



CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER
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YOU ALWAYS BELONG TO MALTA AND MALTA BELONGS TO YOU
“Inthom tibqghu ta’ Malta u Malta tibqa’ tagħkom”
Il-President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca lill-emigranti



Il-President ta’ Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca Itaqgħet ma’ grupp ta’ emigranti Maltin residenti I-Awstralja fil-Palazz ta’ Sant’Anton. Qaltihom li kull Malti u Maltija li jemigra, jibqa’ ta’ Malta, u Malta tibqa’ tagħhom. Żiedet tgħid li riedet tagħti l-opportunità lil dawn l-emigranti biex anke huma jgawdu u japprezzaw il-patrimonju Malti. Sostniet li kuntatt kontinwu bejn il-Maltin f’Malta u l-Maltin fl-Awstralja huwa importanti ħafna biex tonqos ftit mid-distanza kbira li hemm bejn iż-żewġ pajjiżi. Semmiet proġett li qed taħdem fuqu l-Prezidenza biex ikompli jissahħaħ il-kuntatt. Qalet li s-sena d-dieħla l-President Coleiro Preca se tkun qed iżżur l-Awstralja biex fost l-oħrajn tiltaqa’ mal-komunità Maltija.



AUSTRALIAN PIE AND SAUCE

An **Australian or New Zealand meat pie** is a hand-sized meat pie containing largely diced or minced meat and gravy, sometimes with onion, mushrooms, or cheese and often consumed as a takeaway food snack. The pie itself is similar to the United Kingdom's steak pie.

It is considered iconic in Australia and New Zealand. It was described by former New South Wales Premier Bob Carr in 2003 as Australia's "national dish". New Zealanders regard the meat pie as a part of New Zealand cuisine, and it forms part of the New Zealand national identity.

The popular brand Four'N'Twenty produces 50,000 pies per hour and Australians consume an average of 12 meat pies each per year. The average consumption of meat pies in New Zealand is 15 per person per year. The meat pie is heavily associated with Australian rules football and Rugby League as one of the most popular consumed food items during the season.

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said, 'When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah'. The teacher asked, 'What if Jonah went to hell?' The little girl replied, 'Then you ask him'.

Laying up of the old Colours of the AFM ceremony at St John's Co-Cathedral

by Gozo News



During the month of January 2015 the Armed Forces of Malta held the Laying up of the old Colours of the AFM ceremony at St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta after 27 years in service.

The AFM Colours will now be laid up to rest in the Co-Cathedral.

The Colours of the AFM are two symbols – one being the Force Colour which represents the soul and the traditions of the AFM while the Presidential Colours are the symbol of

loyalty and service to the nation. The last ceremony of the laying up of the Old Colours of the AFM was held in 1988 when the Colours which have been laid up were blessed and given to the AFM. The New Colours of the AFM were blessed in October 2014.



SUNSET AT SANTORINI – GREECE

ANZACS AND MALTA: THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THAT THERE IS AN AUSTRALIA HALL IN MALTA?

TEARS well in Lino Camilleri's eyes and he looks up from his cappuccino and toward the Mediterranean Sea to blink them away.

"You make me cry remembering these old stories," the 93-year-old Maltese man says finally on a bright morning on the capital Valetta's busy beachside cafe strip.



Military memories ... Lino Camilleri remembers fondly his days in service on Malta. Picture: Ella Pellegrini *Source:*

Lino loves a chat but he gets emotional and has to pause remembering his days in military service on the tiny southern European island that was the most bombed country per land mass of all Europe during the Second World War.

He recalls the friends he lost, the future wife he gained (having met her in an air raid shelter) and the joy he felt with the Luftwaffe failing to destroy Australia Hall.

The story of the large sandstone edifice is well known on the island and forms a critical part of the ANZAC Gallipoli story and the bond today shared between Malta and

Australia.

In its heyday ... Australia Hall in Pembroke, Malta. Picture: Richard Ellis Archive Malta But not only is its story barely known in Australia — it now is at risk of disappearing both physically and from living memory from the likes of Lino.



Need for restoration ... the dilapidated hall Australia's ambassador to Malta Jane Lambert wants restored. Picture: Ella Pellegrini



The building was owned by the Maltese Labour Party, after it was handed the property by the Malta government in 1979; some months later a fire, the cause of which police were unable to determine, gutted the heritage listed building.

It has remained derelict ever since and last year was sold to private developers for AUD\$860,000 by Labour to pay off its party debts. According to local real estate agents and property groups the sale was below the market rate expected to be worth at least AUD\$17.8 million.

Coat of arms is still there ... Australia Hall is a shadow of its former self. Picture: Ella Pellegrini.

The Australian Government has yet to step in financially but has made it clear it would like to have the building restored as a meeting or conference centre as a continuing memorial to the thousands of Anzac troops who used the hall.

Final decisions are not expected to be made for some months.

The Australian High Commissioner to Malta Jane Lambert told News Corp Australia she would like to see the building restored as a place for the community to use. She said the fact it was built on Australian donations at the time of the Turkish campaign was indicative Australians at the time understood its worth.

"I think there are so few of the lasting physical links between our two cultures, it would be a shame if something was not done," he said. "With a degree of effort and determination you could get it back to what it was."

Former Private Lino Camilleri — who was awarded an MBE by the Queen in 1990 for services to the Crown as head of the British Legion in Malta as well as representing Australia's RSL — recalled the heyday in 1941 when as an 18-year-old he was posted to the barracks beside the hall for three years.

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/anzac-centenary>

President Coleiro Preca meets the Maltese in England David Debono



Hundreds of Maltese living in the United Kingdom greeted President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca during Malta Day-UK activities, organised by the Maltese Community in London. After addressing the congregation gathered for Mass, concelebrated by the Maltese Cardinal Prospero Grech at the Westminster Cathedral, President Coleiro Preca praised the enthusiasm of the Maltese and invited the community to visit Malta for activities for families with children at the President's palaces. She expressed her appreciation that not only did the Maltese in the UK not forget Malta, they kept on organising activities to promote Malta and its rich culture. Some members of the community have been living in the UK for more than 50 years. The Maltese community in the UK numbers some 80,000.

Plans to increase collaboration in research and assistance to Maltese patients and their families Matthew Agius

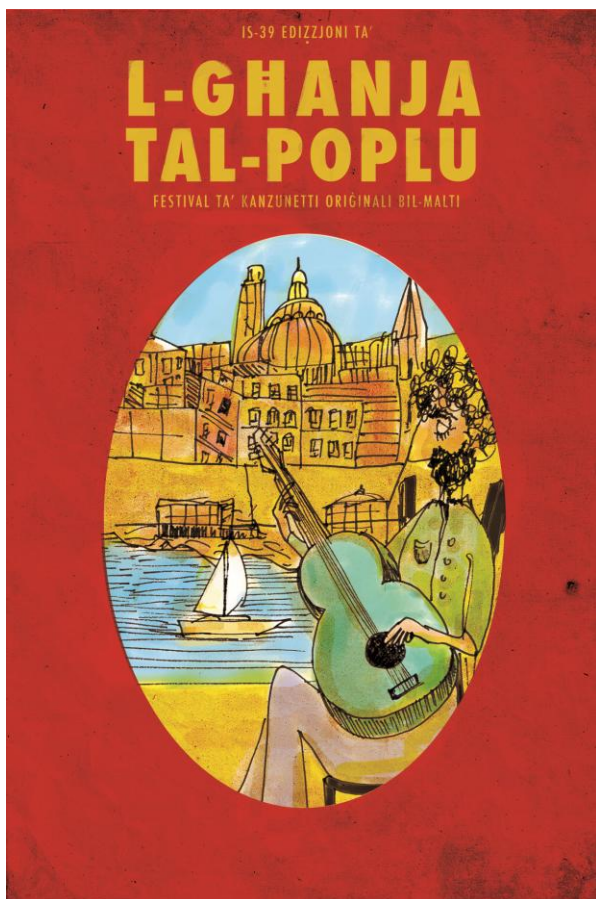


Photo: DOI - Clifton Fenech

President of Malta, Marie Louise Coleiro Preca continued her official visit to the United Kingdom in September 2014, visiting several Maltese patients at the Great Ormond Street hospital and the National Neurological Hospital in London. The President also presented the two hospitals with donations, as tokens of gratitude for their work. The President thanked Great Ormond Street's Chief Nurse Lisa Morgan for the care the hospital provides to its young Maltese patients and invited

further collaboration with the Malta Community Chest Fund. Meeting with the Maltese neurosurgeon Ludwig Zrinzo, who has spent the past 14 years working in the UK in this highly specialised field, the two discussed the possibility of increased collaboration in both research as well as psycho-social assistance for Maltese patients and their families.

The President also met with *Children With Cancer UK* Chief Executive, Mary Foulkes and discussed the possibility of collaborating on initiatives to aid children suffering from cancer. The organisation *Children With Cancer UK* was set up 26 years ago and aside from research on the disease, also offers practical assistance to child cancer sufferers and their families.



L-Għanja tal-Poplu

Josephine Ebejer Grech

Il-Ħamis 15 ta' Jannar 2015 saret ċerimonja biex jitniehda l-festival L-Għanja tal-Poplu 2015 li qed jittella' flimkien ma' Ċentru tal-Kreattività, bil-kollaborazzjoni ta' Valletta 2018, u bl-għajjuna tal-Malta Arts Funds. Din iċ-ċerimonja saret fil-Kavallier ta' San Ġakbu.

Numru sabiħ ta' kompożituri, awturi, kantanti, mużiċisti u persuni oħra attendew u gawdew kant bil-mużika 'live' minn Karen Debattista u Frank O'Neil. Ippreżentat is-serata Josephine Ebejer Grech. Carmelo Schembri tkellem għan-nom tal-kumitat organizzattiv biex jirringrazzja lill-persuni u għaqdiet kollha li qed jgħinu biex jittella' dan il-festival. Tony Micallef ta tagħrif dwar id-39 edizzjoni li se ssir fil-21 ta' Marzu 2015 fit-Teatru Sir Temi Żammit fl-Università ta' Malta.

Is-Sur Jason Micallef, chairman ta' Valletta 2018, indirizza lill-udjenza u spjega l-kollaborazzjoni li qed issir mal-kumitat biex jittella' dan il-festival. Toni Sant, mill-Kavallier ta' San Ġakbu, ukoll spjega dwar il-kollaborazzjoni mal-kumitat u l-ħidma favur il-kanzunetta Maltija.

Is-sottomissjonijiet mill-kompożituri u awturi li jixtiequ jipparteċipaw, se jintlaqgħu fil-YTC Triq il-Merkanti l-Belt Valletta nhar il-Ġimgħa 23 ta' Jannar. L-għada, ġurija esperti fil-lirika u l-mużika, se janalizzaw is-sottomissjonijiet u jagħżlu

il-kanzunetti finalist. Ir-rebbieħa tal-ewwel post se jieħdu elf ewro u trofew kull wieħed lill-kantant/i, kompożitur u awtur. It-trofew tal-Għanja tal-Poplu jinżamm għal sena. Ir-rebbieħa tat-tieni post se jieħdu 600ewro u trofej, u tat-tielet post se jieħdu 400ewro. L-aħjar kantawtur se jieħu 500ewro. L-aħjar talent żagħżuġh, u l-parteċipant/i bl-aħjar interpretazzjoni se jieħdu trofew.

Bħal kull sena, il-kumitat se joħroġ CD bil-kanzunetti finalist akkumpanjata minn ktejjeb bil-lirika tal-kanzunetti kollha. Il-festival se jixxandar fuq TVM2 fl-1 ta' April, filwaqt Tony Micallef se jkun qed jagħmel programm ta' siegħa kull nhar ta' Ġimgħa bejn 6.15-7.15pm fuq Radju Malta, fejn fih se jkun qed jintervista lill-parteċipanti u lill-kumitat. Il-kumitat jixtieq jirringrazzja lil kull stazzjon u lill-preżentaturi u xandara kollha li qed jagħmlu promozzjoni għall-festival.

ANOTHER CONVENTION – THE SAME PLEA (Australia, NZ, USA, Canada, Europe ..)

In April this year there is another convention for Maltese Living Abroad in Malta.

Can you make this convention successful by providing all the Maltese living outside Malta the necessary equipment to obtain a MALTESE BIOMETRIC PASSPORT.

We have been waiting and suffering far too long. Will you please make this convention AN EVENT TO REMEMBER. **ACTIONS speak louder than WORDS.**

J. HILI

Il-Karnival Magħna wkoll

Ta' kull sena ħafna min-niesna tistenna b'herqa l-Karnival. Għadek issib ħafna dilettanti ta' dawn il-festi folkloristiċi u rikrejattivi li jafu l-bidu tagħhom qabel il-wasla tal-Kavallieri fostna. Naturalment dawn il-festi tradizzjonali u popolari jiddependu ħafna fuq il-burdata tat-temp. Fil-għira tagħna l-Karnival jibda l-Gimgha 13 ta' Frar u jibqa' jkarkar sat-Tlieta 17 ta' Frar meta fi Tliet ir-Repubblika Victoria jkun hemm il-Gran Finale li jinkludi żfin fi Triq Fortunato Mizzi bis-sehem tal-kumpaniji taż-żfin, maskri grotteski, karrijiet trijonfali u baned. It-tfal tal-iskola flimkien mal-għalliema jieħdu gost b'jumejn vaganza, għad li ħafna minnhom jieħdu sehem mal-iskola tagħhom. U allahares ma kienx hekk. Jekk ma tinvestix fit-tfal, il-gejjieni tal-Karnival jista' jkun wieħed imċajpar. Ta' tfal li konna niftakami nfittxu fil-gwardarobbi t'ommi u nsibu xi libsa tgħodd għalina u erħilna nxidduha u niġru mat-toroq tar-Rabat b'wiċċna mgermed b'xi tapp ta' flixxun maħruq u b'xi bastun f'idejna!



*O żmien ħelu kif għaddejtli
Żmien ta' meta kont bla ħtija
It-tifkira biss ħallejtli
Biex il-għira nħoss għalik
Int ma' terġa' iżjed għalija
U sal-mewt indum nibkik!*

Gorg Pisani
Carnival Photo: www.visitmalta.com

Naħseb li ħafna min-niesna tħobb toħroġ biex tara l-Karnival b'mod speċjali dak organizzat mill-Kunsill tal-Kultura fi ħdan il-Ministeru għal Għawdex li jsir fil-qalba tar-Rabat, u mhux kif soltu fi Pjazza Indipendenza billi din bħalissa qisha iktar kamp tal-battalja, billi qed tingħata 'face-lift' kif imiss, Karnival organizzat li jkun jinkludi karrijiet trijonfali, maskri grotteski, kumpaniji tat-tfal u tal-kbar bil-kostum u danza, xi 'hilarious company', kompetizzjoni għall-aħjar kostum, il-ballu tal-Karnival, il-Parata, baned Għawdxin, kumpaniji barranin u divertiment ieħor. Xi drabi naraw ukoll iż-żifna antika tal-Kumittiva magħrufa ħafna fost in-nies ta' San Lawrenz u dawk tax-Xagħra, fix-xaqliba tan-'Nazzarenu'. Kemm hemm xi snin meta konna naraw ukoll il-Kukkanja iżda din issa ilha ftit ma ssir fil-belt Victoria. Gie li kellna wkoll xi ġirja fl-enclosure wara xi qasqas (catch the pig) imma din ilha li nqatgħet.

F'dan iż-żmien fil-vetrini tal-ħwienet tal-ħelu titfaċċa l-"Prinjolata" li ħafna nies jagħmlu għaliha. Tajba u ma fihix xewk! Il-perlini wkoll huma assoċjati ma' dawn il-festi tradizzjonali u folkloristiċi tal-Karnival li jingħad li kien il-Gran Mastro Pinto li daħħalhom fostna, għalkemm studji reċenti juru li daħlu qabel f'pajjiżna. Għadha drawwa fostna wkoll li xi erba' għannejja jarmaw trakk, iżejnuh bil-palm u joħroġu jgħannu mat-treqat waqt li jfajru l-perlini u ħelu ieħor għal fuq il-folla. Baqgħu ġejjin sa żmienna u donnu l-poplu tagħna jkun jistennihom biex jitbellah ftit u jinsa għal mument il-ħajja ta' kuljum. Il-Karnival tat-tfal għandu sehem importanti f'dawn il-jiem u tista' tgħid l-iskejjel Għawdxin kollha jipprezentaw xi 'item' fil-programm. Sinjal tajjeb għax jekk ma nrawmux it-tfal sa miċ-ċokon, il-Karnival x'futur jista' jkollu! L-isports Complex ta' Victoria gie li joffri alternattiva tajba meta t-temp ma jippermettix!

Il-Kunsilli Lokali wkoll fil-maġġoranza tagħhom jorganizzaw il-Karnival fl-irħula tagħhom u n-Nadur forsi l-iktar li jispikka. Hawnhekk isir ukoll il-Karnival spontanju u ħadd mhu eskluż li jxidd il-maskra u joħroġ itterraq mar-raħal. Nies barra mir-raħal ukoll issibhom hawnhekk jiddevertu u jixxalaw fosthom partita Maltin. Mhemm xejn ħażin sakemm wieħed jara li ma joħroġx saqajh barra mill-friex! Fi tfuliti jien niftakar lil tal-'lizar' li kienu joħroġu mkeffna biss f'liżar jiġġerrew mat-toroq jisfidaw il-ksieħ ta' Frar kif ukoll lil Fredu l-Leverist, għannej tal-

'prima klassi' dejjem liebes ta' xi ħaġa li qatt ma tistennihom jew tobsorha! Kellna wkoll lil kumpanija "Muskettieri Għawdxin" li kienet tinkludi lil Gużeppe Balluċċi, Gġi Sillato, Koli Apap, Gużeppe Micallef u oħrajn. Dawn illum kollha ħallewna u qed jistrieħu taħt l-irġama kiesha tal-qabar! Baskal Attard jibqa' magħruf għat-trakkijiet li bihom kien jidhru fl-enclosure u jifqa' lil kulhadd bid-daħk! Darba tela' fil-qamar u sena oħra għamel operazzjoni medika fil-pjazza. X'ma tidhax in-nies! Dan illum ħalliena wkoll iżda l-Għawdxin jgħidulek li dak kien l-isbaħ Karnival! Fis-sittinijiet il-Karnival f'Għawdex kien ħa spinta 'l quddiem u beda jsir b'mod organizzat. Certu Pawlu Portelli (tal-Lingi) il-Kav Koli Apap, Gġi Sillato, imdawrin b'xi ftit dilettanti oħra kienu waqfu Kumitat organizzattiv u bil-mod il-mod il-Karnival beda jieħu s-sura u n-nies bdiet tingabar fil-pjazza tat-Tokk, illum Pjazza Indipendenza, toqgħod bil-qegħda u tgawdi l-ispettaklu. Il-premijiet bdew ukoll iħajru l-kumpaniji biex jieħdu sehem u illum dawn il-ħwejjeg saru parti mill-ħajja Għawdxija.

Il-Karnival jġi biss darba fis-sena u kulhadd jista' jwarrab għal mument is-serjeta' u jċarrat snien biex jidhax ftit. Id-daħk jingħad li jnaqqas it-tikmix fil-wieċ w allura għax ma nitbissmux ftit! Iżda ma ninsew li hekk kif jintemm, l-għada, jibda żmien ir-Randan, jiem ta' sawm u astinenza, żmien totalment differenti, iżda li jrid ikun ukoll. Għalhekk il-munita għandha żewġ faċċati, ħbieb!

Kav. Joe M Attard Victoria Għawdex

Sannat priest donates books to MCCV in Australia



At the end of last November, a member of the committee of 'Wirja tal Kotba ta Anton Saliba' acting for Rev Fr. Mgr Anton Saliba of Sannat, donated all the books in Maltese, that were written by Rev Fr. Mgr Anton Saliba, to the library of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Australia. The presentation of the books took place at the MCCV centre in Parkville.

On behalf of the Maltese Language Classes Coordinator, of the MCCV, Mrs Edwidge Borg, the Vice President of the MCCV, Mr George Saliba, received the books from Mr

John B. Camilleri, who happened to be on holiday in Australia.

The MCCV Library is considered to be the largest Maltese library outside the Maltese islands. Thousand of Maltese and Gozitan alike, visit the library every year.

Mrs. Edwidge Borg, wrote a letter of sincere thanks and appreciation to Mgr. Anton Saliba, for his generous donation.

Mdina Cathedral Contemporary Art Biennale 2015



The Mdina Cathedral Contemporary Art Biennale, scheduled between 14 November 2015 and 7 January 2016, will establish a spiritual space celebrating creativity. It will create a stimulating modern environment, in which different works of art by artists from diverse cultural backgrounds are displayed together under one theme. The theme for 2015 is 'Christianity, Spirituality and the Other', 'The Other'

standing for faith and non-faith, belief and non-belief, theist and atheist, agnostic and polytheist.

The Mdina Biennale traces its roots back to the previous Christian and Sacred Art Biennale of the 1990s, and the forthcoming 2015 event will radically widen its creative spectrum. The idea that all art is spiritual remains the central concept. This thematic approach is profoundly important for a complete appreciation and understanding of the event. It plays a central role in the Artistic Director's concept and to establish the Mdina Cathedral Contemporary Art Biennale as a spiritual space of and for creativity.

The Mdina Biennale's first social event

The Mdina Cathedral Contemporary Art Biennale 2015 will be hosting a night of art and food for artists, art enthusiasts and anyone interested in the event on Wednesday April 30. This is the first social event organised by the managerial team in the build-up to the Mdina Biennale. The upcoming party will be a great opportunity to meet some of the participating artists, the artistic director Dr Giuseppe Schembri-Bonaci and the organising team of the Mdina Biennale. It is going to be held at the Roman restaurant Zero Sei, located exactly opposite the Teatru Manoel in Valletta. A selection of excellent Italian dishes, prepared specially for the occasion by Roman chefs, and wine will be available.

The Mdina Biennale traces its roots back to the previous Christian and Sacred Art Biennales of the 1990s. However, contrary to the previous Art Biennales organised by the Mdina Cathedral Chapter, next year's edition, being held between November 14, 2015 and January 31,, 2016, will be taking a radically different approach towards art and faith. The theme for the 2015 edition of the Mdina Cathedral Contemporary Art Biennale is "Christianity, Spirituality and the Other", with particular emphasis on "The Other" since it encompasses all forms of belief, or the lack of it. This new conceptual direction has been developed by Dr

Schembri Bonaci, artist, art critic and academic. With this theme, he hopes to establish the Mdina Biennale as a spiritual space of and for creativity, featuring thought-provoking and high-quality artworks. Artists from all disciplines will be exhibiting or performing in the Mdina Biennale, though the main focus will be on the visual arts.

So far, around 60 Maltese and international artists have been selected to participate, including prominent artists from France, Russia, Germany, Egypt, Italy, Portugal, Switzerland, Spain, South Korea, Australia, Poland, the UK and the US. Maltese artists include Norbert Attard, Richard England, Mark England, Vince Briffa, Patrick Dalli, Paul Haber, Pierre Portelli, Anna Grima, Josette Caruana, Sina Micallef Farrugia, Anthony Micallef, Victor Spiteri and James Micallef Grimaud. There will also be performances by the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra's chief conductor Brian Schembri, composers Karl Fiorini, Reuben Pace and Albert Garzia, actor Pino Scicluna, and contemporary dance by Francesca Abela Tranter.

All the necessary information and contact details may be found on the Mdina Cathedral Contemporary Art Biennale 2015 website and Facebook page. Tickets cost €20. For reservations, email mdinabiennale@gmail.com or call Melanie Farrugia on 9945 4277. Space is limited and booking is confirmed against payment. www.mdinabiennale.org.

DEBONO

COAT OF ARMS

Although mostly used as supporters to the shield, full-body human figures as well as parts of the human body are used as charges on numerous coats of arms of particular Maltese families.

The **DEBONO** family coat of arms displays a wild man armed with a spear beside a tree. It is interesting to note that numerous variations to this shield exist. In several depictions, the man is often displayed with a silver face and trousers and a red body. Other personal coats of arms, such as those belonging to Maximillian Debono LL.D. and Philippo Nicolao Debono, display six bars below the Debono shield. A fine example of such changes to the standard coat of arms may be observed on the in-laid marble tombstones of the Balzan parish church of the Annunciation.



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BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES OF MALTA –BIZZILLA, PASTIZZI,



TAL-PITROLJU, TAL-LAMPUKI U TFAL JAQBZU L-HABEL

MALTESE FOLK MUSIC AND SINGING: GHANA



Traditional Maltese folk music has deep roots that date back to the 16th century, since music has always played an important part in the every day life of Maltese people.

This type of local folk music is called ghana in Maltese. It can safely be said that folk music in Malta was heavily influenced by its geographical location. In fact, researchers state that ghana is a combination of the famous Sicilian ballad mixed with Arabic tunes.

In the old days, visitors to the Maltese islands used to comment that they were very impressed with the Maltese people's seemingly natural ability to sing and rhyme.

This folk singing was widespread on the islands and one could hear men and women singing while doing their daily activities on the farm, in the fields or around the house. Ghana was in fact the music of peasants, fishermen and working class men and women.

A close look at the lyrics will reveal that each song usually recounts a story about life in the village or some important event in Malta history. Street hawkers used to sing folk songs to attract attention to their products and declare how their products were better than the ones the seller next to them was selling! That's traditional Maltese marketing! Nowadays the ghannej (meaning folk singer) is usually accompanied by three guitarists. However, in the old days there used to be other musicians accompanying the singer.



"ID-DUDI" AN ORCHESTRA FROM GOZO, MALTA CIRCA EARLY LAST CENTURY



Cul min irit jixtri automobili fina, sabieha u ma tintemm katt għandu jagħzel F I A T li għanda lisbah fama mad-dinja collha.

Haun carrozzi F I A T giò Malta li ilhom jahdmu 18 il sena; din fha l'isbah prova tat-tiubija u durabilità.



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MUSCAT

14, 15, Strada Reale.

Meta tixtru jekk tictbu' għall'oggetti li ha'n avzati semm il Pronosteu.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS, MY FRIEND

ANTONIO SCIORTINO 1883 - 1947



Sciortino was born in Zebbug, Malta. He was one of the best Maltese sculptors of the twentieth century. When he was 17 years old he went to study in Rome at the Istituto Delle Belle Arti. He worked for a period of time in Rome but his fame and works can be found also in the The United States and in Russia. The following are some of his works which one can see in Malta. These are some of his works.

This is the monument of Christ the King by Sciortino. Malta is represented by the woman kneeling beneath the statue of Jesus. This monument can be seen in Floriana in front of the Phoenicia Hotel.



(left)
Monument
commemo
rating The
Great
Siege Of
Malta of
1565
which can
be seen in
front of the
Courts in
Valletta



The Les Gavroches, definitely one of Antonio Sciortino's best-known masterpieces, can be admired in the Upper Barrakka Gardens in Valletta. It represents three Parisians street urchins tugging at each other.



Armed Forces of Malta

The Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) is Malta's military organisation tasked with primary defence functions and safeguarding national sovereignty and interest, both in peacetime and in crisis.

Malta's military instrument, in the form of the operational capabilities delivered by the AFM, is a major component of the Maltese Island's national defence and security architecture.

The links at the top of the website offer a detailed description of the Force today. A Force that is organised, trained and equipped to conduct military operations at a national level as well as to contribute towards international crises management operations.

The Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) consists of a Force Headquarters and five separate units - three land units, an air wing and a maritime squadron. The AFM also have a Reserve and an Emergency Volunteer Reserve Force.

Command, Control & Administration

The 'Malta Armed Forces Act' was passed through Parliament in 1970. It enables the Head of State to raise, maintain and regulate an armed force. This act also empowers the President of Malta as Head of State, to delegate the command and authority vested in him/her to the democratically-elected Government, exercisable by the Minister of Defence, and answerable to Parliament.

The minister for Home Affairs and National Security retains Defence Matters within his portfolio. A Defence Matters Directorate provides civilian oversight of the Armed Forces of Malta. Military command of the Armed Forces of Malta is exercised by the Commander, who is of Brigadier rank.



The Commander is supported by the Force Headquarters that is responsible for the command, control and management of the Force. The Force Headquarters lays out policies and directs the day to day running of the AFM in order to achieve the defence and security objectives set by Government in an efficient and cost effective manner.

DO YOU KNOW

- ❖ THE WEBSITE www.ozmalta.page4.me HAS BEEN VISITED BY OVER 141000 READERS
- ❖ ALL THE MALTESE NEWSLETTERS ARE DOWNLOADED ON THIS WEBSITE
- ❖ YOUR EMAILS AND WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME BY THE EDITOR
- ❖ MANY OF OUR READERS SEND THE NEWSLETTERS TO THEIR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS
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Armistice Day.

ANZAC CENTENARY 1915-2015

The Armistice: November 11, 1918

On November 11, 1918, an eerie silence descended on the scarred battlefields of Europe. The Armistice had been signed and the First Great War came to an end. A number of European nations had bled themselves white during four years of senseless carnage which had started on August 1914 and which eventually involved the USA three years later. This tragic folly was supposed to end all wars. Instead it made the Second World War of 1939 inevitable.

The war in Europe had caused a temporary halt in the migratory movement. Within Europe itself old communities which had been established for centuries were either wiped out or uprooted. This upheaval made mass emigration inevitable after hostilities had come to an end on

MALTA DURING AND AFTER WW1

In 1911 the civil population of Malta was 211,000. Half that figure were either unemployed or unproductive. Some 52,000 had declared they did not have a steady job. Although between 1914 and 1918 jobs had become available because of the war, by 1919 the economic plight of the Maltese had grown even more dramatic. Peace had brought redundancies and unemployment.

The Naval Dockyard had provided work for 15,000 men during the war. In 1919 the Admiralty was insisting that 5,000 workers were enough for the maintenance of the Fleet. Other military establishments were firing redundant workers and many had found themselves without jobs which had been related to the war effort. Others who had sailed with the Merchant Navy had come home to find no jobs available for them. Such drastic measures had brought the number of unemployed to 20,000. It came as no surprise when many began thinking of emigrating. In the period between 1919 and 1920 some 10,000 Maltese left their homes to seek employment abroad, mostly in American cities.

Unemployment, poverty and political frustration were the main factors which contributed to the general unrest among the Maltese in 1919. One commentator described the feeling of the Maltese on February 27, 1919. "No Nation is immune from the prevailing spirit of unrest, and we are no exception. There can be no doubt that Malta is in a state of unrest, and we are no exception. There can be no doubt that Malta is in a state of dire distress. What lies at the root of our individual unrest and what are the causes of our complaints?"

The writer gave his reasons for the prevailing situation which was to explode into serious violence four months later. He complained that food was very expensive, of poor quality and scarce. He felt that the Food Board was not doing enough to check rascals and profiteers who were making money at the expense of the ordinary people. Importers should be checked, particularly those responsible for the importation of coal who were compelling civilians to pay six times as much as other sections of the public.

The British public was not unaware of the hardships suffered by the Maltese. One influential newspaper had a comment to make: "Malta has a population of nearly a quarter of a million and is a strategic centre of vital importance to the whole British Empire. Of this population over 30,000 men served as soldiers, sailors and dockyard workers for nearly the entire period of the war. They returned finding no work; thousands were necessarily discharged from the dockyard. Con-tractors and small businessmen found their businesses ruined through the establishment of the Government monopoly in the Navy and Army Canteen. These men were hungry and half-fed for months until they determined to emigrate".

There had been subtle changes in the Maltese way of life. Mr Henry Casolani, who was himself appointed as superintendent of emigration, had this to say about the changes in Maltese mentality after the war: "Rice eaters became bread eaters. The automobile displaced the horse conveyance. The dancing hall and the cinema became national institutions. Silk took the place of the longcloth and dungarees. And the pound sterling became the measure of the workman's wage".

The same writer stated that between 1918 and 1920 there was "a wonderful exodus which saved the country from anarchy and starvation". This wonderful exodus was that of some 10,000 emigrants who had left Malta, mostly for North America. In the same period four times that number had applied for their passports but only 27,000 were passed through the selective system applied by the Emigration Committee.

Source: *The Great Exodus* by Fr Lawrence E. Attard. (C) P.E.G. Ltd - 1989.



From Egypt, France to WA, Adelaide nurse Roselena Higgins dedicated life to others

by: *Michael Milnes* January 20, 2015 *WWI nurse Roselena Higgins' niece, Margaret O'Sullivan, 85, from Morphett Vale.*
Pic: *Michael Milnes.* Source: News Corp Australia

ROSELENA Higgins was one of the selfless Adelaide nurses who volunteered to care for the ANZACS wounded. The Morphett Vale woman was 36 and single when she joined the Australian Army Nursing Service on July 20, 1915. She embarked for Egypt from Melbourne on the *HMAT A71 Nestor* on October 11, 1915. She was one of about 2500 Australian nurses who served overseas. Higgins was posted to the 2nd Australian General Hospital and the 2nd Australian Auxiliary Hospital. Her niece Margaret O'Sullivan, 85, also from Morphett Vale, remembers her aunt as a very strict woman who never married.

A portrait of WWI nurse Roselena Higgins, from Morphett Vale. Source: News Corp Australia

"I don't remember much about her, but I was told she was a very good nurse in the war," Mrs O'Sullivan says. "I think she was one of the first ones to go."

"She made several trips when they brought the wounded back to Australia on hospital ships."

Her record shows she was transferred to England suffering "overwork" after nursing in France.

She received the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal, but other details of her service are all but lost to time. Mrs O'Sullivan said when her aunt returned in May, 1918, she went nursing in Western Australia before moving to Hamley Bridge and then to back to Morphett Vale.

Her house was on the site of the current Woolworths supermarket on Main South Rd, Morphett Vale.

"When we moved back to Morphett Vale in 1947 she moved across the road to where the Century 21 office is now, and we moved into the house she was living in," Mrs O'Sullivan said.

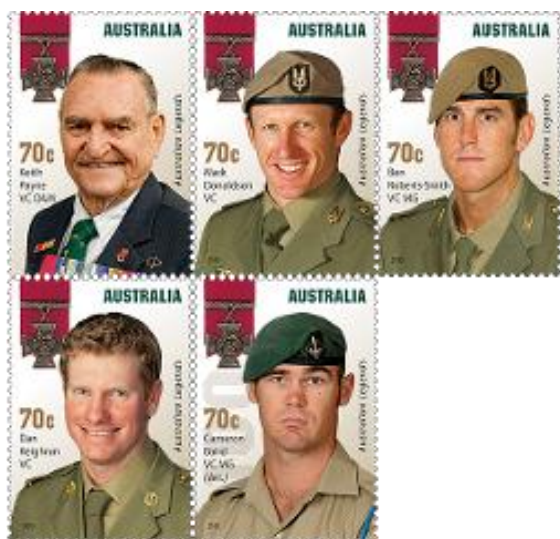
She died in 1961 aged 81 and is buried at St Mary's Church, Morphett Vale, only 400m from her niece's home and less than 1km from when she was born.





AUSTRALIA POST : Celebrate Australia Day

THIS SET OF STAMPS CONTAINS ALL FIVE STAMPS FROM THE 2015 AUSTRALIAN LEGENDS STAMP ISSUE. THE 2015 AUSTRALIAN LEGENDS HONOURS RECIPIENTS OF THE VICTORIA CROSS.



The Victoria Cross is the highest honour that can be bestowed for acts of valour “in the presence of the enemy”. Keith Payne VC OAM (b. 1933) received his Victoria Cross under the imperial honours system in 1970 for “conspicuous gallantry” in Vietnam.

In 1991 the Victoria Cross for Australia was instituted and subsequently awarded to the four other Legends for acts including “conspicuous gallantry” during the conflict in Afghanistan: Mark Donaldson VC (b. 1979) in 2009, Ben Roberts-Smith VC MG (b. 1978) in 2011, Dan Keighran VC (b.

1983) in 2012 and Cameron Baird VC MG (1981–2013) in 2014. Cameron Baird, who received the Victoria Cross for Australia posthumously, is the 100th Australian to be awarded a Victoria Cross. He has been honoured as an Australian Legend as a mark of respect to his courage and to that of all 100 VC recipients.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND STAMPS – YEAR OF THE GOAT 2015



Issue date: 8 January 2015, **Withdrawal date:** 31 December 2015

This set of stamps contains both the 70c and \$2.10 from the Christmas Island Year of the Goat 2015 stamp issue. Christmas Island belongs to Australia.

Rent reform in Malta

TIMES OF MALTA Monday, January 9, 2015 by Andrè Zammit, Sliema



World War II and its severe ravages brought on an abnormal situation in many countries, including Malta, where the balance of supply and demand in housing and commercial premises was heavily disturbed.

Emergency legislation was enacted in Malta to ensure a measure of fair distribution of available facilities at affordable rentals. This made sense in the immediate post-war period. Practically all countries adopted similar measures.

But while most countries came out of the emergency mode within 10 to 20 years, Malta dragged its feet. Apart from some limited minor measures, technically termed “tinkering” in planning jargon, it kept evading the issue and the long-awaited 1995 Act, while wiping the slate clean for subsequent leases, swept all the existing 50 plus old leases (temporary, emergency, call them what you like) under the carpet.

In the meantime, the context had changed completely, from shortage to surfeit, and the long-trampled human rights aspect had become a hot European issue. As a sop to Cerberus, the Rent Laws Act of 2009 was approved with great fanfare by both sides of the House. Its rental updates were so parsimonious that it could be termed a Barmecide feast after that Persian nobleman in the Arabian Nights who treated his guests to a feast of empty dishes.

Leaving aside the human rights aspect, which is obvious to everybody, let us have a look at the planning aspect. A good slice of our strategic housing stock, sited in the urban or village cores, is underutilised and very poorly maintained. A massive building sprawl has been produced by the unavailability of the “controlled rent” buildings, a large part of it by direct government action.

A recent government initiative is its declared intention to rent houses and apartments at commercial rents from the huge surplus of vacant new buildings and to let them out at subsidised rents to people who find it difficult to afford present day commercial rents. May I suggest that it could extend this policy to “protected” tenants who could then be evicted from “controlled” houses, returning these to their rightful owners after 60-odd years. How about this for a New Year resolution?

BYE FOR NOW – SAHHA U CIAW GHALISSA