the area is also somewhat present – the area was hit hard during the blitz due to its proximity to Malta's key naval facilities, leading to widespread damage. One part of Vittoriosa which was severely damaged was its Clock Tower, which loomed over Victory Square. Built during the Middle Ages and used as a watchtower during the Great Siege of 1565, the tower was destroyed by bombs in April 1942. Despite much debate as to whether it should be rebuilt or not, nothing has materialised thus far, and Vittoriosa's square thus remains tower-less.



Maltese mothers are an absolute gem. They were taught to raise us kids in a certain way, and used to say all kinds of things to scare you when we disobeyed.

But with the occasional scare, came many a moments and words of encouragement that taught us how to handle life and make good decisions. Here are the phrases that can only come out of a Maltese mother's mouth, but are oh so precious life lessons too!

L-omm għal uliedha halliela u giddieba

As the great Celine Dione once sang in one of her harmonic and angelic ballads ... there is no other love like a mother's love for her child. And this Maltese phrase sums it up pretty well. A mother becomes a thief and a liar for her child.

Hadd ma jahsillek wiċċek biex tkun aħjar minnu

Be wary of the people around you and never trust someone who seems to be a bit too kind – there are very few people that will help you out without an ulterior motive.

Qatt toħroġ b'ta taht imqatta', ma jmurx jagħtik hass hażin fit-triq u jaqaghulek kollox

Mothers have a peculiar way of giving you advice to make sure you follow through with them. Some of said advice is pure comedy gold, such as this one.

Lill min tara siequ miksura, kissirlu l-oħra għax jekk tirrangahielu jitlaq jiġri

Ouch, ma ...I mean, I get what they mean by this – look out for yourself and never underestimate how cruel people can be kind of thing. But still ... mama can be savage sometime.

Hadd ma jriegħidlek ġid daqs kemm iridilek jien

Back to singing 'There is no other, love like a mother's love for her child.'

Il-ħbieb sal-bieb

Aaah, the good old saying, don't let anyone get too close.

While some of us have experienced the true definition of friendship, some of us haven't been so lucky. But let's not rule out all the true friendships and those people who you have welcomed into your life as an illegitimate part of the family.

Toħroġx sieqek barra mill-friex

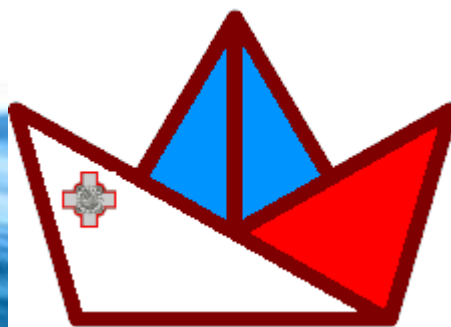
No, it's not because the monster under your bed will drag you out of it and eat you.

It actually has a very nice meaning.

Don't take on more than you can chew just so you could be like someone else. Stay within the what you [or your bed in this case] can handle.

Tixtieqx deni l-ghajrek għax jiġi għandek

What goes around comes around, and the good ole.



20th anniversary of the EMS Cooperative – Postage stamp issue

BY [GOZO NEWS](#)

To commemorate the 20th anniversary since the initiation of the Express Mail Service (EMS),



MaltaPost, together with other EMS members will be issuing a stamp.

MaltaPost explained that this joint stamp issue bears a common theme including each country's flag and currency.

EMS is a global courier service designed to meet customers' requirements at a competitive price and available at virtually every post office around the world.

They will be issued in a sheet of 10, with each stamp measuring 31mm x 44mm, with a comb perforation of 14.0 x 13.9 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark.

The sheets measure 185mm x 115mm and were produced by Printex Ltd in the offset

process. The issue consists of 25,000 stamps and each stamp bears a face value of €2.00. The design was set by the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

This philatelic issue will be available from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo as from tomorrow, Tuesday, the 10th of September.

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

AFM COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY TO MARK TRAGIC EVENT OF 1984

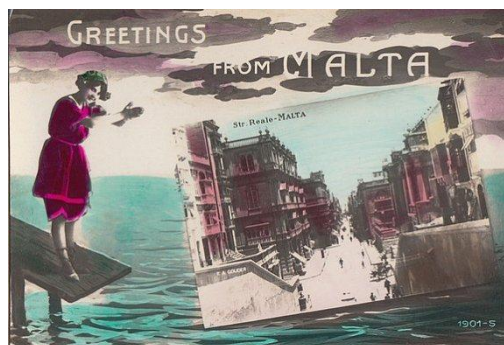
The Armed Forces of Malta have held a commemorative ceremony at Hay Wharf Base to mark the



tragedy of the 7th of September 1984, in which seven personnel perished in the violent explosion on board AFM patrol boat C23, some two miles off Qala Point in Gozo.

Patrol boat C-23 was on a dumping detail of illegally manufactured fireworks. The AFM said that it was a routine operation which followed the Police's find and seizure of the fireworks in the limits of Zabbar a day earlier. A commemorative mass was led by the AFM Chaplain and the Malta Police Force Chaplain, with the

attendance of the Commander of the Armed Forces of Malta and the Commissioner of the Malta Police Force, together with relatives and other ex-serving members.



Greetings from Malta: the story behind a postcard

Clare Gleeson writes:

I've recently started to collect old postcards – the

tinted ones of the 19th and early 20th centuries. I started my collection when my daughter and I did a vintage road tour of the South Island last year and I needed something to look at in the vintage shops as she tried on vintage clothes. My collecting obsession soon became as great as hers!

There are hundreds of tinted postcards for sale but I don't collect cards of just anywhere instead selecting ones of places I've been to, or places I'm interested in going to. After my visit to Malta I looked at various online sites for postcards and bought a few. The one I was most interested in arrived today and from the front is a typical holiday card to be sent back to friends and family at home. It shows Strada Reale (now Republic Street) in Valletta and a girl in an Edwardian (the postcard is dated 1901 on the front) swimming outfit ready to plunge into the Mediterranean.

The postcard came from a dealer in Paris called Francis, who sent me a lovely note with it. Despite this it didn't occur to me that the card had originally been sent to someone in France and not Britain. Imagine my surprise when I looked at the back, saw the entire message was written in French and the date was 12 March 1915.

With my rather rusty schoolgirl French (and some help) it seems likely the card is from a soldier in Malta, writing to his aunt, uncle and cousins. He talks of "attacks" and "a miracle". He also talks of taking the card to catch "the courier". The card has not been sent by post but probably in an envelope which could mean it was one of a few he wrote to be dispatched to France via the courier. I've had a quick look on the internet and over 100 French soldiers from the First World War are buried in Malta, so it fits. Dated March 1915 this card predates the beginning of the Gallipoli campaign and the huge influx of wounded to Malta, although it's not positive from the card that he was wounded; he may have been there for another reason. It seems such a lovely coincidence that this plopped into my letterbox today.

About Eleanor Scerri



I'm archaeological scientist interested in exploring the articulation between material culture, genetics and biogeography to further theoretical, an methodological and scientific advances in the field of human evolution.

I am an Associate Professor (W2) at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History in Jena, Germany where I am leader of the independent Lise Mietner Research Group on Pan-African Evolution.

I am also a senior faculty member of the International Max Planck Research School at Freidrich Schiller University, Jena and a visiting fellow at the School of Archaeology, University of Oxford. Prior to my current position, I was a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions fellow a the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, a British Academy Fellow at the University of Oxford and Junior Research Fellow at Jesus

College, and a Fyssen Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Bordeaux. I obtained my PhD at the University of Southampton in 2013.

My research group combines primary fieldwork in West Africa with a range of different modelling approaches using palaeoecological and genetic data, in order to test different hypotheses about human evolution. I am also involved in fieldwork in North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. My newest project will be based on the island of Malta. My research includes:

The population structure of early Homo sapiens in Africa and intra-African dispersals - The origins and causes of cultural diversification in the African Middle Stone Age - The timing, number and character of early Homo sapiens dispersals out of Africa. - Late evolutionary processes in the terminal Pleistocene/early Holocene of Africa in different biogeographic zones - The development of rapid and replicable methods of lithic analysis, producing data that can be combined with other sources of information

THE BELL RINGER

Stephanie Fsadni

Carl Bugeja was only four years old when he got a taste of what would become his life's passion. His father Benny took him up to the belfry of Gżira parish church, where he let his son try what he had been doing for years: bell-ringing.

The boy immediately fell in love with bells and decided to follow in his father's footsteps. Now 20, he is a group leader assistant of Benny's Bell Ringers.



A young Carl ringing a church bell.

The group, which comprises his parents and other bell-ringers from various localities, is regularly commissioned to ring church bells across the islands, especially during the festa season.

Carl's role is to lead the group in his father's absence. He thus assumes responsibility for the ringing of bells during all kinds of liturgical celebrations, ensuring they are rung in an appropriate and timely manner according to the service being held.

But what does it take to become a bell-ringer?

"You do not need any particular ability. You learn the ropes from other bell-ringers and you refine your skills gradually, depending on how much you practice," Carl says, while getting ready to ring the Gżira bells at noon on a Saturday morning.

"However, knowledge of liturgical celebrations always helps. It makes you understand better why bells are rung in a particular way on different occasions. There are specific rules to follow," he continues.

As regards equipment, bell-ringers do not need much apart from ropes which they tie to the clapper (*ilsien*) and a pair of safety headphones to protect their ears from the loud sound produced when the clapper strikes the inside of the bell.

Carl, an IT student at Mcast, goes on to explain that every church has a set of bells – also known as 'ring of bells' – each of which has a different tone.

Carl Bugeja using a hammer to play the Ave Maria on a set of bells known as carillon.

"The size and thickness of a bell affect the sound produced. Some bell foundries make sure that every bell reproduces a musical note as perfectly as possible. When a set of bells is rung together, such as in a peal (*mota*), they produce a harmony," Carl explains.

Most bells in Malta – such as those by Maltese founders Giuliano Cauchi and Ġwakkin Trigance and Italian ones like Prospero Barigozzi and Bianchi – are cast this way. However, technology has changed the industry over the years.

Some people do not even realise someone is up there ringing bells

"Most foundries, especially nowadays, tune their bells in a mechanical way and so the sound does not depend completely on the size and thickness of a bell," Carl says as he points to a series of grooves on Gżira's big bell (*il-qanpiena l-kbira*) which let it produce 'a perfect C'.

The church's bells were cast by John Taylor & Co., the world's largest working bell foundry which originated in the 14th century in England. One of Carl's favourite rooftops: that of the Gżira parish church.

"In my opinion, their bells are the best ones on the island," he remarks, adding that their sound is music to his ears.

He further mentions other international bell foundries whose works are found in Malta, such as the French Fonderie Paccard and Cornille Havard, the British Gillett & Johnston and the Dutch Petit & Fritsen.

The bigger the bell, the louder the sound

The bigger the bell, the louder the sound, of course. Carl is proud to have had the opportunity to ring the largest church bell in Malta, found at St Helen's Basilica in Birkirkara. Cast by Barigozzi of Milan, it is also the

second biggest bell on the Maltese islands – the largest one being that of the Siege Bell War Memorial in Valletta.



The Benny Bell Ringers team including Carl Bugeja (third from left, back) and his parents (first and second from left). Photo: Mark Micallef Perconte

"It's an experience I will never forget. Every local bell-ringer would like to ring that bell. It's something special. I had been longing to do it for years... when the opportunity came in 2011, I felt really fulfilled," a smiling Carl says.

Some churches also have a set of chromatically-tuned bells known as carillon, on which one can play hymns such as the Ave Maria. The parish churches of Gżira, St Gregory in Sliema and Christ the King in Paola have such a set.

Carl also notes that each bell is named after saints, popes, other important figures or their donors. For example, the big bell in Gżira is named Carmela as the parish church is dedicated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel while another bell is named Josepha after St Joseph.

There are other big bells he would like to ring someday, such as those of Balzan parish church, Ta' Giezu and St Paul in Rabat and Għajnsielem and Victoria.

FAMILY OF MALTESE DESCENT TRACED ON TINY BOUNTY ISLAND



Where on earth is Norfolk Island?

Greg Magri is one of four siblings born to Maltese emigrant Peter Magri, who happens to have married a woman who is in fact a descendant

of the mutineers of the British warship HMS Bounty. About a third of the Norfolk Islanders are descendants of the Bounty mutineers, who settled there in 1856 after leaving Pitcairn, another island in the southern Pacific Ocean, which was getting over-populated.

The Magri family, now in its fourth generation on Australian territory. Mr Peter Magri was clearly overwhelmed when I contacted him by telephone. He left for Melbourne with his parents when Malta was suffering the aftermath of the Second World War. "It was 1951 and I was a 10-year-old kid," he told me. When I asked whether I could speak to him in Maltese, he said that unfortunately he's forgotten the language, "but I'm very proud to be Maltese, I've been back (to Malta) twice and I hope to visit again sometime," he enthused. Maltese tourists always want to visit "Sliema" – Mr Magri's home on Norfolk Island.

He explains that the tightly-knit community of the island has a cultural group where various countries are represented by the emigrants. During activities of the group, Mr Magri proudly carries his little Maltese flag, together with another islander having Maltese connections.

Although a few other residents on the island have links with Malta, with surnames like Borg and Scerri, Mr Magri told me that his is the only family on Norfolk Island which has direct Maltese ancestry. All of his four children and six grandchildren also live on the island, although they were born in Melbourne for medical reasons.

Following his marriage to Patricia, whom he met on the island while on holiday, Mr Magri lived in Melbourne for about five years, but has permanently resided on the south Pacific island for the past 34 years. Jenny, his second wife, has been working as a medical doctor on Norfolk Island for 30 years.



Deputy Speaker Mr Lisle Snell, Mr Chris Magri past Minister and Hon Tim Sheridan, Minister for Community Services

Mr Magri said that they receive a satellite transmission of the news bulletin from Malta once a week, but he regretfully told me that he only follows the pictures since the broadcast is always in Maltese.

He recalled that his family was from Spinola in St Julian's and his father, Alfred Magri, was a mineral collector. He told me that his father visited Malta on several occasions and passed away here when he visited in 1989 specifically to donate part of his collection to a priest, whose name Mr Magri couldn't recall.

Before the arrival of the Bounty mutineers, Norfolk Island was a former convict settlement which the British government decided to colonise to prevent it from falling into the hands of France in 1788, a mere 14 years after the first European – Captain James Cook – is believed to have sighted the island.

Australia Hall – A SAD CARCASS of a historical building in Malta

The former Australia Hall in Pembroke is today a sad carcass of a once dignified public building, with its interior totally gutted out and left in a state of utter dilapidation.

During World War I (1914-1918), Malta had a special role to play as a nursing station within the Mediterranean where several hospitals and convalescent camps were set up to tend to the casualties of the war. Australia Hall was built in 1915 by the Australian Branch of the Red Cross who raised funds to finance a combined recreation centre/theatre building that would serve to entertain wounded soldiers belonging to the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC). In its heyday the hall could accommodate up to two thousand men as stage productions, dances, and other forms of recreation were regularly held there. Later a library and reading room were introduced and around 1921 a projection room was added to the structure so that the hall could also be used as a cinema.

When the British military facilities in St Andrew's Barracks were closed down in 1978, it was returned to the Maltese government and transferred to the Labour Party in exchange for other property. In December 1998, a fire gutted the hall's entire roofing system of metal trusses and sheeting. Only the external masonry shell has survived. Today the roofless shell of a building is vulnerable to the natural elements and vandals have left their marks on what remains of the building.

Public consciousness and awareness of the need to safeguard our historic architectural heritage has increased notably in recent times. However, I suspect that our appreciation for buildings and structures dating to the time of the Order of St John is distinctly greater than that of British colonial



architecture, this being even more so in the case of military architecture. British military buildings and complexes have explicit political associations loaded with the trappings of colonial rule. In asserting our identity as an independent island-state we seem to have unconsciously rejected the legacy of our former colonial masters. This is the sad predicament of an important part of our architectural heritage.

Australia Hall is one of the few remaining buildings reminding us of our British and Commonwealth heritage. Information received from the Australian High Commission confirms that in 1915 the Australian Red Cross donated 2000 pounds for a hall to be built in the village of Pembroke intended to be used as a rest and recreational facility for the thousands of war convalescents. The facility was also used for shows between the wars and during WW2. In the 1970s after the departure of the British forces, the Malta Labour Party took over the building and used it as their office. The building was subsequently abandoned. On the 18th April 1997 the building was scheduled as grade 2 in terms of Structure Plan Policy UCO 7. On the 23rd May 2005 an application was submitted to MEPA by Perit Joe Cassar on behalf of its owner Lawrence Fino for a supermarket. I believe the restoration of the building will be a good project to be completed DURING THE CENTENARY COMMEMORATION OF THE END OF WORLD WAR



2019 Independence Day of Malta Dance

Presented by

Maltese Community Council of Victoria

It's time to unite, come together and celebrate our culture

When: Sunday 22 September 2019 - 11.15 am to 4.30 pm

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Grand Ballroom - 2 – 8 Carrick Drive, Tullamarine

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Includes 3 course meal and drinks

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