

# CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

July 2013 **FRANK L SCICLUNA - HON CONSUL**

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## THE FRENCH OCCUPATION OF MALTA



The French domination of the Maltese islands was short and turbulent. Their arrival in 1798 had promised otherwise since Napoleon and his troops were initially welcomed by the Maltese. However, this was prompted more by a growing dislike of the incumbent rulers, the Order of St. John, than by any real affection for the revolutionary ideals of France.

Napoleon Bonaparte's invasion of Malta was part of a strategic design to conquer Egypt and then gain India and the Far Eastern colonies of the British Empire. Keen to control the massive fortifications and harbours of Malta, Napoleon managed to get a number of Knights and Maltese on his side.

They passed on information and were ready to help promote

a popular movement against the Order of St. John and their aristocratic style of government. Lack of materials, treacherous captains and general confusion, led to the capitulation of the Order within days. The Maltese Islands became another jewel in the crown of Napoleon.

The radical reforms introduced by the new rulers were excessive in the eyes of the locals who were still largely dominated by two institutions - the aristocracy and the Church - and loyal to both. Nobles and general populace alike began to see Napoleonic laws as an attack on their beloved Church and a threat to their traditional way of life. Within three months of the French take-over, the Maltese revolted and forced the occupiers to withdraw behind the fortifications of Valletta and the Three Cities. They remained there until September 1800 when they capitulated to the British forces who had been called in to assist the Maltese in gaining their freedom. The British fleet entered Grand Harbour, marking the start of a century and a half of British rule.



**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**INVITATION TO ALL MALTESE SOCIETIES**  
 Please send reports and future activities  
 to be included in this newsletter

## **Maltese film productions will be showcased at the Louxor – Palais de Cinéma in Paris on 17 June.**



Following the successful Joseph Calleja concert held last April, the Maltese Embassy in France will be organising 'Cine Malte: les possibilités d'une île' on 17 June.

This event will be held at the beautiful 'Louxor - Palais de Cinéma', unique art déco hall, which has just received a major facelift by the City of Paris. This event will be among the very first to be organised at this location, which played an integral part in the Golden Age of Parisian cinema.

This event, which is being organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Cultural Diplomacy Fund, will include Maltese productions as well as international productions shot in Malta.

The concept behind this event is to both provide an opportunity for Maltese directors and producers and also to promote Malta as a filming destination. Several well-known French producers have in fact

been invited for this unique event which is the first of its kind in Paris by Malta. The embassy is also working towards establishing film-cooperation agreements with France in a bid to provide more opportunities for Maltese film producers and directors to develop their talents further and to enable them to secure more avenues through which to showcase their work.



## **Mdina Ditch project in the race for European Garden award**

*Malta, Switzerland and UK finalists for the European Garden Heritage Network award.*

Mdina Ditch Project.

The Mdina Ditch project is one of three finalists competing for the European Garden Heritage Network award for high quality and innovative contemporary concepts and designs of parks and gardens.

The other two finalists are the Floor Work Park in Switzerland and the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in the UK.

The European Garden Heritage Network EGHN with its partners in eight European countries - France, UK, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Sweden and Ireland - started the European Garden Award in 2010. The European Garden Award does not solely focus on spectacular garden art or well-maintained herbaceous borders.

According to the traditions of EGHN and based on its objectives and specific skills and experiences, the award follows a broader approach. Nominations are based on innovative implementation and management, on urban development aspects, on sustainability, on good visitor services or voluntary work as well as on high quality of restoration or modern design of a park or garden. The finalists and winners are sought after as inspirational and as models for other projects.

Within two categories, this award will annually honour exceptional achievements in garden culture and in making use of parks and gardens in urban and regional development policies.

The winners will be announced and all finalists will receive their awards in September during an event at Schloss Dyck in Germany

# BBC Proms

12 JULY – 7 SEPTEMBER 2013



**Joseph Calleja**, (born 22 January 1978, Attard), is a Maltese tenor. He began singing at the age of 16, having been discovered by Tenor Brian Cefai and continued his studies with Paul Asciak. At 19, he made his operatic debut as Macduff in Verdi's *Macbeth* at the Astra Theatre in Gozo and went on to become a prize winner at the Belvedere Hans Gabor competition the same year. In 1998 he won the Caruso Competition in Milan and was a prize winner in Plácido Domingo's Operalia International Opera Competition in 1999. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph\\_Calleja\\_-\\_cite\\_note-DECCA\\_archive-1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Calleja_-_cite_note-DECCA_archive-1) He has since been considered one

of the most promising young tenors of the 21st century.

On the 2nd November 2012, the University of Malta presented Joseph Calleja with a Doctor of Literature Honoris Causa in acknowledgment of his achievements as an internationally renowned tenor.<sup>[3]</sup>

After a highly acclaimed performance at the 2012 BBC Proms, Joseph Calleja returns to the beloved summer festival on September 5 for an evening of music celebrating Verdi's 200th birthday. The program features several of Verdi's most cherished works from such iconic operas as *La traviata*, *La forza del destino*, and *Aida*. Led by conductor Xian Zhang, the Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi joins Joseph for the bicentennial celebration.

Two days later on September 7, Joseph marks the Last Night of the 2013 BBC Proms with British pop star Bryan Ferry in an open-air concert at Hyde Park. For this *Proms in the Park* event, Joseph joins the BBC Concert Orchestra conducted by Richard Balcombe with special guests violinist Nigel Kennedy, Sir Terry Wogan, and Dame



Edna Everage, who will be leading the traditional sing-a-long.

These performances mark the fourth year in a row that the Maltese tenor has performed at the Proms. Last year, Joseph closed out the Proms with violinist Nicola Benedetti. In 2011, Joseph appeared as a soloist in Verdi's Requiem, and in 2010 he sang the role of Gabriele Adorno in *Simon Boccanegra*.

- See more at: <http://josephcalleja.com/#sthash.jNtNaDxl.dpuf>



## Croatia will be joining the EU on the 1st of July 2013.

To mark Croatia's accession, the European Commission Representation in Malta will be holding a public concert by the band of the Armed Forces of Malta on Sunday 30th June at 9pm at the Valletta Waterfront. Croatia's accession will bring the total of EU Member States to 28. Its application for membership was submitted in 2003 and the European Commission

recommended the status of candidate country in early 2004. Accession negotiations were terminated on 30 June 2011 and the Treaty of Accession was signed on 9 December 2011. The ratification process by the whole of the 27 EU member states' parliaments is expected to be concluded by the end of June 2013 and on 1 July

2013 Croatia will be officially an EU Member State. Malta became member of the European Union on May 2004.



## **ABOUT MDINA GLASS**

Ever since it opened the islands' first glass factory way back in 1968, Mдина Glass has endeavoured to establish and maintain a reputation for artistic innovation, quality and consistency in each and every individual piece of glassware produced by its artisans. The Mдина Glass collection of handmade products, made by its specialist craftsmen, includes myriad items designed to bring light and colour to your home, ranging from vases, lampshades, dinner sets, glass tiles, serving bowls and plates, to table tops, decorative tiles, window panes and house-names.

Various techniques are utilised to create the vast array of artwork. Apart from glassblowing and the free shaping of solid pieces, Mдина Glass artisans have also been at the forefront in the introduction of new techniques on the island, as was the case with lampworking in 1990 and glass fusion in 1995. Whatever the technique utilised, however, each piece of Mдина Glass ultimately reflects the freedom of expression, artistic versatility and fine craftsmanship of its people. None of the company's glasswares is the product of a single person or idea. Its creations bring out the best of the material itself as well as the talents of highly skilled craftsmen and artists who handcraft each and every item.

The exceptional high standard, quality and design interpretation of these glassware products have made them highly sought after by both locals and visitors. Indeed, Mдина Glass products are getting pride of place in the homes of many who have come to appreciate these as individual masterpieces which can transform the look of one's home. The infinite variety of items on offer and the exciting shades and colours in which they are presented have also made them popular gift options, particularly for weddings.

## **Chinese company to carry out study on Gozo bridge**



Company specialising in designing and constructing bridges 'approached' government to conduct €4 million feasibility study – costs to be shouldered by the same company.

The government has signed a memorandum of understanding with China Communications Construction Company Limited - a company specialising in the design and construction of bridges - to conduct a detailed feasibility study on the possibility of a bridge connecting Malta and Gozo.

According to Prime Minister Joseph Muscat, it was the Chinese company itself which approached the government with a proposal to carry out the study.

"The feasibility study will cost €4 million but it will be paid for by the company itself," Muscat told

journalists.

He said the government was not obliged to choose this company if government decided to construct a bridge.

The government, he added, has already instructed the company that the small island of Comino - a Natura 2000 site - should be excluded from the project and the bridge should bypass Comino.

Yesterday, Gozo Minister Anton Refalo announced a referendum would be held for the residents to choose between a tunnel or a bridge.

Quizzed by the press, the Prime Minister said the government will keep note of the environmental impacts and costs before presenting the citizens with a choice. He also confirmed that a feasibility study on the construction of a tunnel will still go ahead. This study is part-financed by the European Union.

## META TMUR MALTA – X'SE TAGHMEL?

Jekk behsiebek tmur sa Malta għall-vaganza ikollok hafna x'tara u x'tagħmel.



Se nagħtikhom il-lista ta' dawk li l-affarijiet li jmisssek tagħmel. Araw f'tit taqblux magħhom!

1. Gib lura d-dar f'tit prodotti tipici. Ta' min jixtri l-għasel ta' Għawdex u tip ta' ġobon żgħir u tond li jgħidulu ġbejna. Tinsieħ tixtri nofs tuzzana pastizzi tal-pizelli jew rikotta.
2. Ipprova evita l-ilma tal-funtana ta' Pjazza San Ġorġ fil-Belt. Mhux daqshekk faċli daqs kemm tidher
3. Żur l-irdum ta' F'ad Dingli fuq Segway. Dur madwar it-toroq, filwaqt li quddiem tara l-gżira żgħira ta' Filfla
4. Żur ir-Rotunda tal-Mosta u eżamina dak li hu kkunsidrat miraklu.
5. Għawma fir-Ramla l-Ħamra, Għawdex, m'għandekx titlifha.
6. Żur il-Mużew tal-Gwerra li jinsab il-Belt.
7. Immeravilja ruġek bil-kobor tat-Tempji tal-Ġgantija f'Għawdex
8. Ixrob il-birra tal-lokali ċ-Cisk Lager jew flixkun Kinnie u kul l-imqaret – għaġina moqlija bil-mili tat-tamal, moqlija fiż-żejt.
9. Hu dawra b'dgħajsa tipika Maltija, li għandha l-forma ta' gondola mill-Birgu sal-Valletta Waterfront.
10. Żur it-tlett ibliet, l-Isla, il-Birgu u Bormla. Kien Napuljun li ħareġ bil-frażi "tlett ibliet" matul l-okkupazzjoni Franciża.

## POPE RECEIVES PRIME MINISTER OF MALTA



Vatican City, 24 June 2013 (VIS) - Today in the Vatican Apostolic Palace, the Holy Father Francis received His Excellency Dr. Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of the Republic of Malta, in audience. Prime Minister Muscat then met with the Secretary of State, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, S.D.B., accompanied by Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, secretary for Relations with States.

During the cordial talks, the apostolic origins of the Maltese Church were recalled, along with the decisive impression that Christianity has made upon the history and culture of the people of the archipelago. Also remembered were the pastoral visits to Malta made by Blessed Pope John Paul II and His Holiness Benedict XVI, which left profound memories in the life of the Church and on the people.

The need of maintaining Christian values steadfast was reaffirmed and the important role—protected thanks to the many agreements concluded between the Holy See and Malta—carried out by the Catholic Church with her educational and charitable institutions was mentioned, including teaching the Catholic religion in state schools, Catholic schools, and on Church properties. Particular note was made of the Agreement on the civil effects of religious marriages, which will be the object of further discussions between the Parties.

## **Buses start summer schedule on 30th June 2013**



The schedules have been worked over a number of months to ensure improved reliability of services and cater for the variances in demands of commuters over the summer months. The summer schedules also comprise a number of new services to popular summer destinations and beach routes, improved connections with the Gozo ferry and changes to the pick-up and drop-off points at bus stations and interchanges whereby complimentary services will be assigned to bus bays in a way that commuters can garner greater benefit from the inter-connections of the network and the inter-working of services.



## **The Priests' Concert in Malta**

**The Priests, who have scored considerable success with their three album releases will be performing to a sell-out audience at The Catholic Institute, Floriana Malta.**

This trio, which comprises three Catholic clergymen from Northern Ireland, namely Fr. Martin O'Hagan, his brother, Fr. Eugene, and Fr. David Delargy, yesterday visited H.E. Archbishop Paul Cremona, at The Curia offices, Floriana. During this visit, Archbishop Cremona commented on the importance of singing in praying to and glorifying God. The trio also toured Malta and commented on the excellent response they got for this concert. This was their second time in Malta, having previously visited this place for a holiday.

The Priests started off their singing career during their college years. They eventually managed to clinch a contract with *Sony Records*. The Priests' debut album was produced by Mike Hedges (U2, Dido and Manic Street Preachers) and Sally Herbert and was released in Ireland in 2008 and released worldwide in over thirty countries. Later that year, they scooped the Guinness World Record for '*Fastest-selling UK debut for a classical act*'. The debut album turned 7 times Platinum in Ireland, selling more than one million copies, The Priests will be teaming up with Maltese soprano Gillian Zammit and a nine-piece all-Maltese orchestra. Their repertoire will include *Ave Maria*, *Parisi Angelicus*, as well as songs by The Beatles, contemporary and classic Irish songs and some original compositions too. This concert is part of the Maltese Diocese activities for the Year of Faith which will end on October 31st this year.

## **Malta: Health warning on high temperatures**



**Malta is famously known for the picturesque sceneries, its historical background and the hot scorching summer that many tourist crave.**

With many on the edge to start their summer after those dreaded exams, one must keep in mind that even though relaxation is needed after a stressful time, it is also important to take care of one's health.

Within the past few weeks the temperature has risen, with the maximum temperature is still expected to continue to rise even further in the following days.

The Minister of Health is advising the public about the importance of keeping well hydrated during these hot summer months. As many might not know

when the temperature is very high the human body loses water at a very quick rate leaving one dehydrated during the hot summer months.

Even though the heat can affect anyone, some lead a greater risk at suffering from heat exhaustion or heat stroke especially older people, babies and young children, people with chronic conditions and physically active people.

During these hot months one must keep in mind to avoid any unnecessary sun exposure during the hot periods of the day between 11:00h till 16:00h. Also to drink water regularly and if one has any concerns, to seek advice.

## **MALTA'S HIGH COMMISSION IN AUSTRALIA TARGETS POTENTIAL INVESTORS**

The strong bond between the people of Malta and Australia can serve as an important tool in fostering healthy economic relations to the benefit of Maltese families. The Malta's High Commission in Australia is working towards this aim and has launched a number of initiatives in trade, tourism, and culture. The High Commission is also committed to further enhance its relations with the Maltese community and the Australian Government. The Malta High Commission through the presence of Malta Enterprise at its Sydney Consulate assisted in the research of more than 330 Australian companies, which were targeted as potential investors. A New Zealand based company is being assisted to visit Malta where it is interested to open an adventure park in the Mediterranean. Three companies, related to software development, are being assisted to visit Malta.

The High Commission and the Australian National University are discussing the possibility of university students to study at the University of Malta. The High Commission processed 120 Citizenship applications, processed and delivered 780 passports to Maltese citizens in Australia. It also assisted pensioners whose pensions were suspended. Such cases were resolved. In April, various activities were organised in Melbourne to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the bestowing of the George Cross. The High Commission assisted an Australian company which showed interest in filming a

programm on Maltese culture and gastronomy. The General Consulate in Victoria assisted a Maltese-Australian actress interested in filming in Malta. Meanwhile, the High Commission is holding meetings to promote Malta as a film production destination.

## **Obtaining Maltese Citizenship**

To apply for Maltese Citizenship please call one of our offices for further information or mail [maltacitizenship.canberra@gov.mt](mailto:maltacitizenship.canberra@gov.mt) with your request. Full information on the applications process can be emailed to you otherwise you can download the following applications:

- I. Through Mothers Bloodline (Application form I, Checklist form I born before Sep 1964 and Checklist form I born after Sep 1964)
- II. Through Spouse (Application form B) after 5 years of marriage
- III. Minor (Application form M) under the age of 18
- IV. Future Generation (Application form K)
- V. Dual Citizenship Enquiry Form A (CEA16\_Dual A)
- I. Dual Citizenship Enquiry Form B (CEA17\_Dual B)

For further information: <http://www.foreign.gov.mt/default.aspx?MLEV=52&MDIS=553>

After completing your application, please call your nearest office to make an appointment to submit your application. Citizenship applications must be submitted in person by the applicant. Citizenship applications are processed by the Department of Citizenship and Expatriate Affairs. The processing time for citizenship applications can take up to a year. There is no expedited procedure

**3. Pensions** - The Malta High Commission, Canberra processes Maltese Social Security Pensions. If you believe you may be eligible to apply for the Maltese pension and would like more information please contact Centrelink on tel:13 23 00 or visit their website for more information [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)

**4. Authentication of Documents / Signature** - The Malta High Commission and the Consulate-General may authenticate official stamps or seals issued by a Maltese Government Authority. If you have such requests please contact the Malta High Commission or Consulate General.

**5. Administration of Oaths/Affidavits** - The Malta High Commission and the Consulate-General may administer Oaths and Affidavits. Please call the Malta High Commission or Consul General to make an appointment.

**6. Marriage** - Foreign nationals who wish to marry in Malta should contact the Malta marriage registry by email on [pubreg.marriage@gov.mt](mailto:pubreg.marriage@gov.mt) for further information. They may also contact the marriage registry by telephone on +356 21221775 or by mail at Marriage Registry, 26 Old Treasury Street, Valletta, Malta.

### **7. Working Holiday Permit**

Applications will be submitted, duly completed and accompanied by the required documentation, to the High Commission or to the Consulates in Melbourne and in Sydney. Following initial relevant enquiries carried out by the High Commission or by the Consulates, applications and relevant documentation, are referred to the competent authorities in Malta for processing. Full information on the applications process can be emailed to you otherwise you can download the following applications:

- I. Australian Citizens (1WHPApplication – AUST)
- II. New Zealand Citizens (1WHPApplication – NZ)

For further information: <http://www.foreign.gov.mt/default.aspx?MLEV=53&MDIS=523>

### **9. Certificates from Malta**

[www.Certifikati.gov.mt](http://www.Certifikati.gov.mt) provides all relative information to obtain an existing Public Registry civil status certificate, including Birth, Marriage and Death certificates. Certificates can be ordered online from [www.certifikati.gov.mt](http://www.certifikati.gov.mt)

**FOR ASSISTANCE CONTACT: Malta Consulate in Adelaide: (08) 82692948**

*I would like to say a sincere 'thank you' to all those subscribers who frequently sent positive and encouraging comments regarding the Consulate Newsletter. If you wish I will include your articles, comments, ideas and suggestions only if you specifically write 'for publication' in your email.  
Frank*