

# Maltese e-Newsletter

## Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

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Editor  
Frank Scicluna



#XFACTORMALTA

EMA VELLA, 15 YEAR OLD  
A Maltese Star Is Born:  
'Raw Diamond'  
Stuns X Factor Judges



MALTA CULTURE CLUB  
OF DURHAM



MALTESE  
CANADIAN  
COMMUNITY

TORONTO

## A Maltese Star Is Born: 15-Year-Old 'Raw Diamond' Stuns X Factor Judges



By **Tim Diacono**

What an audition! X Factor Malta was set up to uncover hidden singing gems across the island and it certainly did just tonight, with 15-year-old Ema Vella absolutely astounding the judges. **Born to Ethiopian parents but adopted by a old, Ema stepped onto the stage to smiles from the judges and comments about how sweet her face is.**

And their smiles soon turned to gasps of wonder as Ema belted out a powerful rendition of Etta James' soul classic 'I'd Rather Go Blind' which belied her young years.

**Mesmerised, the judges gave her a round of applause and took it in turns to shower her with praise.**

"You've got such maturity for such a young girl, what a big voice... Oh my gosh," Alex Alden said. "I think you were born to sing, you were born that way," Ray Mercieca added. "You have a very

very special gift which we call the X Factor. You have the X Factor, sweetheart. You're going to have a wonderful future."

"You're a raw diamond and this is the first time I'm using this phrase," Ira Losco said. "The way I see it, a raw diamond is someone with all the ingredients inside them who has yet to combine them all together to become explosive."

Howard Keith Debono then thanked Ema's parents for adopting her and hailed them as an example to other families.

"If it wasn't for them, you wouldn't be here today and perhaps you wouldn't have the life you have today, and we wouldn't have discovered what we discovered today," he said. The judge was so impressed that he actually invited Ema's mother and uncle (her father was abroad on work business) onto the stage so he could shake their hands and so that they could listen to the final verdict.

All four judges voted her through to the next stage of the competition, with Howard describing his vote as his easiest yes of the day and Ray going a step further and claiming it was "probably the best yes I'm ever going to say".

It's early days yet but, with the first round of the second season of X Factor Malta now complete, it's fair to say that Ema will be one to watch out for.

**Share this article to show your support for Ema!**



**For Heaven's Sake**

**Let's work together**  
for the benefit and survival  
of the Maltese communities  
living abroad

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## MALTA AND SINGAPORE AGREE TO COOPERATE ON EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND CYBERSECURITY

*Minister Carmelo Abela remarked that the Maltese economy offers international entrepreneurs and stakeholders a myriad of opportunities*



*The signing of the MoU. Photo - DOI*

Malta and Singapore have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of emerging technologies and cybersecurity at the 2019 Singapore-Malta Business Forum.

The MoU was signed by Parliamentary Secretary Silvio Schembri on behalf of Malta, and Senior Minister of State at the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Communications and Information, Janil Puthuchery, on behalf of Singapore, in the presence of Minister Carmelo Abela.

Minister Carmelo Abela remarked that the Maltese economy offers international entrepreneurs and stakeholders a myriad of opportunities including, following recent developments, in the blockchain and distributed ledger technologies sector. He said that the longstanding ties between Malta and Singapore had grown from strength to strength since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1988.

“Malta and Singapore may be geographically distant, but we are united by our similarities,” he said. “We are both island states with small domestic markets and an important export sector. Being a strategic regional gateway, Malta can be used as a platform to European and North African markets. On the other hand, Singapore is increasingly assuming the role of a strategic gateway to Asia and Australasia.”

“Moreover, we are both former British colonies, and both members of the Commonwealth of Nations and of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). All this shows there is ample scope for further cooperation between our two countries. Areas of mutual interest such as trade, maritime affairs, and education are obvious, but we can explore and look beyond this too.”

Trade Malta’s Chief Executive Officer, Anton Buttigieg, added that this was another significant step forward to further enhance the economic and commercial relationship between Singapore and Malta. “Singapore is an important Asian hub for financial services, maritime affairs, logistics, and the digital economy. The Business Forum and the B2B networking session have helped to continue strengthening Malta’s reputation as an ideal partner in Europe and in the Mediterranean.”

# New Maltese ePassports to start being rolled SOON

## Include highly sophisticated layer of security features

Amongst the new features introduced, the inner visa pages will depict intricate imagery of renowned Maltese landmarks, customs and traditions, which pay tribute to Malta's rich history and cultural heritage. The images depicted include those of the Cittadella in Gozo and the Manoel Theatre.

The encrypted imagery, combined with a highly sophisticated layer of security features, is printed in secure ink and was primarily designed for security reasons.

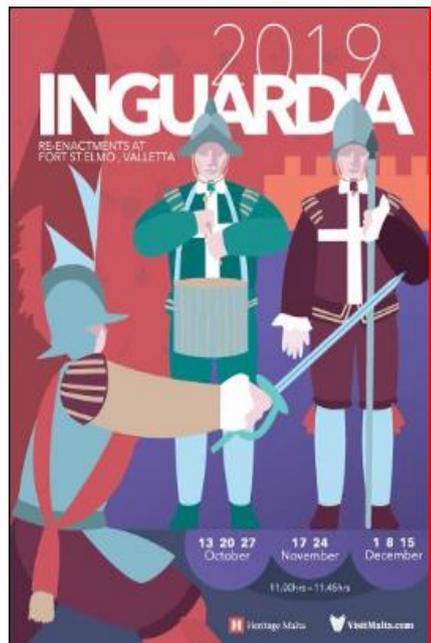
The new document will be issued to new applications or applications for the renewal of the said document, at no extra cost.

Passports in circulation will remain fit for travel and valid until their expiry date. These already conformed to international security standards but the new ones would make use of the latest technology to further prevent document forgery.



Citizenship Parliamentary Secretary Julia Farrugia Portelli said the new ePassport will combine travel with culture. She said one's personal details would be safely captured on a polycarbonate bio-data page, which would make it extremely difficult to forge or tamper with without leaving signs of attack.

Identity Malta's chief executive officer Anton Sevasta said the first batch of diplomatic and alien passports was expected to come into circulation on the second week of November. Unless technical difficulties were encountered, the issuance of the ordinary passports would follow.



**THE IN GUARDIA PARADE**  
is a historical re-enactment taking place on Sundays  
**17 and 24 Nov. 2019**  
at  
**Fort St. Elmo**  
in Valletta.



Dear Editor,

Like many other Maltese in Adelaide I would like to know who is representing us, the Maltese in South Australia, at the

Council for Maltese Living Abroad? Is our representative aware of our achievements and/or serious problems? Who is speaking on our behalf? We have lost our Maltese Language School after more than 30 years of operation, the Maltese Radio Program on PBAfm and now we lost the only Maltese Chaplain, Fr Micallef and unfortunately he was not replaced. We hope that with the help of this journal we will be able to voice our needs and frustrations. I am afraid to say that in a few years time we will lose our remaining groups who are working so hard to preserve the culture of our homeland in our beautiful state of South Australia for future generations. What could be done? Alfred Camilleri (Aus)

# **SBS Maltese** THE MALTESE PROGRAM ON SBS TV REPLACED BY BASKETBALL

## **PLAY-OFFS** By Profs Stephen Gatt (NSW)

I am one of very many who are profoundly disappointed with the repeatedly discriminatory behaviours of some SBS staff acting unilaterally against those they are supposed to represent.

I do not think that SBS realises the magnitude of the Maltese Communities across Australia - 51 clubs, aged-care units, organisations, etc in NSW alone. Thousands rely on this excellent news broadcast to maintain contact with Malta. Communities much, much smaller than ours are getting far better coverage than we are. This constant misinterpretation of census data, the yardstick (and bane) of SBS programmers, to our constant disadvantage is blatantly ridiculous. I will start to draw up a proportional coverage by SBS compared to ethnic group representation in Australia.

I feel that the time has come for the Council for Maltese Living Abroad, the Maltese Community Councils of each state, the Maltese Diplomatic Missions and our Maltese print and electronic media to take up the cudgels by alerting the SBS executive, the Australian Government, our MPs and the competing free-to-air channels that the

Maltese community is no longer well served by the free-to-air services, which we pay for equally, currently being provided to the Maltese by SBS.

At the very least, this may get some SBS decision-makers to understand the level of our distress, to understand the strength and size of our community in Australia, to revise our allocation of air-time and its prioritisation and to reverse this programming staff's discriminatory attitudes.

Please feel free to advance my thoughts to SBS CE and Exec Management, Malta Public Broadcasting Service and the Malta High Commissioner.

I am sure that, like myself, there are hundreds of Maltese-Australians who are very angry that our precious ethnic news should be replaced by basketball play-offs. Many of these Maltese-Australians are high profile and will take their own individual actions in response to this affront.

Our Malta News is valuable to us. Maltese engagement on SBS is already grossly under-represented.

### **MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE PROMOTION PALAZZO PARISIO, MERCHANTS STREET, VALLETTA, MALTA**

#### **5th Convention for Maltese Living Abroad 'Keeping Connected' 6-7th October 2020**

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion would like to inform the Maltese diaspora and the general public that the next convention for Maltese Living Abroad will take place on 6-7th October 2020. Preparations are currently underway, and the Ministry would like to hear from those who are interested in participation at the fifth Convention.

The Convention will consist of plenary sessions together with a number of workshops. Other activities will also be organized at the margins of the Convention. These include an art exhibition, literary symposium. The cultural events will take place on 8th October while on 10th October the Convention will end with a social event. The working languages of the Convention will be Maltese and English.

Those interested in attending the Convention are invited to express their intent of participation by filling in the form on

<https://foreignaffairs.gov.mt/en/pages/Council-for-Maltese-Living-Abroad.aspx>. This form is to be sent via email on [convention2020.mftp@gov.mt](mailto:convention2020.mftp@gov.mt). Alternatively, the form may be sent to the following postal address:

The Director Directorate Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion Palazzo Parisio, Merchant's Street Valletta – VLT 1171 Malta

All forms (by electronic mail or by post) must reach the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion by not later than Friday 10th January 2020 (12.00hrs CET) Convention for Maltese Living Abroad



## THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE PROMOTION

The tradition of Malta Day: 18 Maltese Embassy worldwide celebrate this country's achievements.

Over the years, the Maltese diplomatic missions around the world have developed a tradition in their respective host countries, a celebration which became known as "Malta Day". The Malta Day, this was held in 18 mission abroad between the months of September and October. The Maltese missions abroad include Palestine, Geneva, Italy, Ireland, Spain, Tunisia, Israel, Republic of Turkey, UK, India, Beijing China, Washington DC, Australia, Poland, Strasbourg, the Netherlands, Moscow, Greece, Kuwait, New York. For this occasion Embassies invite important collaborating partners.

In the message of the occasion, through a video message, **Minister Carmelo Abela** said that this year's theme is the commemoration of our country; what we have achieved so far and the direction you are addressing.

He spoke about Malta rewarding the values of democracy, the rule of law, freedom of expression, pluralism, inclusion, protection of human rights of the individual, and much more. He explained the success that Malta is gaining. He recalled how over recent years, Malta has distinguished itself and was at the forefront of embracing change and social and economic opportunities, rather than allowing its fate to be formed only by external factors.

"Like good sailors, we do not complain and resign ourselves when the wind changes direction; instead, we adjust our sails and forge ahead towards our destination. This is only possible because we truly believe in our own potential. The past twelve months have been, much like the twelve that preceded them, characterised by remarkable successes in several fields". A country that had become used to regularly registering a deficit is now registering a surplus, which it is re-investing in future-proofing itself.

He went into the flow of foreign direct investment, as well as an increased externalisation of Malta-based enterprises. "We are creating an environment that allows emerging technologies to flourish and grow. Having cemented our reputation as the 'Blockchain Island', our ambition, now, is to create models which would allow Artificial Intelligence companies to use Malta as a springboard to go global. We are also looking into the exploration of the commercial aspect of outer space, as well as our ability to become a hub for video game development and eSports", said Abela.

He made reference to the diplomatic front and remarked that Malta is poised to continue expanding its horizons, by strengthening already existing ties with other countries, while establishing new ones. He added that as a firm believer in multilateral cooperation, Malta will continue striving to encourage the identification of synergies, cooperation on matters of common interest, and the capitalisation on each other's comparative advantage. "No matter what a country's geographical size is, it is through our unity that change can truly be achieved", said Abela.

He concluded by saying that Malta will continue to contribute fully to international efforts to face complex global challenges such as climate change, ocean health, and migration.



We invite all Maltese associations around the globe to advertise on THE MALTESE JOURNAL free of charge. Our aim to keep our communities connected. There are many thousands of readers who would like to know what your association is doing and are very interested in your events to promote Malta and its culture. Many non-Maltese contact us to learn more about Malta because they are planning to visit Malta or showing interest in investing in Malta.



South Australian born singer **Bonnie Lee Galea** of Maltese Heritage, first left Australia in 1991 at age 25 to work on gambling ships as a croupier, in Singapore & Indonesia. A year and a half later she found herself swimming the waters of the Malacca Straits after her ship was hit and sunk in 1992. Returning to Adelaide all too soon & contemplating her next move she planned her escape in 1993 and ran away with the circus, to be one of 3 dancers, touring regional Victoria for Silver's Grande Magic Circus. But soon again her Mediterranean gypsy blood enticed her to leave the circus behind and travel the countries of the world exploring various professions, cultures & arts.

**HOW & WHERE THE MUSIC BEGAN** - *Bonnie* has performed, managed & marketed her own bands professionally since 2000 throughout Northern Territory, Queensland & South Australia. With her Mediterranean background, this

songstress has a vast repertoire extending from early classics to current contemporary numbers & occasionally her own compositions will keep you mesmerised with her translation of each song.

Music was always a hidden desire for Bonnie, never missing an opportunity to be on stage to sing or dance for her own enjoyment but never realised it could one day become her everyday life. Once returning to Australia in 1998, Bonnie relocated from SA to Darwin, where she was surrounded by many brilliant musicians. By 1999, now 33, she made the move from being a professional croupier to being a professional singer and spent the next 10 years on stage, nurturing & developing her new found talent. A late bloomer compared to most other fabulous musicians Bonnie was lucky enough to be supported by great musicians from various well known Australian bands to enable her to bring to the stage her life travels, experience and Mediterranean passion, singing with her band Firewater and original band 'Esh!'.

During this time Bonnie had the opportunity of supporting James Morrison's brother, John Morrison at the Darwin Casino's 'Jazz on the Lawns' with her band Firewater, and also performed for charity organisations where the main act would be a great Australian Artist such as Glenn Shorrock & James Blundell. Bonnie also appeared in two or three different roles in the 2004 production of 'Guys & Dolls' presented by Kris Stewart at the Darwin Entertainment Centre.

Leaving Darwin in late 2007, Bonnie relocated to QLD where she spent three years gigging and honing her talents more towards the Blues & Jazz genre, alongside well respected, talented Qld musician friends. Performing up and down the East Coast of Australia in her newly named line up BONFIRE from a duo to 6pc band. Soon though her gypsy within decided it was time to return to her hometown.

**SINCE RETURNING TO ADELAIDE** - In 2010 Bonnie returned to Adelaide and by 2014 she was releasing her debut CD, began self-producing and co-producing shows with the guidance and Musical Direction of her partner Quinton Dunne & has collaborated with other wonderful SA artists.

Since 2014 Bonnie has developed four tour ready shows ranging from a 4pc, 5pc & two 6pc shows that can in some cases be larger too plus performs in a

In 2019 Blonde Bombshells of Jazz [tribute show] presented for the 2nd year in theatres and festivals and now with a launch of the CD for the show following up from her first CD 'Since I Fell For You' released in 2014 which includes a couple of foreign sung songs. Also released in early 2019 is her original song 'That's My Baby' on a compilation CD 'Women in Blues' for Wayward Woman Blues

Performing interstate & locally accompanied by some of the most talented local musicians from SA or in each state, on a huge variety of instruments including double bass, guitar, sax/flute, congas etc. Reviving memorable compositions in their own unique style, tailored to suit each individual demographic, venue or event.

*Bonnie Lee Galea's* performances range from large corporate public & private events, weddings & festivals to intimate dining experiences & cocktail parties, wineries, golf clubs etc. Whether you are looking at this website in view of a band for your Wedding or a Party, maybe a Corporate Event or Function – possibly even with a theme, or for a Theatre Show, Festival or General Venue performance. You will find a few different selections here to choose from, as Bonnie will tailor her music & band to suit any of the above and also has four current shows tour ready – BESSIE BILLIE DINAH, YOU MUST REMEMBER THIS, Our Christmas Favourites & BLONDE BOMBSHELLS OF JAZZ, available for Theatres locally, nationally or Internationally.

**FRI 29 NOV, 2019 JAZZ in CHEEK Trio 5pm-7pm with Bonnie Lee Galea, Special Guest & Richard Coates** The Playford Lounge, MGallery by Sofitel 120 North Terrace, Adelaide, SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
[www.bonnieleegalea.com](http://www.bonnieleegalea.com)

**FRI 6 DEC, 2019 Bon Bon's Christmas Ensemble [5pc band]**

**6pm – 6.45pm with Bonnie Lee Galea, Quinton Dunne, Richard Coates, Peter Raidel & Yuri Markov.**

**Norwood Christmas Concert starts at Linde Reserve, Norwood, SA**

[www.bonnieleegalea.com](http://www.bonnieleegalea.com)

## The Number of priests in the Parish has fallen sharply” !!

From our correspondent Ron Borg

Just recently I was talking to friends in Malta about the slump in priestly vocations, and their quick reply was “*eh, in-numru ta qassisin fil-parocca taghna naqsu hafna*”! They were taken back when I started laughing at their remark and asked why I found it funny.

I told them that here in Adelaide, as in most of Australia, we have experienced an increase! An increase of parishes allotted to the one Parish Priest, in fact his car had to cover many hundreds of kilometres to try and keep up with the amount of parishioners spread over large areas, sometimes the Parish Priest, (like our ex- priest Bishop Charles Gauci) had to go across the waters to Kangaroo Island to tend to all his Parishes.

As if this was not bad enough, the Maltese Community of Adelaide, and also other Australian States, have come to experience a lack of one Maltese Chaplain. We in Adelaide had Fr. Gabriel Michallef who looked after us devoutly for 23 years, but now that he has retired back to his home

NB; The Maltese Community Council of South Australia, the Consulate, the Maltese associations and many individuals showed their disappointment for leaving the community without a chaplain. Respective authorities were contacted to remedy the situation but so far no response has been received. We will keep you updated.

in Gozo, there has been no eminent replacement. The Maltese Community feels like they have been totally abandoned by the Curia in Malta!

It is apparent that this appalling situation also exists interstate, but at least the NSW representatives for the Council of the Maltese Living Abroad, Mr Emanuel Camilleri and Marisa Pprevitara, included South Australia when they presented this issue which is causing so much community concern to key people and the Curia in Malta, with a response from Archbishop Charles Scicluna to find a workable solution.

Several members of the Maltese Community in Adelaide have expressed their bewilderment about the fact that the representatives from NSW had to present our ‘Plight’ to those concerned in Malta and yet our representative on Council of Maltese Abroad (CMLA) (supposedly) for South Australia has never been seen in our Adelaide Community to even gather our feelings about this important matter. SHAME



## Japanese cultural activities in Gozo at the Citadel

The Gozo Japan Friendship event opened at the Citadel on Friday, and although the weather was not perfect, it did not dampen the spirits and the enjoyment of those who attended the different activities. Gozo Minister Dr Justyne Caruana visited the Citadel on Friday, where she joined in the traditional Tea Ceremony and was dressed in a traditional Kimono.

Dr Caruana said this weekend of Japanese cultural activities provides an experience “to know each other, learn from each other and work together.” Ms Akiko Miyahara – the festival organiser, explained that the aim of this special event is to make the public more familiar with Japanese culture.

Among the main attractions will be a variety of typical and traditional Japanese food and drink, information on the traditional clothing of Japan – the kimono, and old rituals, such as the Tea Ceremony. Thousands of lanterns light up Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine, in southern Japan every autumn for the Jinko-shiki Festival, representing – the light of the ancient capital.

This tradition is also now seen in Gozo, with lanterns illuminating the ancient Gozo Citadel.



## Links between Malta and Ireland

Whitehall Mansions is a five storey building located on the western shore of Msida Creek in Marsamxett harbour. The Irish Embassy shares the building with the British High Commission and the Embassies of Spain, Austria and The Netherlands. The building is perhaps best known locally as being the home of the Wrens (Women's Royal navy Auxiliary) after WWII to 1972. Msida Creek also served as the base for submarines operating out of Malta in WWII.

### Historical links between Malta and Ireland

The links between Ireland and Malta are as varied as they are surprising.

In 1895 Cardinal Michael Logue, Primate of All Ireland, paid a short visit to Malta and was given a rousing welcome, so much so that the City of Floriana earned the nickname 'Tal Irish' ('The Irish') which has stuck to this day. On leaving Malta on the 17th of December, 1895, he was accompanied to the jetty by the Vilhena Band Club of Floriana and a great crowd. Cardinal Logue was so impressed by this show of affection that on arriving in Rome he intervened with the Vatican authorities to have the liturgy of the Feast of Saint Publius, Patron Saint of Floriana (and of Malta),

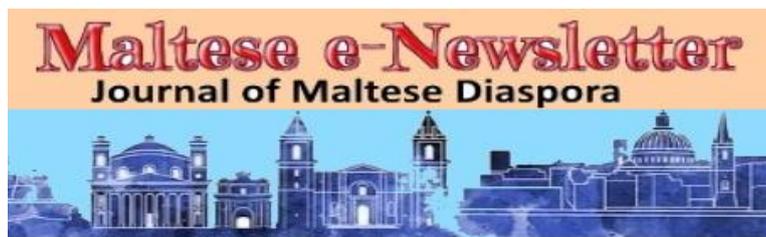
This unique event of culture fusions is taking place with the full collaboration of the Ministry for Gozo.

elevated to 'first class'. As a sign of gratitude the Floriana parish commissioned a portrait of Cardinal Logue which today still graces the sacristy of the church of Saint Publius in Floriana.

In the summer of 1905 Floriana played a friendly match against the Royal Dublin Fusiliers at the Floriana Parade Ground. After the match which Floriana won 2-1, the Irishmen gave their green and white striped vests to Floriana who immediately adopted them as their new official colours which they play in to this day. Some historians contend that the nickname 'The Irish' was born at this stage. The Embassy is indebted to Mr Nigel Holland for his work in revealing the connections between Ireland and the city of Floriana.

The Irish have also played a role in Maltese politics. In the 1920's Doctor Michael Dundon from Patrickswell in Limerick led the Parliamentary Labour Party and was responsible for the Health portfolio.

A rather poignant story relates to the grave of a young Irishman in San Lawrenz. A 23 year old marine, Thomas McSweeney, originally from Kanturk was executed on HMS Rodney on 8th of June 1837. According to an article by Liam Collins in the Irish Independent of 6 February 2011 Thomas' grave is said to have miraculous properties and locals relate tales of a ghost sighting. Liam reports that Thomas' tomb had been maintained by devotees with flowers and candles being laid on a regular basis.



The journal that is loved and respected by Maltese communities  
and thousands of readers around the world

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Share it with others  
send it to us

## After Leaving 20 Years Ago to Further Career, This Marsa doctor sees a New Malta [Antonella Berry-Brincat](#)



*Dr Antonella Berry-Brincat left her home town of Marsa at the turn of the millennium to pursue a career abroad. After 20 years working as an ophthalmologist in the UK, she attests to the importance of maintaining a link to Maltese communities abroad, and the home country they left years ago.*

At first, she seems uneasy in front of the camera, perhaps reluctant to be in the public eye. Nevertheless, when the topic of her home country

is brought into the conversation, her eyes immediately light up and her disquietude soon turns to passion, the type only visible when someone talks about love never-ending: a deep, heartfelt relationship that transcends time and distance.

“There is nothing like the warm and spontaneous attitude that’s part and parcel of the Maltese people,” Dr Antonella Berry-Brincat says.

“The ability for a Maltese person to stop whatever they’re doing, meet someone outside, and have a coffee at a moment’s notice, is something nearly unheard of here in the UK, where the community and the people I interact with on a daily basis are perhaps more emotionally distant. There are obviously pros and cons to this, but it’s true when they say that absence makes the heart grow fonder,” she continues.

In Dr Antonella Berry-Brincat’s case, it’s her upbringing in Marsa, and her nostalgia about her home country, that still runs profound. When asked what she misses the most about her home country, the ophthalmologist is quick to answer: her husband would definitely go for the traditional “*pastizzi*”.

But how does she compare the Malta she left all those years ago, with the country of today?

“Malta has indubitably changed in these past twenty years. Back when I graduated in 1997, and eventually left for the UK at the turn of the millennium, the number of opportunities available for students here in Malta, both from an academic perspective as well as the opportunity to make a career, was somewhat limited,” she says.

“Today, there is a large number of opportunities available for students here in Malta, where they are actively encouraged to advance in their respective field, study abroad, garner new skills and competences, and then import them back to Malta. Not just in the medical or ophthalmologic field, but also in other sectors as well,” she continues.

Berry-Brincat was in Malta as one of the delegates for the tenth annual meeting of the Council for the Maltese Living Abroad, under the chairmanship of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion Carmelo Abela.

“We discussed several ways on how the Maltese community can remain in close contact with their country of origin. It is perhaps easier for me, who resides in the UK, than other expats and communities who lived in countries like Australia, Canada and the United States, which are not only geographically further away than the United Kingdom, but also have larger populations,” she points out. The advent of social media, according to Berry-Brincat, has also introduced a new element on how expats can remain in contact with Malta.

“In light of the advent of social media and other innovative tools of communication, such opportunities can be further exploited in order to reach these people. Specifically, those Maltese expats who are left out, and do not form part of their local Maltese community abroad,” she says.

"We need to make sure that these people remain part of the Maltese diaspora, and remain in contact with their country of origin. We need to do what we can to make their lives better and to make sure that Maltese expats integrate as much as possible with the local community of the country where they reside."

"Nevertheless, we must never forget where we come from: our traditions and our roots make us who we are." As a way to preserve such an outlook, Berry-Brincat **suggests the use of social media to promote the use of the Maltese language, as well as other cultural aspects.** "It's imperative that whenever a Maltese person goes abroad, they do not forget what being Maltese actually entails. It is perhaps our obligation to teach what defines us as Maltese to our descendants, and to all of our future generations."



**MCBNA**  
Networking Event

THURSDAY NOV 21ST 6:30PM

**CLUBHOUSE**  
EVENTSPACE

195 GALAXY BLVD, ETOBICOKE, ON

**\$60**

**EAT. DRINK. NETWORK.**  
Buffet Dinner  
Open Bar

Join the network.  
Come by and enjoy the food, games, and  
ambience as we continue to establish the  
Maltese Network

**Honoured Guests Include**

High Commissioner to Canada Keith Azzopardi	Consulate General Dr. Raymond Xerri
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Jason Mercieca

November 1 at 7:33 AM

Calling all MalteseCanadian Entrepreneurs and BusinessProfessionals

Join the Maltese Canadian Business Network Association on Nov 21st for a night of food, drink, and networking.

Keynote Speakers:

Keith Azzopardi – High Commissioner of Malta to Canada

Dr Raymond Xerri – Consulate General

TICKETS HERE:

<https://lnkd.in/gY9zBEw>

It is about time the Maltese Canadian Community has a Business and Professional



**It's Turkey Time Again!**  
Sunday, 24 November, 2019  
Ikon Park (Carlton Football Club)  
400 Royal Parade, Prince Hill, VIC 3054  
1:00pm for a 1:30pm start to 4:00pm

AMERICAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

RSVP by close of business Thursday, 21 November, 2019

Cost: Members \$55, Non-members \$65, Children 6-12 \$25,  
Children 0-5 Free

Inquiries: Sam CJ Muscat 0419.381.479 [samejm@bigpond.com](mailto:samejm@bigpond.com)

**Fully Carved Turkey Buffet:**  
Whole turkey, cranberry sauce and gluten free gravy, roasted root vegetables, oven roasted chat potatoes, garden salad, cornbread stuffing, candied sweet potatoes, fresh bread rolls and butter.  
Traditional Pumpkin Pie with cream for dessert.

Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements.  
Drinks at bar prices. **First drink on us!**

**WE ARE THE  
MOUTHPIECE  
OF MALTESE  
LIVING  
ABROAD**

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, at the Maltese Migration Museum Valletta, Maltese-Canadian Museum Toronto, Gozo National Library and on our website: [www.ozmalta.com](http://www.ozmalta.com)

## WW2 SUBMARINE 'URGE' FOUND OFF MALTA



31 October 2019

**This is the wreck of wartime submarine HMS Urge – conclusively located and identified by marine archaeologists off Malta, solving a 77-year-long mystery.**



Sitting defiantly upright on the seabed of the Mediterranean more than 400 feet down, her bow buried in the ocean floor, her deck gun facing forward, her hull encrusted with marine life, this is the last resting place of 44 souls.

The distinctive features of the U-class submarine have been compared with contemporary photographs and the undisclosed location of the wreck compared with official records to identify Urge.

HMS Urge, which was adopted by the people of Bridgend, is one of 19 U-class boats lost in World War 2, 13 of them in the Mediterranean. The submarines were small and originally meant to be used purely for training.

They proved highly capable with Urge, under Lieutenant Commander Edward Tomkinson, regarded among the best in the 10th Submarine Flotilla, its crew and captain highly decorated for a string of successes, dispatching a German tanker supporting U-boat operations in the Atlantic, crippling the Italian battleship Vittorio Veneto at a time when the Royal Navy was sorely stretched in the Mediterranean, and sank

the Italian cruiser Bande Nere during 20 patrols.

Contemporaries thought Tomkinson worthy of the Victoria Cross, while senior officers, led by the then head of the Silent Service, Admiral Sir Max Horton, reckoned he was as good a submariner as any who served in either world war.

Urge left the island on her final mission on April 27 1942 bound for Alexandria in Egypt as the 10th Submarine Flotilla moved its base to escape the Axis Powers' constant bombing of Malta. Aboard were not just her 32 crew, but 11 other naval personnel and a war correspondent.

She never reached North Africa. The Admiralty concluded she ran into an enemy minefield shortly leaving the island, but the wreck was never found.

That official assessment of her loss was put into question by one shipwreck hunter, who claimed to have found the Urge off the Libyan coast near Tobruk – far from her intended route – and supposedly sunk by Italian aircraft two days after departing Malta.

That fate – and location – has now been definitively ruled out thanks to the combined efforts of Canadian naval researcher Platon Alexiades, Francis Dickinson – grandson of Urge's commanding officer – and Professor Timmy Gambin of the University of Malta's Classics and Archaeology Department and a team of students, plus the Royal Navy's official historians.

Their deep sea research confirms the original Admiralty estimate – the boat did indeed succumb to a mine laid by a German E-boat; the impact caused catastrophic damage and led to Urge plunging out of control to the seabed.

B'soghba kbir nhabbru l-mewt tal-membru taghna Manwel Cassar li grat dalghodu 8 Nov. Gejt mgharraf mill-familja tieghu. Manwel kien membru taghna sa mill-bidu tal-Grupp. Ghad m'ghandniex taghrif dwar il-funeral. Meta jkollna t-taghrif nghadduh lilkom.

F'isem il-President, il-Kumitat u l-Membri tal-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria noffru l-kondoljanzi taghna lil martu Josephine u l-familja kollha. Aghtih, O Mulej, il-mistriet ta' dejjem Paul Vella, PRO, GLM



## Mill-Kċina taz-Zija

*Mill-Kċina taz-Zija is a brand of frozen products, bringing you a variety of products based on traditional Maltese recipes, including Lasagne, Minestra and various frozen vegetables.*

*Their products are easy to use, making sure anyone can enjoy a traditional meal in no time, without compromising on taste and quality.*

*Fresh quality ingredients and convenience at good value has earned Mill-Kċina taz-Zija a stamp of approval from Maltese consumers.*

### RECIPES

#### KUSKSU BIL-FUL (BROAD BEANS)

Serves 4 people

##### Ingredients

200g onions

Garlic

450g peeled broad beans

Finely chopped celery

1tbsp tomato paste

1 litre water or stock

150g 'kusksu' (see note below)

4 fresh cheeslets

1tbsp olive oil

Grated cheese

##### Method

Peel the onions and garlic and chop them finely.

In a large pot, lightly fry the onions and garlic until they soften.

Add tomato paste, beans and stock/water to the onions and garlic.

Add the 'kusksu' and continue simmering for about 12 minutes. Add the fresh cheeselets.

Add seasonings and serve with grated cheese.

Note: Kusksu is a Maltese traditional type of fine pasta, larger than couscous.



#### RICOTTA PIE WITH BROAD BEANS AND PEAS

Serves 4 people

##### Ingredients

500g short crust / puff pastry

2 eggs, beaten

3 fresh white cheeselets

400g ricotta

250g frozen peeled broad beans and peas

Salt & pepper

##### Method

Preheat oven to 180°C.

Take a little more than half of the pastry and roll it out onto an ovenproof dish.

In a large bowl mix the ricotta, cheeselets and beaten eggs.

Mix in the peeled broad beans and peas and season with the salt and pepper.

Pour the mixture over the dough-lined dish and spread evenly.

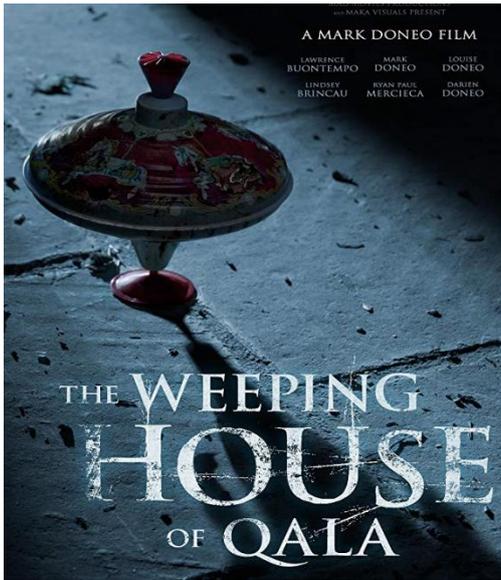
Cover the dish with the remaining rolled out pastry and gently sealed the sides with a fork.

Prick the top of the pastry several times with a fork and brush the top of the pie with egg or milk.

Place in the oven and cook for 40 minutes or until golden brown.

Leave to rest before serving.





**MOVIE – THE WEEPING HOUSE OF QALA IN CANADA**

**Directed by Mark Doneo  
Drama | Maltese | 75 min | 2018  
With Lawrence Buontempo, Louise Doneo, Mark Doneo  
In the quaint little village of Qala, Gozo, Emily Edevane was abandoned**

with her three little children by her husband. Four decades later, a Maltese documentary crew agree to spend a day at their now desolate and decaying house to find out why nobody seems to have heard of them since.



**Opening Night: 16th November 2019, 7:30pm  
Date: 16–30th November 2019  
Venue: Razzett tal-Markiz Mallia Tabone, Mosta  
Curated by: Francois Zammit  
Email: joscasha64@gmail.com**



**Date and time Tue, Nov 19, 2019 8:30 PM-10:30 PM**

**Location Royal Cinema 608 College St, Toronto, ON M6G 1B4, Canada**



**Joe and Mary lived in Toronto's Junction neighbourhood for 50-plus years. Here's why they left**



**From blue collar to white: The Scerri's dream home cost \$17,000 in 1963, a sum the couple recently recouped many times over when they sold the four-bedroom property for \$870,000**

JOE O'CONNOR – NATIONAL POST – TORONTO CANADA 2015  
Photos: Peter J. Thompson/National Post

**Rain, the horror! Parents divided over postponing Halloween due to bad weather**

Joe Scerri used to tease Mary Borg about her boyfriend, a handsome young buck with a motorcycle. But what, Joe would ask, was a motorcycle in comparison to what he and Mary could be as a couple if she would just do what her heart was truly telling her to do and pick him instead?

Then, one day, she did.

"I picked a good one," says Mary, patting Joe's arm.

They were married in September 1958 near their family homes in Rabat, Malta. Two months later, they were on a boat to Canada. Joe's older brother, Paul, was living in Toronto, three blocks from where Joe and Mary live now on Clendenan Avenue, in the neighbourhood around Dundas Street West known as The Junction.

The newlyweds were down to their "last dime," when Mary found a job making auto parts. Joe caught on as a house painter and took a second job at Canada Packers, a meat-processing plant in what, at

the time, was a sprawling acreage of feedlots and abattoirs along St. Clair Avenue, employing thousands of immigrants.



Peter J. Thompson/National Post

The Scerris worked and saved and, in 1963, bought their house. Mary didn't even need to go inside to know it was the right one for them.

"I loved it from the minute I saw it," she says.

It cost \$17,000, a sum the couple recently recouped many times over when they sold the four-bedroom property for \$870,000. Moving day is Aug. 27.

"When they come for the last piece of furniture, I am going to cry," Joe says.

"We raised two kids here. But my knees are getting bad and the house is too big for us, and sometimes that is life. Sometimes you have to do what you don't always want to do."

When we speak of Toronto's red-hot housing market what we typically talk about is price. Bidding wars and bully offers and benchmarks and bubbles and neighbours, exchanging juicy gossip about another house being sold for another insane sum. And the sums are insane. A detached home in the old city of Toronto costs \$1-million on average.

When they come for the last piece of furniture, I am going to cry

But there is more to the market than money. There are the people, like Joe and Mary.

When they move, they will be taking 50-plus years of community memory with them. It is a precious resource, a local, living history whose loss must be counted among the hidden costs of a sales boom and a neighbourhood in transition. The Junction is shifting from blue collar to white. It is out with the old Joes, and all they know of this place and its past, and in with the new Joes, like me.

Peter J. Thompson/National Post

I met Joe a few years ago. He was impossible to miss. He sits on his front porch most mornings, sipping coffee, reading a paper and waving to the kids on their way to school, including my daughter, whom he calls "Princess."

I recently sat down in the Scerris kitchen to speak with them about the move and their memories. A pot of peeled potatoes was on the stove. Joe is the family cook.

The first thing they did when they got the keys from their lawyer in 1963 was renovate — smashing down a wall, putting in new doors and floors, and painting. They did everything themselves.

"I would be screwing in the drywall, while Mary would be following me with the vacuum," Joe says.

It took five years to pay off the house, with Joe juggling two jobs. He quit painting soon after, but remained at Canada Packers until the early 1990s, when the stockyards closed, tossing thousands out of work.

But Dundas was already different by then.

When Mary and Joe first moved in, the strip was buzzing with retail. Tailors, dressmakers, department stores, butchers and grocers and diners, such as Coney Island, whose owner was Maltese. If a customer couldn't pay, he would feed them anyway.



Peter J. Thompson/National Post

"He was a good man," Joe says.

People went shopping in their finest clothes. Parcels were wrapped. Greetings were exchanged. There was even a local movie theatre, The Beaver.

"We would see old shows," says Mary.

She loved the romances. Joe preferred westerns.

Over time, the bustle of Dundas died away, killed by the car and the rise of mall culture. Industries rooted in the area for decades left or else went out of business. Heintzman pianos, CCM, the meat-packing giants, all are gone.

"Dundas is all coffee shops now," says Mary.

Well, it is not all coffee shops. There are new restaurants, antique dealers, a gourmet meat shop, ice-cream parlours and, overall, a

gentrifying thrum — Starbucks arrived in 2010 — along with some relics from an earlier age, including a shoe repair joint run by an old timer, who apparently makes up the prices as he goes along. We move to the Scerris living room to look through some old photo albums. Joe pauses on a picture of Mary.

I just hope they take good care of our house

“That is a beautiful woman,” he says. Mary is dark-haired, olive-skinned and petite. A cigarette is dangling from her fingers. She is wearing a coat with a fur collar and high heels. She looks like a movie star.

Peter J. Thompson/National Post

“Now we are old,” says Joe, leafing through more photos, pointing at faces and explaining how he died of this and she died of that. Many of the neighbours they once knew on Clendenan Avenue — Italians, Macedonians, Maltese — are gone.

But change, says Mary, isn't necessarily bad.

“We didn't have any kids on the street for about five years,” she says. “Now there are lots of kids.”

The Scerris step out front of the house they have lived in for 52 years. Joe looks at Mary, teases: “I think she is going to kiss me.” “Joseph,” she scolds, before smooching him on the cheek. Mary won't be returning to Clendenan to check up on the new owners — a young couple with no kids — after the move.

“We have too many memories here,” she says. “I just hope they take good care of our house.”

Their new house is a two-bedroom bungalow a five-minute drive away. It needs some work.

“It doesn't have a porch,” Joe says. “So the first thing I am going to do is build a porch with just enough room for a small table and two chairs.”



**SKORBA** SONGS IN MALTESE, TURKISH & ENGLISH

At the Maltese Community Centre, Parkville, Victoria  
Saturday, 16th November, 7pm

**ANDY BUSUTTIL:**  
VOCALS, SOPRANO AND ALTO SAX, WHISTLES AND PERCUSSION

**LLEW KIEK:**  
BOUZOUKI, GITERN, BAGLAMA (TURKISH LUTE) AND GUITAR

**JOHN NAPIER:**  
VOICE AND CELLO

**JOHN ROBINSON:**  
OUD, GUITAR AND TAMBURA

**THE GREAT SIEGE OF MALTA 1565**

Andy Busuttill's Skorba Music Team arrives in Victoria next week. We need some Victorian support for the Centru Malti's MCCV production of The Great Siege 1565. The narrative, by Marlene Ebejer (ex-SBS), is in English. You do not need to be able to speak Maltese to follow this superb production. It is the best and most authentic audiovisual programme produced by the Maltese community in the 44 years I have been in Australia. Its launch at La Vallette earlier in the year with Marisa Previterra as narrator was very well received.

This is a seriously professional production not to be missed by anyone interested in original music scores, a thoroughly 16th Century historical narrative, some great visuals and authentic Maltese and Turkish musical instruments. A fun night for family and friends.

**Saturday, 16th November, 7pm**

**Centru Malti Auditorium, 477 Royal Parade, Parkville**  
**Tickets from Maltese Community Council of Victoria 03 9387 8922**  
**at \$25 each (Concession \$20) - great value.**

## ***PROUD OF OUR ACHIEVERS***

*Jim Borg with Dar tal-Providenza (Malta) director Fr Martin Micallef and Marisa Previtera.*

**JIM BORG OF SYDNEY** was born in Siggiewi Malta on 14 May 1943 to Salvina (nee Bonello) and Nikola Borg. He attended a little hamlet school at Fawwara then he studied at the Floriana Seminary. After sitting for the General Certificate of Education (GCE) he migrated to Sydney Australia in 1963.

He settled with his sister in Leichardt. Jim worked as a station assistant at Central Railway for one year then a postman at Martin Place for another year. He joined the Golden Book Company. as a sales representative and later area manager until 1977. He joined the Associated Midland. He specialised in finance and in 1985 was offered the Finance Business Manager's job by the Toyota Group later Phil Gibert Toyota where he held the position until he retired.

In 1964 he was co-founder of the Maltese Entertaining Organisation based at St Fiacres, Leichardt and was involved in organising the Maltese dancing and theatre functions.

Jim was married in 1965 and fathered 3 boys. In 1972 joined the Maltese Community Council of NSW when Virgilio Zammit was president and Alfred Fenech Secretary. During his association with the Council he served as treasurer, vice president and president from 1989 to 1993.

In the late 1976 he joined the Our Lady Queen Of Peace Festa Committee and was elected President until 1997 when he needed a break. Jim joined the Melita Eagles Supporters Group in 1978.



In 1979 he managed to secure a sponsorship from his employer "Associated Midland" and that money was used to buy the team of Melita Eagles from the Phoenician Club and moved the team to the new home at Melita Stadium in South Granville. He served as Advertising and Promotion Manager until 1985 when he had to quit due to work commitment.

In 1999 Mr. Borg joined the Maltese Cultural Association of NSW where he served mostly as vice president and Young Talent Coordinator and Choir Manager for a total of 14yrs when he had to step back due to his wife's health. Jim served as PRO on the St Nicholas Festa Committee from 2000 to 2011 and in 1998 he received the Maltese Cultural Award.

In 2011 he founded *The Friends of Providence House NSW*. He is the coordinator, Marisa Privitera, secretary and Miriam Friggieri treasurer. So far they have raised over \$110 000 and donated all the profits to *Id-Dar Tal Providenza Malta*. For 10 years he was a volunteer with the Holroyd Local Area Police and for that he was awarded Citizen of the Year 2007.

In 1988 he was part of the sub committee to raise fund and built the Maltese Bi-Centennial Monument at Civic Park, Pendle Hill. Jim said, "**54 years working within the Maltese Community of Sydney was so gratifying. I thank God for the opportunity**"



Hi everyone. Hope you're all well. I would like to introduce my profession with you now that I'm ready to start my career. DZ PERSONAL TRAINING is my official page name which I will briefly explain what it offers.

My goal is to effectively help anyone interested to do things right when coming to a healthy fitness lifestyle. It's my priority to evaluate the best techniques used to perform physical activities in the best way possible. Thus giving the right and related diet nutrition plan which integrates that specific

training. One should keep in mind that the same nutrition and training is not the best outcome for every single person. So that is why a personal trainer and diet advisor is needed. I promise my clients that we as one team will reach the targeted goals effectively and efficiently with a great friendship too. For a free consultation please feel free to contact me by means of a private message or visit my Facebook page :- DZ Personal Training. Last and not least i would like thank you for your time reading this post. G'Day to all - **Daniel Zammit**



**It was my pleasure to deliver my presentation entitled  
 "Malta: A Glorious Past, A Successful Present, An Exciting Future"  
 to the Victorian Branch of the Australian Maltese Chamber of Commerce.  
 wherein I gave a general overview of Malta, the unprecedented successes of the last few years  
 and its exciting future based on those successes. Thank you to the AMCC for giving me  
 this opportunity. Huge thank you also goes to my assistant, Gioconda Schembri,  
 who put in an immense effort in the preparation of this work.  
 Mario Farrugia Borg - Consul General for Malta in Victoria**

## MALTA BRACED FOR RECORD NUMBER OF TOURISTS IN 2019

Malta is on course for a record-breaking year for tourism. The number of visitors coming to Malta increased in September to 287,461. That's a rise of around 3 per cent.

The National Statistics Office in Valletta said tourist arrivals from the EU went up by 5.6 per cent when compared to the same month last year. Most holidaymakers to Malta were aged between 25 and 44. Total tourist spending was estimated at €257 million, an increase of nearly 6 per cent over the corresponding month in 2018.

Total nights spent went up by 2.1% when compared to September 2018, reaching nearly 2.1 million nights, meaning hotels in popular destinations such as St Julian's, Sliema, Qawra and Mellieha are likely to enjoy a record year.

**January-September 2019** The latest figures showed that more than 2.1 million tourists have visited the Maltese Islands in the first nine months of 2019.

That's an increase of 4.8 per cent over the same period last year.

Total tourism expenditure was estimated at almost €1.8 billion, 4.2 per cent higher than that recorded for 2018.





## History of salt making in Malta and Gozo unveiled in new publication

New documents have been unveiled in a publication on the history of salt making in Malta, which presents a new history on the 40 salt pans which are located in different parts of Malta, Gozo and Comino. There are 27 salt pans around Malta, 11 salt pans in Gozo and two salt pans in Comino.

Salt production was one of the main industries across the Maltese islands for hundreds of years. It reached its apex during the rule of the Knights of St John when Maltese salt was exported across the European continent and was appreciated for its quality and taste.

Pauline Dingli, is the author of the new book – Salt Pans in Malta: A Study of Salt Pans and Salt Production in the Maltese Islands.

She remarked that, “most salt pans portray exceptional hard work and are still in good condition. I hope this publication creates a greater understanding of the salt-works tradition, the salt pans system of the Maltese islands and their significance as part of Malta’s impressive and cultural heritage.”

The book launch took place at the Salini Salt Pans, the largest system of salt pans across the Maltese islands, which were designed by the engineers of the Knights of the Order of St John. The author said that today Maltese salt should be exploited both for the culinary use and cultural tourism purposes.

This 277 page publication is illustrated with original designs and pictures of the various salt pans on the coast of the Maltese archipelago.

**KEEPING COMMUNITIES  
CONNECTED**



Photo: DOI - Anthony Sultana

## Visually impaired persons will have their own special passport

**Report:** Keith Demicoli

Visually impaired persons are to have their own type identification passport following Identity Malta’s development of a new system that works with the QR Code enabling them to be scanned by a mobile. Parliamentary Secretary for Citizenship Julia Farrugia Portelli said this is the first kind of such a development in Europe and she hoped that other countries will begin using the technology to enable more social inclusion.

Joseph Vella, one of about 5,000 persons in Malta suffering visual impairment, will be able to access passport details in a more independent and private manner through the utilisation of the QR Code via a sticker that will be attached to the passport and will be read by an app (speech code) that can be downloaded free of charge.

PS Farrugia Portelli said this initiative places Malta among the first European countries to offer such a service. No other country except Portugal has such a facility which she said will enable greater social inclusion on a European scale.

The Parliamentary Secretary for the Rights of Disabled Persons, Anthony Agius Decelis, said this is a further development to spread greater inclusion and described this as another step to break down barriers and induce greater inclusion in society.

Michael Micallef, who also suffers visual impairment, said this innovative tool opens the road to the provision of greater accessibility. He said such a system may in the short-term future also be used on books, CDs and other products to help individuals use the same app to obtain greater information.

## Ambassador of the Republic of Malta to the Republic of Croatia

H.E. John Spiteri presented his credentials as non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Malta to the Republic of Croatia to H.E. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, President of the Republic of Croatia, at the Office of the President in Zagreb.

Ambassador Spiteri was greeted by the Presidential Guard and his appointment was welcomed by President Grabar-Kitarović, who expressed her eagerness to continue building on the excellent bilateral relations between Malta and Croatia.



The President provided an overview of all upcoming projects and visits planned during the upcoming months, and also extended her salutations to the Hon. Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion Carmelo Abela and the Hon. Prime Minister Joseph Muscat. The Ambassador reciprocated the President's ambitions to continue strengthening bilateral ties, expressing Malta's interest in possible opportunities for cooperation in various fields.

Ambassador Spiteri also attended meetings with Ms Emilija Vučinić-Margeta, Chief of Diplomatic Protocol, to whom His Excellency presented his copies d'usage, as well as Assistant Minister for EU Affairs Ms Zrinka Ujević, Head of the European Commission Representation in Croatia H.E. Ognian Zlatev, Apostolic Nuncio and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Msgr. Giorgio Lingua, and Head of Sector for Public and Cultural Diplomacy and the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs Ms Katja Šare. During his visit to Zagreb and in his new role as Ambassador of Malta to Croatia, H.E. John Spiteri also attended an EU Heads of Mission Meeting held by Croatian Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Gordan Grlić-Radman regarding the priorities of the upcoming Croatian Presidency of the Council of the EU starting in January 2020. Ambassador Spiteri was accompanied by his wife Mrs. Angela Spiteri and Ms. Melanie Bonnici Bennett, Second Secretary.



## MALTESE AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM

In the past days the Maltese Ambassador to Belgium Ray Azzopardi met with Mr. Beppe Galea, Secretary General of the European Democrats Students at the Embassy of Malta in Brussels.

During the meeting Ambassador Azzopardi congratulated Mr Beppe Galea for the tenure of his position and asked about the work carried out by the EDS for the benefit of European students.

From his side Mr. Galea explained that this is the first time that such an important position is entrusted to a young Gozitan or Maltese. He also listed the work carried out by EDS and presented to Ambassador Azzopardi a copy of the annual report of the EDS for the years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

Ambassador Ray Azzopardi thanked Mr Beppe Galea and encouraged him to continue working for the good of people and keep in close contact with the Maltese Embassy in Brussels.



**Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion of the Republic of Malta = Consul-General of Algiers**

Remembrance ceremony at the Christian Cemetery in Bologhine, Algiers. The Consul of Malta in Algiers Mr. Ivan Vassallo and the external Consultant for TradeMalta Mr Mahfoud Dhorban have participated to an inter-faith remembrance ceremony officiated by the Rector of the Basilica of Notre Dame d’Afrique at the Christian cemetery of St. Eugène at Bologhine which also houses a small jewish cemetery. On this occasion the Consul had the opportunity to visit the tombs of the Maltese late 19th

century and early 20th century diaspora in Algiers.

Among those present at the ceremony there were also a few descendants of some of the Maltese buried in the same cemetery, most of these now live in France. From time to time they visit this cemetery and had the opportunity to discuss with the Consul on their links with Malta and Algeria.



Photo: Kevin Abela

**Service to commemorate deceased Police officers**

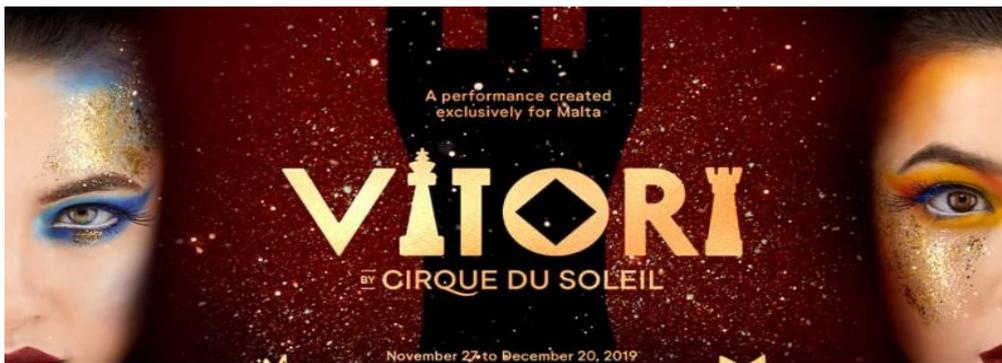
Police officers who died during the years were this morning commemorated during a ceremony at the Addolorata cemetery.

A Mass was celebrated by the Police Force Chaplain, Fr Raymond Bonnici, at the cemetery’s chapel. Those present then gathered at the Police Force tomb where wreaths were laid by various persons, including Police Commissioner

Lawrence Cutajar, Minister Michael Farrugia and representatives of Police Associations. The Police Firing Party fired three shots as a salute while a minute of silence was observed by those present. A similar ceremony is held on Sunday 17th November at Rabat Gozo to commemorate deceased Gozitan policemen.

**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**  
The journal of the Maltese Diaspora

**IF YOU ARE A MALTESE CITIZEN LIVING IN MALTA  
OR LIVING ABROAD - THIS IS YOUR JOURNAL**



A performance created exclusively for Malta - November 27 to December 20, 2019  
at the Mediterranean Conference Centre (MCC) in Valletta.

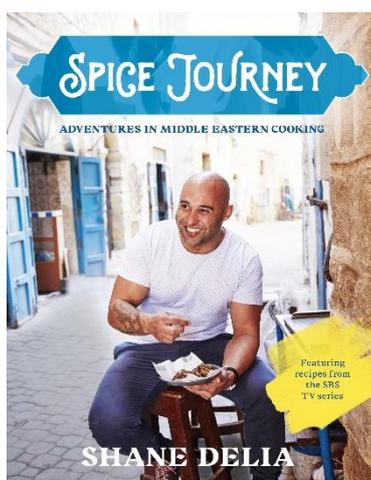
**The group  
will perform  
a new show  
'Vitori' made  
exclusively  
for Malta**

The acclaimed  
entertainment group Cirque

du Soleil have stunned audiences from all over the globe with their elaborate performances. The group is now a world-leader in live entertainment, renowned for redefining how the world views the circus. Having grown from a group of 20 performers in Montreal in 1984, to over 1,300 artists from almost 50 countries in 2019, Cirque du Soleil have made positive impacts on people, communities and the planet with their artistry and creativity. This winter, they will be nesting in Malta to perform a total of 28 shows over six weeks, between **27th November and 20th December 2019**, at the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta. Book your stay at Rosselli – AX Privilege, the city's first 5-star hotel, to experience the city at its finest!

**VITORI BY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL** - For the very first time, Cirque du Soleil will be performing an original and exclusive show to mark the 40th anniversary of the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta. The 60-minute production titled 'Vitori' is centred on a chess theme – the ultimate example of reason and logic – and will be the first time that Cirque du Soleil perform in Malta. Inspired by the characters of chess, the show will see two teams battling it out on a huge chessboard. The golden King falls in love with the black Rook, risking everything to get closer to her and leaving his subjects in total disarray.

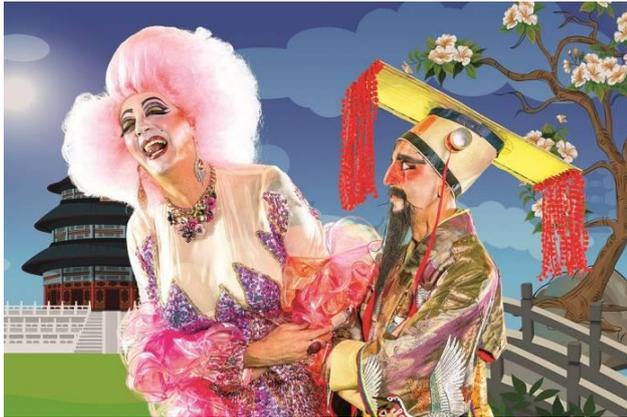
**THE MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE CENTRE** - The venue for the spectacular show will be none other than the Mediterranean Conference Centre (MCC) in Valletta. Located within a 16th century building, the MCC is one of the capital's most remarkable landmarks situated at the tip of Valletta's peninsula, looking out towards to Grand Harbour. The historic building was converted into a conference centre in 1979, making this year its 40th anniversary. The innovative restoration process was awarded the 'Europa Nostra' prize for having expertly blended old architecture with modern technology.



Delicious, authentic Middle Eastern food from Shane Delia, owner of award-winning restaurant Maha and host of the SBS TV show *Shane Delia's Spice Journey*.

From Morocco, Malta and Andalusia in the west, to Turkey, Lebanon and Iran in the East, the food and flavours of the Middle East permeate almost every aspect of daily life in that region. Orange blossom and rose petals, spice-encrusted slow-cooked meats, fermented yoghurts, dates and olives - these are the flavours that have captivated visitors for centuries and that have experienced a recent surge in popularity in western kitchens. Following on from the popular television series, *Spice Journey* the book takes readers on a whirlwind tour of Middle Eastern food at its best. Award-winning Maltese-Australian chef Shane Delia journeys to the well-trodden souks, street food stalls as well as private dining rooms of locals across six countries in the Middle East, in search of the most authentic and representative local recipes to

bring back to his kitchen. *Spice Journey* offers 80 of these recipes distilled for the home cook, accompanied by hundreds of stunning images shot on location. This is a stunning volume for anyone who has ever dreamt of taking their own spice journey. Murdoch Books



## Oh Yes He Is! Panto veteran Alan Montanaro is back

*MADC's festive panto Aladdin will see Alan Montanaro return as scriptwriter and hilariously colourful Dame.*

*Share to Facebook    Share to Twitter    Share to WhatsApp*

**Coryse Borg**

Photo credit: Sebio Aquilina

Malta's longest-running theatre company, the MADC, will once again stage its ever-popular pantomime this coming festive season – with panto veteran Alan Montanaro back with a bang and a flourish and some wildly extravagant outfits.



Montanaro has not only penned the script for this year's offering – the fantastical Arabian Nights spectacular Aladdin – but he also returns to the stage in the show as the larger-than-life panto Dame. Photos credit: Sebio Aquilina

“We are thrilled to be welcoming Alan back to panto this year with Aladdin,” says the show's director, Michael Mangion. “With his many years of panto experience and, of course, his trademark comedic flair, Alan is sure to help make Aladdin the side-splittingly funny and magical adventure that we've all come to expect from MADC's annual pantos.”

Montanaro has indeed penned a family-friendly escapade that promises to take the audience on an enchanted trip to the Orient, with lighting, stage sets and effects sure to take the breath away. The story follows the poor young Aladdin as he goes on an intricate journey involving spirits and genies, magic rings and lamps, wishes and wonder, with, of course, plenty of exciting music, dancing, drama, and fun.

Joining Montanaro on stage in the stellar production will be a cast of more than 30 actors and dancers, including Stephen Oliver, John Montanaro, Alexander Gatesy Lewis, Jasmine Farrugia, Noel Zarb, Joseph Pavia, Karl Bartolo and Matthew Manfre. While fellow panto stalwart – and former Dame – Michael Mangion will be directing, the show will be choreographed by Francesco Nicodeme, with musical director Ryan Abela, and lavish costumes designed by Isabel Warrington.

There are limited shows so book early.

MADC's Aladdin will be performed at the MFCC, Ta' Qali on the 23rd, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th December 2019 and 3rd and 4th January 2020 at 7.30 pm, with matinee performances at 3.00 pm on the 26th, 28th, 29th December 2019 and 4th January 2020.

Tickets and more information are available online on the MADC's website.

*This content was supplied by MADC*



Malta's position in the central Mediterranean has made it an important strategic base for many different powers, and meant that it has been subject to many invasions throughout the ages. A multitude of civilisations have occupied the island, notably the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Turks, Arabs, Knights, French and British.



MALTESE  
CANADIAN  
MUSEUM  
TORONTO

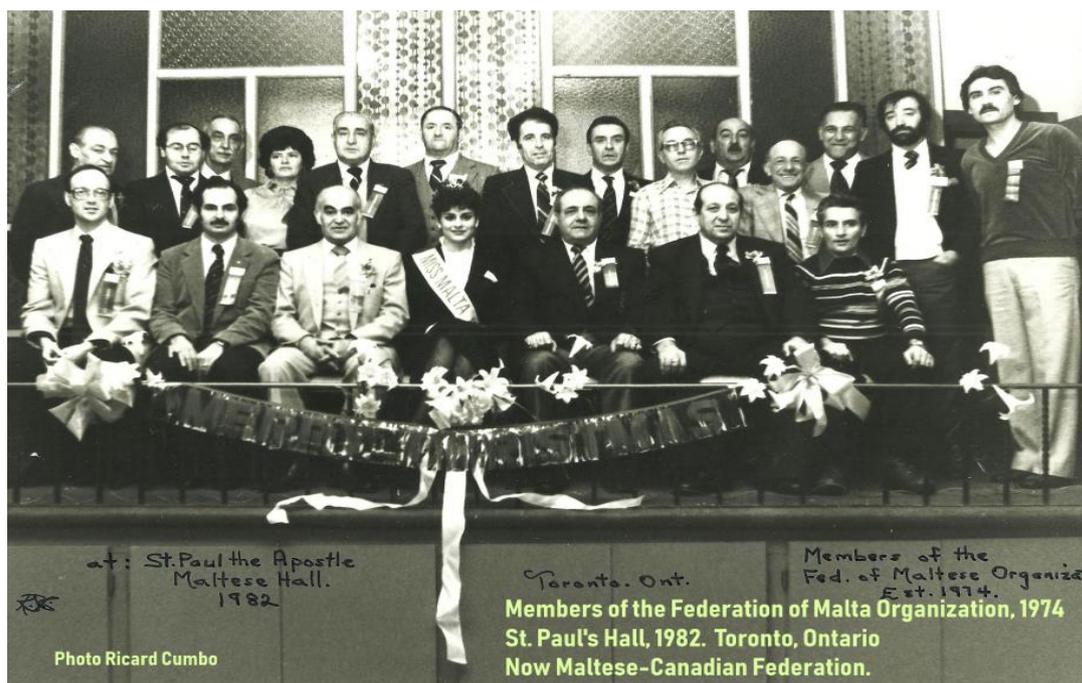


**Maltese-Canadian Museum** [Archival Photos.](#)

(ABOVE LEFT) John Sciberras (Sr.) circa 1940. John was born in St. Joseph's Health Centre, MALTESE Toronto in 1925, but his parents were from the Island of Gozo in Malta. He was a cadet in World War 2 and played the clarinet for the soldiers in Malta. Years after the war he joined the Malta Band Club, and performed at venues including the Palace Pier. His grandson is local historian and museum volunteer Trevor Parkins-Sciberras.

ABOVE (RIGHT) **Archival Photos.**

October 29, 2017 · Committee of the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto, 1951 or 1952. Back row (L-R) Mr Caruanha, Tony ?, Sam Cordina, Frank Grech, Tony Debatisse, John Sciberras Sr., Eddie Tonna. Front row (L-R) Father D. J. O'Neill, person unknown, Miss Borg, C. Deidun, President, Mr. Sapiano, Fr. L. Bonavia. Donated to the West Toronto Junction Historical Society archives circa 1985.



at: St. Paul the Apostle  
Maltese Hall.  
1982

Photo Ricard Cumbo

Toronto, Ont.  
Members of the Federation of Malta Organization, 1974  
St. Paul's Hall, 1982. Toronto, Ontario  
Now Maltese-Canadian Federation.



May 1919. The students' strike is still on. Rather than attending their lectures, the students went to the Upper Barrakka for a photo on Giuseppe Nicolò Zammit's monument. The Superintendent of Public Works reports that they damaged the monument. However the Police claim that they couldn't identify the culprit! Soon .. in a documentary about the Sette Giugno events produced by the National Archives and PBS. On Television Malta.

**NOSTALGIA**

**THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF MALTA**

**Every picture**

**is worth**

**a thousand words**

**Hospital Camp Floriana during World War I**

During World War One 27 hospitals and camps were set up in Malta including one in Floriana (banner photo). The first group of 600 ANZACS casualties from the Gallipoli landings of 25 April 1915 arrived in Malta on 4 May. By the end of the year Malta had treated 2,550 officers and 55,400 other ranks from the Gallipoli Expeditionary Force, the maximum number in hospital on any one day being 16,004. (Currently Mater Dei Hospital hosts an average of 1000 patients a day). In October 1915, a combined Franco-British force was landed at Salonika to assist Serbia in its war against Bulgaria. From Salonika came 2,600 officers, including members of the nursing services. Up to 64,500 other ranks were received at the hospitals of Malta up to August 1917.

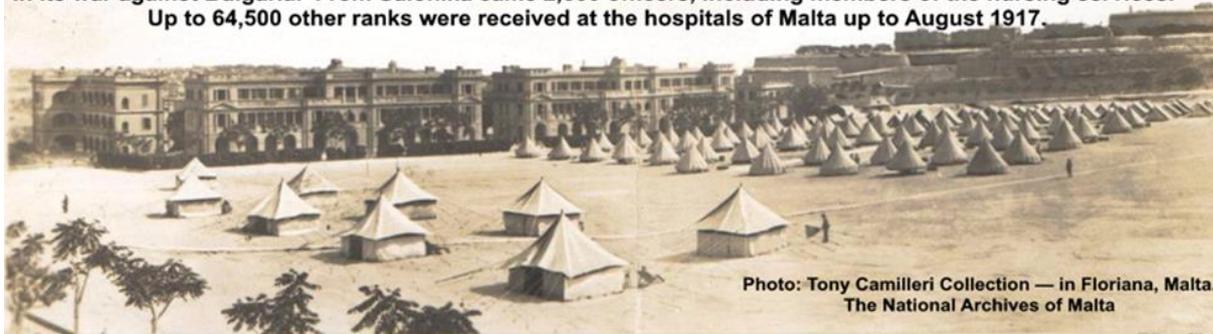
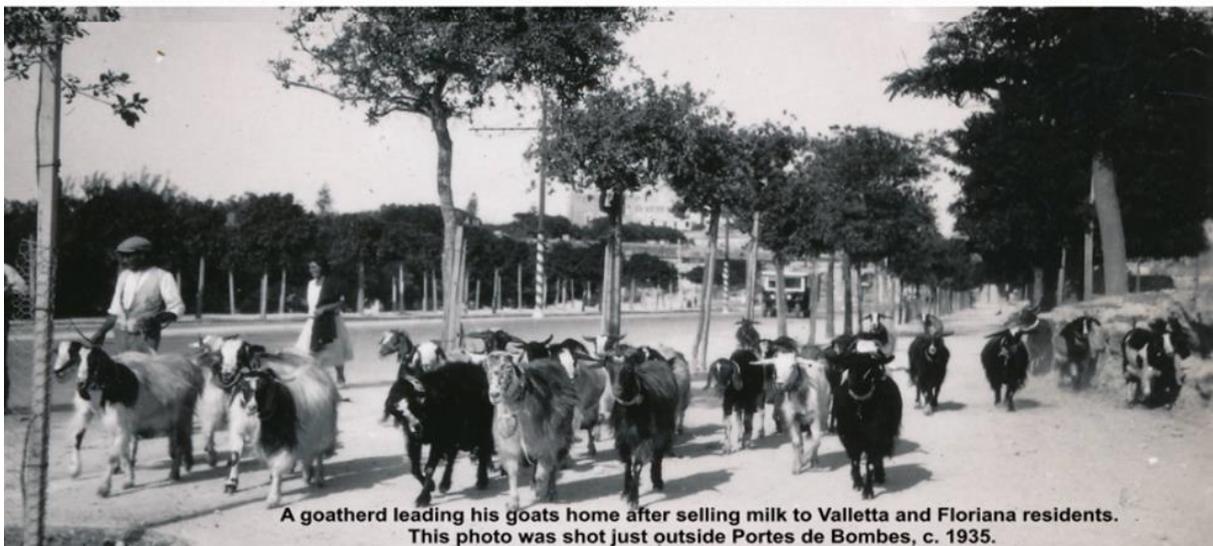


Photo: Tony Camilleri Collection — in Floriana, Malta. The National Archives of Malta



A goatherd leading his goats home after selling milk to Valletta and Floriana residents. This photo was shot just outside Portes de Bombes, c. 1935.



## 30 sena mill-Waqgħa tal-Ħajt ta' Berlin - 1989 - 2019

Biex titfakkar din il-ġrajja storika, l-istudenti tas-6th Form Sir Mikelang Refalo Victoria, nhar il-Ġimgħa 8 ta' Novembru organizzaw Serata Muziko-Letterarja fis-Sala tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex li għaliha kienu preżenti għadd ta' għalliema minn dan il-Kumpless, ġenituri u studenti. Il-programm ta' madwar siegħa fetaħ billi Izakk Zammit qara l-poeżija 'Il-

Ħajt' li Joe W. Psaila kien kiteb f'għeluq l-10 snin mill-waqgħa ta' dan il-ħajt li qasam il-Ġermanja fi tnejn. Fuq kompożizzjoni ta' David Lang, Samuel Xerri daqq fuq il-pjanu is-silta Muzkali 'Dancing on the Berlin Wall' waqt li żewġ studenti, Adrian Mercieca u Joseph Mario Grech, wara interpretaw adattazzjoni minn 'Over There' ta' Mark Ravenhill taħt id-direzzjoni ta' Gordon Grech. Tal-Pink Flyod l-istudenta Emma Micallef kantat 'Another Brick in the Wall' waqt li Nicholas Masini dritt wara qara l-poeżija 'The Iron Curtian' ta' Marie Howe. Studenta kantanta oħra kienet Antonella Vella Muscat li tatna 'Winds of Change' segwita mill-qari tal-poeżija 'The Wall' ta' Ai Qing li nqrat minn Laura Marie Curmi. L-aħħar silta muzikali ndaqqet mill-ex student ta' din l-iskola Għolja, Francis Camilleri li tana 'Traumerei' ta' Robert Schumann.

F'kelmtejn qosra, is-Surmast tas-6th Form is-Sur Daniel James Cassar radd ħajr u feraħ lill-istudenti li taħt it-tmexxija tal-għalliema s-Sur Stephan Said u Miriam Portelli ipprezentaw dik is-Serata ta' tifkira u fakkar li din ma kenitx l-ewwel darba li l-iskola tiegħu kienet qed tfakkar avvenimenti bħal dawn għax hu jemmen li t-tagħlim ma jikkonsistix biss fis-suġġetti li jiġu mgħallma bejn l-erba' ħitan tal-klassi imma wkoll permezz ta' bosta attivitajiet oħra. Billi l-Ministru għal Għawdex ma setgħetx tkun preżenti, il-messaġġ tagħha għal din l-okkażjoni nqara mis-Sur Frank Cassar mid-Dipartiment tal-Kultura fi hdan il-Ministeru għal Għawdex. Il-Ministru tkellmet dwar l-iżvilupp li minnu tinsab għaddejja l-gżira Għawdxija u kif fi żmien qasir Għawdex se jkollu r-raba vapur li se jiehu post dak li hemm bħalissa kif ukoll dwar il-link permanenti bejn iż-żewġ gzejjer permezz tal-Helicopter kif ukoll is-servizz tal-fast ferry u l-bini ta' mina u proġetti oħra ta' siwi.

Grazzi lid-Direzzjoni tas-6th Form li għoġobhom jistednuni għal din il-lejla ta' Tifkira u nifirħillhom għal din l-inizjattiva li giet fi tmiemha billi s-Surmast inawgura Esebizzjoni Artistika li tinsab bħalissa

għall-wiri f'wahda mis-swali tal-Ministru għal Għawdex fi Pjazza San Frangisk li bħalissa tinsab maqluġha ta' taħt fuq bit-tama li fi żmien qasir tiġi lura għan-normal u tinbidel fi pjazza moderna u sabiħa li tkun tista' tlaħhaq mal-volum kbir ta' traffiku li jgħaddi minn dawn i-naħat.



Malta High Commission, London is at Corinthia London. November 7, 2019 London, United Kingdom Air Malta and the Malta Tourism Authority delivered a press conference followed by a reception to the UK travel agents and other stakeholders under the auspices of the Minister for Tourism, Konrad Mizzi



**FEAST OF SAINT NICHOLAS**  
**SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER 2019**

Good Shepherd Parish  
 130-136 Hyatts Road, Plumpton NSW  
 (Opposite Shopping Centre)



**3.00pm Church Service**  
 Festa Mass in English  
 Principal Celebrants: Father Vincy and Father Gerard.  
 Music and Hymns By the MCA Choir.

**4.00pm Procession**  
 Our Lady Queen of Peace Maltese Band will play  
 Religious Marches

**Food for Sale:**  
 BBQ, Pastizzi, Kannoli, Nougat, Kinnie, Soft Drinks &  
 Maltese Foods

**5.00pm Entertainment:**  
 The MCA choir will sing Christmas Carols.  
 Our Lady Queen of Peace Maltese Band Programme

A jumping castle will be available for the children

**6.30pm St Nicholas Festa Committee Raffle is Drawn**  
 All the winners will be notified.

**7.00pm Santa Claus Arrives**  
 Lollies and goodies given to all children

**8.30pm Fireworks Display**

For further information please call:-  
 Emmanuel Vella - Mobile 0405 677 064 or Jacqui Isagon - 0433 320 944

Feast will be held in the Big Hall

**COME AND BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS WITH YOU**



*Celebrating the*  
**32nd**  
*Solemn Feast of*  
**St. Catherine**  
*of Alexandria*

FRIDAY 15TH  
 TO  
 SUNDAY 17TH  
 NOVEMBER  
**2019**

ST. BRIGID'S  
 CATHOLIC CHURCH  
 LE HUNTE STREET  
 KILBURN

THE MALTESE SAINT CATHERINE SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
 INVITES ALL MEMBERS OF THE MALTESE COMMUNITY - ADELAIDE  
 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CELEBRATIONS



**MALTA IS A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, OF THE COMMONWEALTH AND SCHENGEN AREA**

Malta is a Southern European island nation in the Mediterranean, off the coast of Sicily ([Italy](#)) and close to Tunisia and Libya. The small country is home to a population of roughly 440,000 people.

Malta belonged to the British empire from 1814 from 1964. During that time, the British imposed the use of English as an official language. And it still is, alongside Maltese: Roughly 90% of the population speak English, and Malta is a popular destination for students seeking English language courses. The two major universities in Malta are

The University of Malta and the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST). Both offer a range of Bachelor and Master programmes in English. Middlesex University also operates a branch campus on Malta ([Middlesex University Malta](#)), where they offer a range of degree programmes focusing on IT / Computer Science as well as International Business.  
<https://www.study.eu/country/malta>

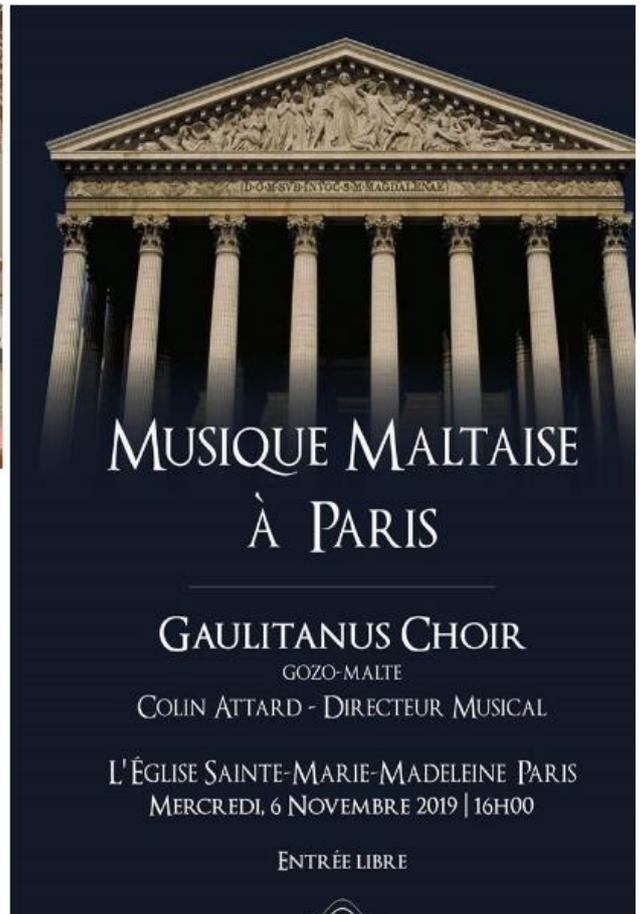


### Embassy of Malta in France

Gaulitanus Choir from Gozo,  
performing at the Église Sainte-Marie-Madeleine  
in Paris on Wednesday 6th November.  
Event hosted by Gaulitanus Choir  
and the Église Sainte-Marie-Madeleine.

Le Gaulitanus Choir de Gozo,  
Malte se produira à l'église S  
Sainte-Marie-Madeleine de Paris  
le mercredi 6 novembre.

Manifestation organisée par le chœur Gaulitanus  
et l'église Sainte-Marie-Madeleine.



## MALTA PUBLIC TRANSPORT LAUNCHES NEW TALLINJA BIKES

By Bay News



Malta's main bus operator has launched a new bicycle hire service that's almost identical to London's 'Boris Bikes' scheme.

Malta Public Transport has installed a bicycle stations in Valletta and the University of Malta, making it easier for students to commute between the capital and university.

Car parking has become a big issue on the university campus, but the easy-to-use Tallinja Bikes offer a convenient and affordable solution for students.

The scheme works in exactly the same way as the 'Boris Bikes' in London.

Users set up a one-time registration at the station itself

and can then unlock a bike and dock it back when they reach their destination.

Tallinja Bikes manager Ignacio Munoz told 89.7 Bay: 'The introduction of Tallinja Bike is not only a practical measure to ease traffic congestion in and around the University of Malta.

'It is also a clear signal by Malta Public Transport that it is committed to invest in new eco-sustainable solutions.'

The university Tallinja Bike station is the first extension of the service outside Valletta.

Other stations are located at the Valletta Bus Terminus, the Barrakka Lift, Valletta Waterfront, Fort St Elmo, Marsamxett Ferry Terminal and the Floriana Park and Ride. Malta Public Transport is currently offering a 50 percent discount to students paying with their Tallinja Card.