

**THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA**

**MALTESE NEWSLETTER**



**BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN MALTESE ALL OVER THE WORLD**



**CHOGM  
MALTA  
2015**

**Only Weeks  
Away**

**COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING**

In less than two months, Malta will welcome CHOGM 2015, and excitement is really kicking in with final preparations for the delegation visits.

We are proud to have just launched the official CHOGM 2015 video, 'The People We Are.' Rich in diversity, it truly encapsulates the theme of 'The Commonwealth – Adding Global Value'. We encourage you to have a look at it here.

This month, we also had the honour of having with us the British High Commissioner to Malta, Rob Luke, who spoke of his expectations for CHOGM 2015 as well as the value that Malta can bring as host. HE Rob Luke highlighted the important role that the Commonwealth at large has for its 2.3 billion citizens, granting them a global identity, held together by common values and history.

We also had a chat with one of Malta's 600 local volunteers, Clifford Galea (see below), who spoke of his patriotism and excitement showcasing Malta to the many foreign delegations set to visit the island. With CHOGM getting ever nearer it is now all the more crucial to ensure your accreditation is secured, as this is needed to access the forums. Accreditation is also a step to applying for a Visa if needed.

'The People We Are' – CHOGM Malta 2015's official song and music video launched Back in May, the CHOGM Malta 2015 Taskforce, in collaboration with the Malta Film Commission, called on production companies to submit proposals for the production of an official themed video for CHOGM 2015.



Clifford Galea

## CHOGM MALTA 2015 VALUNTEER

I am an outgoing person who loves to meet new people, especially those coming from different cultures and backgrounds. I consider myself to be very patriotic and I am very proud to see the preparations for CHOGM 2015. It promises to be yet another unique historical feat for Malta. The fact that participation in this meeting is so wide, with 53 Heads of Government and the respective foreign ministers, not to mention the hundreds of journalists covering the event, makes me excited to be part of this great experience. I look forward to showcasing our great island and its culture to the foreign delegations visiting Malta during this special weekend!

### Queen's visit to Malta for CHOGM will halt football matches



The Queen is scheduled to visit Malta during the last weekend of November to attend the Commonwealth Head of Government meeting (CHOGM) which will be held in the island's capital city, Valletta. And the security around this important summit, which will be attended by several other members of the Royal Family alongside The Queen, means that the country's football matches will be put on hold.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will be accompanied by the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall when they travel to Malta in November for the CHOGM. The

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With CHOGM taking place between 27 and 29 November and the Valletta Summit on Migration, a discussion between EU members and African partners, to be held 11 and 12 November, Premier League football matches in Malta are being rescheduled.

The Malta Football Association said in a statement that there would be no police officers available to attend to the crowds in and around the stadium as all officers would be committed to the events those weekends.

□

This is the second time Malta will host this global two-day meeting where Presidents and Prime Ministers representing the 53 Commonwealth member states gather to discuss important matters relating to both the Commonwealth and the Monarchy. One such monumental decision regarding the latter occurred in 2011 when the laws of royal succession were updated, granting women the equal right to succeed.

Her Majesty began formally participating in these meetings in 1997, but she has attended every

conference since 1973. She will be joined this year by the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall.

Formed in 1949, the Commonwealth is a voluntary association of independent countries and The Queen serves as its symbolic head. Whether large or small, rich or poor, all member countries in the Commonwealth are guided by the three principles of its Charter: the rule of law, human rights and democracy.

As a global body, the Commonwealth seeks to use its strengths within international politics to influence and bring about change in important global matters such as developing education programs worldwide and providing legal and operational support in numerous issues to assist its member states; the 2.2 billion people it serves are located on several continents, so the influence of the Commonwealth is widespread and vast. One quarter of the membership of the United Nations consists of Commonwealth member states. Currently, four members of the UN Security Council are Commonwealth members: Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria and the UK; It is well-represented in the Caribbean, the European Union, G20 and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS (ANZAC)



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RSL MALTESE SUB-BRANCH OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



LEST WE FORGET



**450<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT SIEGE OF MALTA CELEBRATIONS in N.S.W.**

The Maltese community of the Illawarra (Wollongong) celebrated with two events on the weekend on the 26-27 November. The first was the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Siege 1565 and the other was the annual feast of Our Lady of Victories.

The celebrations were held at the Maltese George Cross Falcons club in Cringila. Over 300 people attended the Saturday night. Among the guests were the Lord Mayor of Wollongong Mr Gordon Bradbery and the Maltese Consul of NSW Mr Silivio Giusti who came from Sydney. There were also a number of other Maltese from Sydney who attended and sought accommodation in the region.

The evening started with formal introductions then proceeded with the opening of the Exhibition which was on the theme of the Great Siege of Malta. The ribbon was cut and people had the opportunity to view many objects including a fort similar to St Angelo which was made from polystyrene boxes.

A very informative and interesting talk was delivered by Frank Testa a member of the Knights of St John. Frank also showed powerpoint slides of the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Siege celebrations in Birgu, Malta having just returned from Malta. Lastly, he spoke about the current activities the Order is involved in and the many counties it offers it's services and assistance.

The evening then went on with a performing of "Ave Maria" by a talented young Maltese Australian teen and was followed by an adults performing traditonal folk dances in beautiful costumes made by Ms Lucy Bonanno. There was also a lot of traditional food which was provided for free by the President and Committee of the George Cross Falcons club to all who attended. Many commented how enjoyable the night was for all and how important it was to celebrate an important milestone as the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

On the Sunday at 3pm the Maltese community of the Illawarra celbrated the feast of Our Lady of Victories at Warrawong church with a procession of the statue led by flags, banners and children dressed in traditional Maltese costumes. The mass was co-celebrated by Fr L Testa (Maltese chaplain for the Illawarra) and Fr Matthew from India who is very familiar with Malta and the Maltese. A get together was held in the parish hall with plenty of refreshments.



From left:  
 1. A model of fort made out of Polystyrene boxes – 2. Mr.Louis Parnis President of the George Cross Falcons club in the Illawarra, Maltese Consul for NSW Mr S. Giusti and the Lord Mayor of Wollongong Gordon Bradbery opening the 1565 exhibition and 3. Lawrence Scerri and Lucy Bonanno, dressed in Maltese national costume.

Reporter: Lawrence Scerri

# Għadira Nature Reserve



Explore Malta’s wildlife with your kids. The Għadira Nature Reserve is one of Malta’s few safe havens for birds. As a protected area, birds may stop to rest at the Għadira Nature Reserve during migration season. As many birds are victims of hunting, having a protected area for migrating birds is very important, not only for the birds but the Maltese environment as well. The Għadira Nature Reserve is a great place for kids to learn about birds, their natural habitat and their right to fly freely.

The Reserve hosts a beautiful combination of biodiversity and nature. The area not only offers solace for migrating birds but is also home to a variety of flora and fauna, some of which is rare and endangered. The Reserve offers a great opportunity to educate yourself and your family about nature firsthand, with wild birds and plants within easy reach. On your visit, you and your family can roam the reserve freely. However, volunteers are on hand to accompany you on your trek as well as to provide any information you may require about the birds and the reserve. The Għadira Nature Reserve is open to the public during the day from November to May, and entrance is free. You can find the Għadira Nature Reserve across the road from Għadira bay, Malta’s busiest beach, which makes it a perfect place to visit before or after a day at the beach.



**THE AIRLINE OF  
THE MALTESE ISLANDS**  
<http://www.airmalta.com/>



**REMEMBERING THE PAST**  
**STAR PARADE S.A. (1965) LELI MONSIEUR (MALTA)**

LELI MONSIEUR one of the State's most experienced and dedicated players, will today play his 150<sup>th</sup> league game for Malta United in Adelaide.

The brilliant, untiring half-back is a shining example for those critics who advocate that a soccer career should be started at an early age.

Now 27, Leli played his first competitive match at the ripe old age of seven.

His early promise as centre-half for Sliema Primary School in Malta was fulfilled when he was elected captain, a post he filled for seven years.

*Brilliant,  
untiring  
defender*



LELI MONSIEUR

During his term as captain, the school won five successive premierships; in 1955 he migrated to Australia and signed for Adelaide George Cross.

A 14 year old boy with seven years professional coaching behind him, Leli was the type of player who any club would have welcomed with open arms.

George Cross, the State's leading Third Division team, was disbanded in 1955 and the following year Leli signed for the S.A. Railways Club. Although the youngest player in the Second Division side, he won the club's best and fairest trophy.

The same year he played for the South Australia. Junior team (under 21) against Western Australia.

Leli was one of the stars of S.A.'s 2-1 win at the Thebarton Oval.

He was a loyal club man but naturally requested a transfer when Malta United was formed and accepted into Third Division in 1958.

During the Association-Federation rift, he gained S.A. senior representation against Tasmania. He played four games in Hobart and Launceston and was never out of the best player lists in all four victories.

The young Maltese star was met by Melbourne George Cross officials on his return from Tasmania. He accepted an invitation to make two guest appearances and was highly praised for his skills and ability as centre half back.

The Victorian State League club tempted Leli with a generous offer but he declined because of strong family ties in Adelaide. He proved his loyalty to Malta United by also rejecting offers from First Division clubs, Croatia, Polonia and Enfield City.

He compromised by "guesting" for Polonia during the Ampol night series in 1960' Last year was an outstanding season for Leli. He received the club's trophy for second best player, and won the Footballer of the Year Cup, a competition for Maltese sponsored clubs conducted by the Sydney Maltese Herald.



Malta United won the Broken Hill Bakery Cup in September and Leli was awarded the Craven A trophy for the best player of the two-day carnival.

Malta won the Second Division Jaxen Cup the following week. During his nine seasons with Malta and previously with Railways, Leli has amassed an imposing tally of best and fairest trophies.

As he takes the field against Windsor Athletic today for 150th appearance for Malta, he can take pride that he has never once been sent off, or even cautioned during his long career - a fair record indeed.



**MALTESE QUEEN OF VICTORIES BAND  
ADELAIDE – SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

*Extracts from the MQVB Newsletter THE SOUND OF MUSIC Sept 2015  
Editor: Roger Gammon*

New Committee 2015/2016  
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**WE DON'T ONLY PLAY GOOD MUSIC BUT WE CAN ALSO RUN A GOOD DARN SAUSAGE SIZZLE**

On the Saturdays and Sundays of the 4 and 5 and the 18 and 19 July we held a fund-raising Sausage Sizzle for Our Band at the Prospect OfficeWorks on Main North Road, Prospect. Not only was it a successful fund raiser, but at the end of it the manager at OfficeWorks, complimented us on being "The best organized, friendly and co-operative group" that he has had there. A credit to our association, I think, thanks to all those who helped to make this sausage sizzle a success for the MQVB.

**MALTESE QUEEN OF VICTORIES BAND CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Sunday 29 November at CARISBROOKE Park, Main North Road – Salisbury.  
 Members – free non members \$10 children under 12 - \$7 RSVP 18 November  
 AGNES BORG 8262 4030 MOBILE 0422 485 059 or LILIAN CAMILLERI: 8336 6060 MOBILE: 0431 772 521.

WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUR BAND HAS MOVED TO THE LOCKLEYS PARISH HALL – REHEARSALS EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT 7 PM

**THE NEW POSTAL ADDRESS of the MQVB IS MQVB PO BOX 3252 NEWTON, SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5074**

## Olive Trees

### Sigar taz-żebbuġ



Olive trees are evergreen trees found in most Mediterranean countries. A very long time ago the olive trees grew all over Malta and the olives and olive oil acquired from them, used to be exported to other countries. Evidence of this are places in Malta like Ғaž Żebbuġ, Ghajn Żejtuna, Birżebbuġa and Iż-Żejtun, which got their name from this particular tree, because it used to grow abundantly in that area, as well as the many huge stone presses found in various places mostly with a connection to the Roman period. The Roman villa at San Pawl Milqi in Burmarrad is probably the best example of a Roman olive oil-producing estate.

Unfortunately with time most of the old olive trees in Malta were destroyed, either cut down to be used as fire wood or to make way for other kinds of agricultural produce, including wheat and later cotton.

Today the olive tree is being cultivated again in many areas around Malta reclaiming its place in Maltese agriculture and landscape. Most of these olive trees are imported from Italy, Spain and Greece where the olive oil industry is well established.

Olive trees can be grown in all types of soil, as long as the soil is at least three metres deep. These trees need plenty of sunshine to produce olives and are therefore ideal for our Maltese climate. The olive tree is very tenacious and can live for up to 500 years. Its leaves are dark green on top and greyish

underneath and are usually replaced every three years, falling mostly in spring.

The tree produces small, fragrant, creamcoloured flowers. The olive tree produces two kinds of flowers: a perfect flower containing both male and female parts, and a flower with stamens only.

The flowers are largely wind pollinated and most olive varieties are selfpollinating. Some varieties though, are self-incompatible and need to be cross pollinated by other varieties of olive trees found in the vicinity. The olive fruit is usually ripe by October.

It is green, becoming generally blackishpurple when fully ripe. A few varieties are green when ripe and some turn a shade of copper brown. The different varieties differ in size, shape, oil-content and flavour. Raw olives contain an alkaloid that makes them bitter and unpalatable and therefore need to be placed in salted water for several days, before they are good to eat. Many varieties of olive trees are grown solely for the production of olive oil. An olive tree usually bears fruit when it is at least 4 years old.



### STUFFED OLIVES- ZEBBUG MIMLI

#### Ingredients:

Bieba tal-ħobż / soft part of the bread  
 Incova / Anchovies  
 Kappar / Capers  
 Tursin / Parsley  
 Bzar u melh / Salt & Pepper  
 Zejt taz-zebbugia / Olive Oil

#### Method:

1. Mash the ingredients so that they combine well together.
2. Add the olive oil to the mixture to make it softer.
3. Fill the olives with this mixture.

Tonio Zammit

## Maltese Peppered Cheeselet

### il-Gbejna tal-Bzar

Tonio Zammit



#### Ingredients:

- 1 pint of milk
- 2 teaspoons rennet
- A pinch of salt

#### Method:

Put the milk in a saucepan and heat to 98° or until it reaches body temperature. Stir in while heating. Remove from the fire and add the rennet and the salt. Cover and leave strictly alone for 1 hour. Now spoon the mixture into 2 baskets and put these in a colander. There may be too much milk for the two baskets; you may have to wait until some moisture is lost.

After about 6 hours they should be fairly set. Take one basket at a time, turn the cheese into the palm of one hand; now transfer it to the other hand and replace it in the basket. This serves to turn the cheese upside down. Put the baskets in a soup plate or pie dish and leave it to set until the next day. Remember to empty out the liquid which oozes out. Sprinkle the cheeses with rough salt and freshly ground black pepper and eat with toasted Malta bread.



Fill baskets to the top and place on a non metallic surface over a pan to catch the whey. Store them in the refrigerator overnight.

Then there is the whole process of airing them dry outside for a few days and finally putting them in a little bit of oil and malt vinegar and pepper. Hope this helps.

The Peppered Cheeselets will have a great taste when it used with Maltese traditional food , especially

with a crusted Maltese Loaf Bread pasted with kunserva , some capers and pickled onions.. plus a small can of tuna.

**A word of encouragement – If you have been reading and enjoying my Newsletter drop me a line. Your personal comments are always appreciated. Frank**



## PICTURESQUE NEW ZEALAND

With an easy flight from Australia, just 3 hours from the eastern coast, Christchurch is the perfect place to start your Southern Scenic Route. Start your journey with a trip out to the beautiful Banks Peninsula and you will be rewarded with picturesque vistas at every turn and a marine environment teeming with wildlife. The sparkling waters and dramatic coastline are home to a host of marine life including the world's smallest and rarest dolphin - Hector's dolphin. Swim with these playful mammals for an unforgettable wildlife encounter before immersing yourself in the alluring French character of Akaroa township – a seaside retreat just 90 minutes from Christchurch.

Follow the coast down to historic Dunedin where you can experience Eco-tours to marine wildlife, albatross and fur seal colonies. There is plenty of nature and wildlife to be found in the area, the penguins are a favourite or try a boat cruise with Monarch Wildlife Cruises.

Start in Christchurch



**Christchurch** city promises an eclectic mix of historic elegance and contemporary culture. As the gateway to the South Island, it's a must on any itinerary. End in **Dunedin Central** Historic architecture and eco-adventures await you in Dunedin. Watch the penguins surf into the beach after a successful day's fishing.



## New Zealand - Malta and Gibraltar

British imperial policy was to relocate people from overcrowded Gibraltar and Malta to other British colonies. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries there were almost equal numbers of Maltese and Gibraltar people in New Zealand, although the populations were always small.

### A link with Malta

In 2004 Malta joined several other countries in a reciprocal working holiday scheme with New Zealand. Working visas are issued to up to 50 young citizens (aged 18–30) of each country to allow them to travel and work in the other country for up to 12 months. Although it is not for permanent migrants, the scheme does strengthen ties between New Zealand and its migrant communities. It is believed that the first Maltese to arrive was a boatman, Angelo Parigi, around 1848. A later arrival, Charles Mallia, founded an institute for seamen in Wellington, and was made an MBE in 1953. Fewer than 100 Maltese people were living in New Zealand in any one year until the 1950s. By 1975 there were more than 400; in 2013 the number had fallen to 390, but enough Maltese settled in Wellington to sustain a Maltese Association.

Unlike the Maltese, the numbers of Gibraltans did not increase significantly in the late 20th century. There were only 78 resident in New Zealand in 2013. <http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/other-western-europeans/page-3>

# Simshar premieres in Australia... with the President's seal of approval



The acclaimed film *Simshar* has just been officially released in Australia, the first time a Maltese produced film has had an international theatrical release.

The premiere was recently held in Sydney, followed by a tour of screenings and Q&As with co-writer and director Rebecca Cremona. Shot in Maltese and English and starring local and foreign actors, the film had even been accepted for consideration as Best Foreign Film at the Academy Awards.

In Australia, the film has already been endorsed by popular barrister Julian Burnside and TV star Waleed Aly, and described film of the week in the Capital Territory of Canberra.

The film, a fiction story inspired by the Simshar tragedy in 2008, was written by Ms Cremona and David Grech. It runs on three parallel tracks. The Simshar story, which includes the disappearance of 11-year-old Theo, follows the account of his mother, Sharin, the wife of the only survivor, Simon Bugeja.



As she raises her family, immigration concerns and tension among fishermen surge. At the same time, a Maltese doctor finds himself caring for a pregnant woman aboard a Turkish vessel, which rescued migrants between Malta and the Italian island of Lampedusa, with neither country allowing disembarkation.

In a videoed address endorsing the film, President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca said the story portrayed in the film warmth and conviction. "Simshar is the story of life today. I encourage you to see the film because it shows that love and compassion are so important today," the President said.

The film was produced with the support of the Malta Film Commission and the Malta Film Fund. The Australia tour is supported by the recently launched Export Fund from Arts Council Malta.

# BORG

## COAT OF ARMS

This is one of two coats of arms adopted by the **BORG** family. Various types of fortifications are commonly used in heraldry worldwide. Towers were often associated with ancient nobility but they also greatly feature in civic heraldry. This charge is displayed on the coats of arms of numerous European towns and cities (*Italian: borgo, French: bourg*) most especially those having a castle (*German: burg*).



[araldikamalta.org](http://araldikamalta.org)

ARALDIKA  
MALTA  
EST. 2012

# MUSCAT

## COAT OF ARMS

This is one of two coats of arms adopted by the Maltese family of **MUSCAT**. While the other displays the common house fly, *musca*, this one refers to a variety of grape known as *Muscat*. This name derives from the French *musc*, meaning 'musk', since this grape has a very musky scent. This shield appears to be much less frequently displayed by the Muscat family than the other.

On their coat of arms, the *Moscatelli* family of Naples display a giant vase between two rampant lions which is filled with bunches of grapes and vine leaves.



[araldikamalta.org](http://araldikamalta.org)

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## FATHER ROBERT GALEA - AUSTRALIA



**Robert Galea** (born 14 November 1981) is a Catholic Priest and a Christian singer and songwriter from the island of **Malta**. Galea has released eight music projects, *More of You* (April 2004), *Closer* (UK release, February 2006), *What A Day* (January 2008), "Divine Mercy Chaplet" [Featuring Gary Pinto and Natasha Pinto] (August 2010) "Reach Out" (January 2011) and a live concert DVD and live CD entitles "Fr Robert Galea, Reach Out Live" (July 2011), "Glorify" Mass Setting (August 2013), and "Something About You" (January 2015).

Galea has written a number of songs for various campaigns and international conferences. After being selected to sing in the

international version of the official World Youth Day song "Receive the Power" along with pop idol Guy Sebastian and acclaimed soprano Amelia Farrugia amongst others, Galea entered the realm of the cast of musicians having performed in some key events before Pope Benedict XVI and an estimated 500,000 pilgrims in Sydney. Galea completed his seminary studies in Melbourne in 2010, and is currently serving as an assistant priest at St Kilian's Church, Bendigo in the Diocese of Sandhurst, Victoria, Australia.

Fr Rob Galea is also serving as a chaplain to the Catholic College and local LaTrobe University campus, Fr Rob Galea has a significant evangelistic and outreach ministry, speaking and singing at schools, conferences and churches around Australia and the world. He and his team currently minister to over 200,000 young people each year. In 2008 Fr Rob, together with the late Bishop Joe Grech, founded the Stronger Youth Program - a series of youth retreats, rallies and small groups which are run around the Sandhurst Diocese, Victoria, and in Perth and South Australia. More at Wkipedia



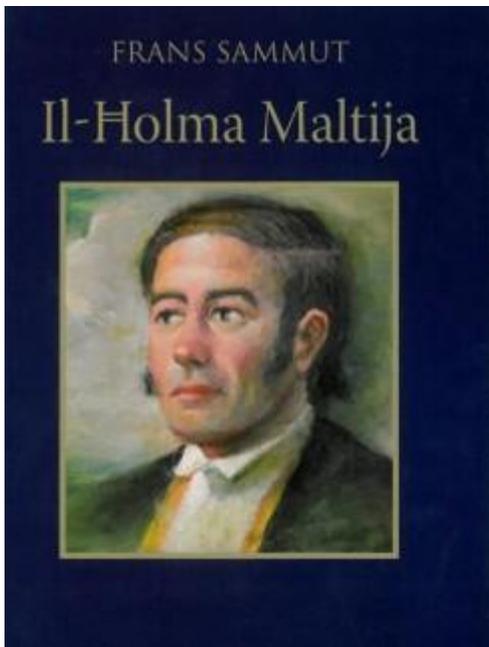


**IL-MERILL**

**MALTA'S NATIONAL BIRD**

The Blue Rock Thrush is Malta's national bird, so it is protected by law (it cannot be shot or caught) The Blue Rock Thrush is found in areas which contain cliffs (eg. Dingli), but it has also been spotted in cities. In the past some pairs used to nest in the Valletta bastions. It is a residential bird. The cock is blue in colour, while the hens and the youngsters are greyish brown. This Thrush is 20cm long. The cock has a very melodious song. The breeding season starts in the end of February and stops at the beginning of April. The pair builds a nest of grass and twigs in a hole in a cliff. The

hen lays about 5 greyish eggs, which hatch after about 2 weeks. The chicks start flying 17 days from hatching. The Blue Rock Thrush eats insects, lizards and fruit.



**IL-HOLMA MALTJA** ta' Frans Sammut

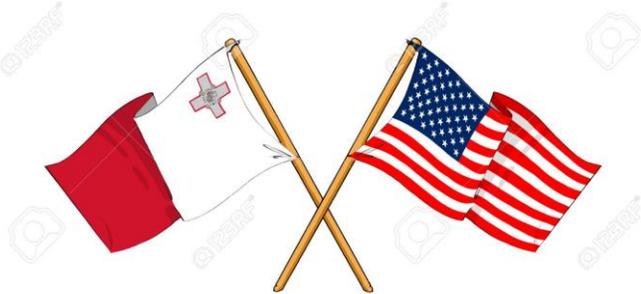
F'IL-HOLMA MALTJA, Frans Sammut ilaqqagħna ma' Mikiel Anton Vassalli, l-akbar patrijott Malti ta'żmienu. Ma' Vassalli ngħixu l-avventuri ta' żgħożitu, fl-aħħar żminijiet tal-ħakma tal-Ordni ta' San Ġwann f'Malta ... meta jmur jistudja Ruma u jiltaqa' ma' nies 'misterjużi' u oħrajn għorrief ... u mbagħad naraw l-impenn ta' rgulitu favur ir-riformi li Napuljun ried iwettaq fl-Ewropa ... sa meta gie lura Malta mill-eżilju, xi qabel iż-żmien, minsi u fqir, fi gżira maħkuma issa mill-Ingliżi ...

Studjuż tal-ilsna, negozjant, patrijott, Ġakobin ... Mikiel Anton Vassalli jiddedika ħajtu għall-ħolma li fiha Malta ssib l-identità u d-dinjità tagħha fost il-ġnus. Imnebbaħ mill-ideali tas-Seklu tad-Dawl, Vassalli fehem kif il-ġens Malti seta' jikseb l-għarfien tiegħu billi l-ewwel jagħraf jgħożż ilsien.

F'IL-HOLMA MALTJA, Sammut jilħaq il-qofol tal-ħila letterarja kbira tiegħu. Dar-rumanz, mogħni b'elementi ta' storja politika, lingwistika, orjentaliżmu, filosofija, ezoteriżmu, u teologija, u bi grajja ta' mħabba, huwa kapolavur ta' Frans Sammut. Fuq kollox, hu kapovalur ewlieni tal-letteratura moderna bil-Malti.

Minn: Frans Sammut <http://maltaonlinebookshop.com/product/il-holma-maltija>

## THE FIRST MALTESE IN AMERICA



The earliest Maltese settlers in the United States came in the mid-eighteenth century, mostly to New Orleans. These settlers were often regarded as Italians, and in fact tombstones sometimes mistakenly noted the deceased as "natives of Malta, Italy." The burial grounds were inscribed with such common Maltese names as Ferruggia (Farruggia), Pace, and Grima.

By 1855 there were 116 Maltese living in the United States. In the 1860s, it was estimated that between five and ten Maltese came to the United States every year.

The majority of the migrants were agricultural workers, and in New Orleans the majority worked as market gardeners and vegetable dealers.

The greatest number of Maltese people came to the United States during the first decades of the twentieth century. Their move coincided with the discharge of skilled workers from the Royal British Dockyard in 1919 following the end of the World War I. More than 1,300 Maltese immigrated to the United States in the first quarter of 1920, and most found work in automobile manufacturing. The *Detroit Free Press* reported in October 1920 that Detroit had the largest Maltese population in the United States, at 5,000 residents. In 1922, the *Detroit Free Press* reported that the only Maltese colony in the United States was in Detroit. Over the next few years, it is believed that more than 15,000 Maltese people settled in the United States and became citizens.

They apparently intended to stay for a short time and return home. However, opportunities in America seemed more plentiful and stable than the uncertainties at home, and many Maltese people remained in the United States. By 1928 New York had an estimated 9,000 Maltese immigrants. San Francisco also had a large Maltese population.

After World War II, the Maltese government launched a program to pay passage costs to Maltese willing to emigrate and remain abroad for at least two years. As a result, a surge of Maltese left their homeland. In 1954, a reported 11,447 Maltese left the islands. This program enticed approximately 8,000 Maltese to come to the United States between 1947 and 1977. For more than a century Malta's government encouraged emigration because of the tiny size of the [overpopulated](#) island nation.

### SETTLEMENT

Settlement in the United States was concentrated in Detroit, New York City, San Francisco, and Chicago. It has been estimated that more than 70,000 Maltese immigrants and their descendants were living in the United States by the mid-1990s. The largest estimated communities are the more than 44,000 Maltese in the Detroit area and the 20,000 Maltese in New York City, most of them in Astoria, Queens.

Read more: <http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Le-Pa/Maltese-Americans.html#ixzz3nvNlc3e2>

## THE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY IN GOZO ASSISTS WITH ORDER OF MALTA RELIEF AID



The Anglican Community in Gozo has contributed once again to the needy families and refugees in Gozo. During this year's Harvest Festival, the community asked its members to contribute food supplies for the relief aid operations conducted by the Order of Malta.

After Wednesday Service at the Seminary chapel in Victoria, Ms Carole McLaren, the Church Warden, then presented the supplies to Chris Galea from the Order of Malta Volunteers in Gozo. Other items donated regularly included clothing, shoes and educational material. Chris Galea thanked the Anglican Community in Gozo for their

continuous assistance for the past three years. He also saluted Ms Carole McLaren who will soon leaving to go back to England. The Order of Malta in Gozo is currently assisting several needy families of different creed and from different countries.

## EMBELLISHMENT OF FLORIANA MCP CAR PARK



The Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) Board approved planning permission for the expansion of the existing MCP Floriana Car Park which will also incorporate an extensive public open roof garden.

The new development, which once completed will ease the parking problem within the Floriana/Valletta area, will consist in the construction of the unbuilt central section of the existing car park, resulting in an additional 443 car parking spaces.

The development will also include a vast extent of soft landscaping and the introduction of a pedestrian walk-way linking the roof garden of the car park to the adjacent existing public garden.

MEPA said that although over the years the existing car park has served its original intentions, its design was always considered to be a 'scar' to the entrance to Valletta. This new public roof garden will not only address this 'appearance issue' but will compliment and continue to add prestige to the recent design projects that have and are taking place in the vicinity.

This project will be concluded prior to the start of Valletta becoming the European Capital of Culture in 2018. The public garden will comprise a mixture of trees, palms and shrubs, together with street furniture in the form of benches, basins and adequately scattered sculptures. NEWS AND INFORMATION ON: [www.gozonews.com](http://www.gozonews.com)



**RE-LAUNCH OF THE NSW PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDS OF THE EU**



A re-launch of the group for the 56th Parliament will take place at NSW Parliament House on 14 October in the Speaker's Garden with all EU Consuls-General and Ambassadors invited to the launch.

The NSW Parliament will welcome the EU's Ambassador Sem Fabrizi, the European Australian Business Council, Community Groups and business leaders to a bipartisan event hosted by Gareth Ward MP. Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier for the Illawarra and South Coast and Member for Kiama Ward has been elected Chairperson of the NSW Parliamentary Friends of the European Union.

"Europe and the people of Europe have been an integral part of Australian history and continue to play a vital role in the Australian economy. With engagement and involvement, we can gain a better understanding and respect for the tapestry of cultures represented in both Parliament and across New South Wales. With 28 member States in the EU, there's no doubt that we have a great deal we can learn, comprehend and experience."

The Parliamentary Friends of the EU is established as a nexus for communication and support between EU Consuls-General, Embassies and the NSW Parliament. Also elected to the executive are Sonia Hornery MP, Member for Wallsend (Vice Chair), Melanie Gibbons MP, Member for Holsworthy (Treasurer) and Sean O'Connor from the Office of the Speaker as Secretary.

**A big 'thank you' from Rebecca Cremona** Co-writer and director of SIMSHAR

Dear Maltese - Australian Friends, Thank you so much for your warm welcome and incredible support during the **SIMSHAR AUSTRALIA TOUR**. The experience was a wonderful one, although very hectic, and we hope that the film will now perform well in cinemas so this will kickstart a chain of Maltese culture for export. I would like to share with you this absolutely lovely address to the Maltese Australians about Simshar from H.E Coleiro Preca - [http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20151003/local/simshar\\_premieres-in-australia-with-the-presidents-seal-of-approval.586754](http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20151003/local/simshar_premieres-in-australia-with-the-presidents-seal-of-approval.586754). REAGARDS - REBECCA

## ARC ANNOUNCES NOMINEES FOR THE 2015 NATIONAL LGBTI COMMUNITY AWARDS

**The event will be held at the Corinthia Palace Hotel & Spa on Saturday 7 November.**

Ahead of the second annual National LGBTI Community Awards, Allied Rainbow Communities (ARC) has revealed the nominees for 2015. Each nominee is being rewarded for being a positive role model within the LGBTI community in Malta over the past 12 months, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.



*Last year's award winners*

There are two nominees for each of the six awards, namely:

- Entertainer – Ira Losco and Ray Calleja
- Community Event – 2015 Pride March and Bordello
- Business – AXM Malta and the Government's Principal Permanent Secretary Mario Cutajar
- Media – Peppi Azzopardi and Alison Bezzina
- Politician – Helena Dalli and Dr Arnold Casola
- NGO – Gender Liberation and MGRM.

The results will be announced live at a lavish award dinner on 7 November, at the Corinthia Palace Hotel & Spa in Attard. The evening will start with a reception and photo call, followed by a stunning six-course menu and wine pairing that has been designed especially by the hotel's executive chef Stefan Hogan. The evening will culminate in an open-bar after party at the Caprice Lounge.

“Last year's event was a glittering affair for the inaugural National LGBTI Community Awards and we have spent the last year working with other local NGOs to raise awareness of LGBTI issues that need to be addressed in our community,” says ARC's president Norman Shaw.

“Now we look forward to celebrating all of the people who have made a tangible difference to the community in the past 12 months, and who will continue to do so in the years to come.” A number of tables for the National LGBTI Community Awards are still available. To reserve yours please email [info@arc.org.mt](mailto:info@arc.org.mt) or contact 7939 4887. Website: <http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/arts/>

## PBS in Cooperation with Turkish National Broadcaster



**A television crew from Turkish national public broadcaster TRT has already produced a number of features and documentaries about Maltese history**

Culture minister Owen Bonnici today signed a cooperation agreement between the Public Broadcasting Services and Turkish national public broadcaster TRT. A TRT television crew has already traveled to Malta, with the support of the Malta Tourism Authority, to produce features and documentaries about Maltese history. These will be shown on Turkish national television.

In October, a Maltese television crew will travel to the culturally rich Izmir, in the west of the country, where they too will have a number of creative opportunities. "Malta has a lot to gain from this relationship with TRT, a giant in international media, we are also open to keep enriching the wide bilateral relations appreciating in particular the ongoing increase of tourism from Turkey," Bonnici said. "We have initiated a process to explore this in more depth and to get to know each other much better. Our radio and television platforms will contribute to this cross-fertilization."

## "Little Red Riding Hood" in Maltese for German schoolchildren and language games for adults



Oct 06, 2015

*First Secretary Andrew Caruana Galizia reading the Maltese version of "Little Red Riding Hood" to German school children and the rickshaws for adults*

On the European Day of Languages, members of staff of the Maltese embassy set out to three schools and libraries in the German capital with one aim: to introduce the Maltese language to some of the children. The Maltese "crash courses" also saw the schoolchildren learn about life in Malta and the country's history and geography. They listened to parts of 'Little Red Riding Hood' in German and Maltese and had great fun counting in Maltese up to ten. The pupils, aged nine, received a gift sponsored by the Malta Tourism Authority and a personalised language diploma.

In parallel activities for adults, European embassies and cultural institutes in Berlin organised a ride through the city on five cycle rickshaws. At different main squares the public was engaged in language games, including Maltese, with the aim of promoting multilingualism. The activities were broadcast on Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg TV station. The Maltese embassy in Berlin this year was in

charge of coordinating all the preparations for the joint activities, which were held on the initiative of the association of European National Institutes of Culture (EUNIC) and the Representation of the European Commission in Berlin.

## The Embassy of Malta in the State of Kuwait celebrates Malta's National Day

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On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September, the Embassy of the Republic of Malta in The State of Kuwait celebrated Malta's National Day in a grand reception in Kuwait City.

Guest of honour at the event was H.E. Anas Al-Saleh, The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and also in attendance was Dr Bader Al-Essa, Minister of Education & Minister of Higher Education, the former Governor of Kuwait City H. E. Sheikh Ali Jaber Al -Sabah and Sheikh Mubarak Fahad Al-Sabah. The presence of such high caliber Kuwaiti dignitaries is indeed unique to such events and is a further testament to the strong bond between the two countries. The function hosted a large number of invited guests in a ballroom decorated in the national colours with a running documentary feature on the sights of Malta and Gozo. A range of marketing material from Malta Enterprise and Finance Malta were on display during the event.

national colours with a running documentary feature on the sights of Malta and Gozo. A range of marketing material from

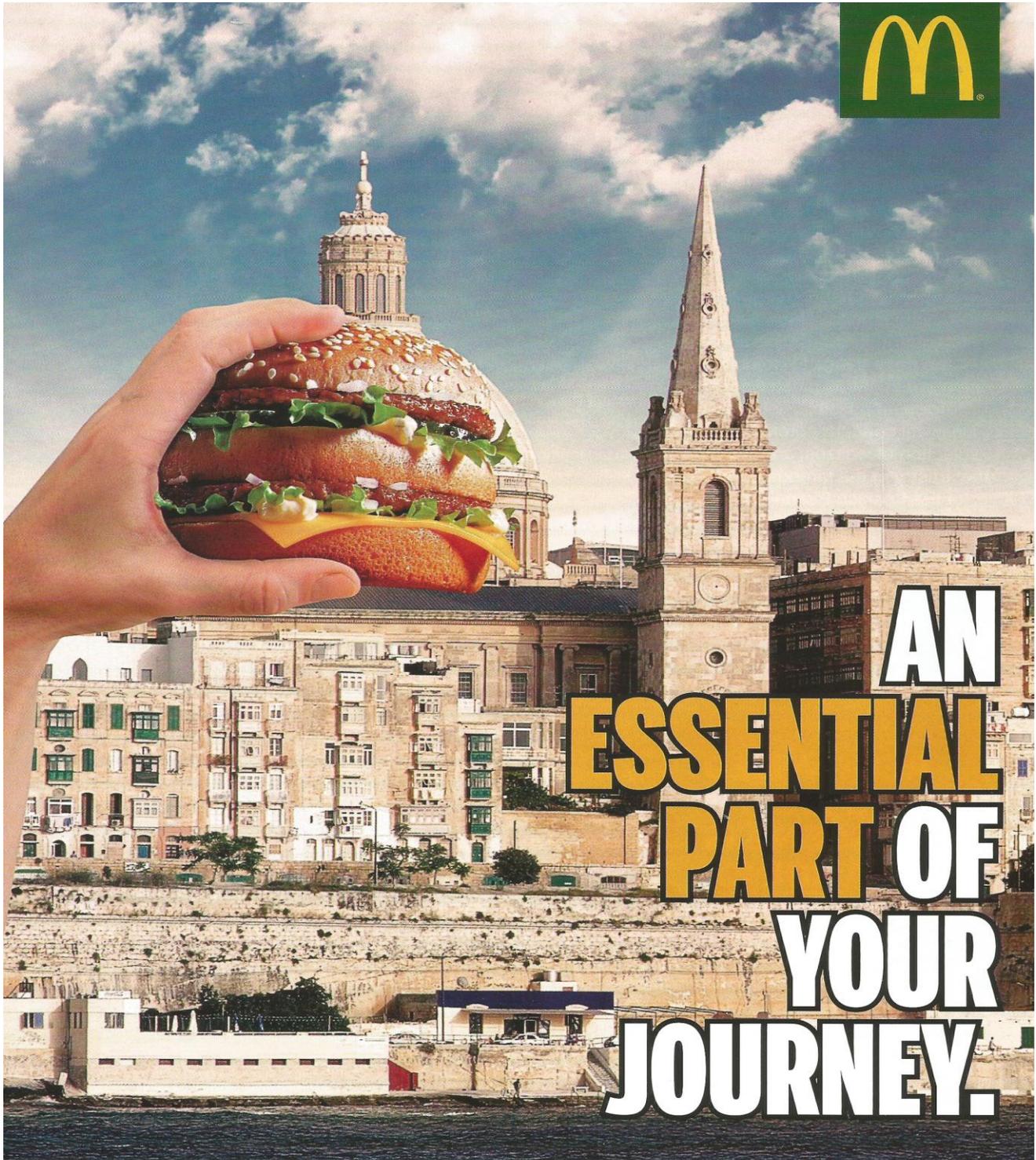
Malta Enterprise and Finance Malta were on display during the event.



The guests included senior Government officials, Diplomats, businessmen from various industry sectors and prominent Kuwaiti citizens.

Ambassador Cole announced that this year's event marks another important milestone for the Embassy, when on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015, the Hon. Dr George W. Vella, Minister for Foreign Affairs officially inaugurated the Consulate of Malta. He reiterated that this would reinforce the strong and close bilateral relations that exist between the Republic of Malta and the State of Kuwait. He went on to say, that both countries have in different times and circumstances,

expressed and extended mutual solidarity when the occasion presented itself. These excellent relations are based on a solid foundation of genuine trust and mutual respect marked by historical events which will endure the test of time. Judging by the number and mix of guests that attended the event and the coverage received in no less than five major newspapers, Malta is well and truly on the Kuwaiti radar.

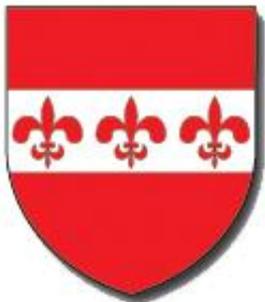


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## BIG MAC REPLACING THE BIG DOME?



**MALTESE SUBURB - SANTA VENERA**



**Santa Venera** is a town in the [Central Region of Malta](#), with a population of around 6,932 (March 2014). It is located between the towns of [Birkirkara](#) and [Hamrun](#), and it also borders with [Qormi](#) and [Msida](#). Santa Venera is a densely populated town situated between the two busy towns of Birkirkara and Hamrun. The most famous landmark of Santa Venera are most certainly the Wignacourt Aqueducts, which are perfectly preserved along this stretch. The Aqueducts were built in 1611-1615 by Grand Master Wignacourt to transport water all the way from Rabat to Valletta using gravitational force.

Alongside the arches lifting this Aqueduct is Casa Leoni, a palace dating from 1730 which was built by Grand Master Antonio Manoel de Vilhena. Visit the public garden surrounding this palace. In Romeo Romano garden you can enjoy a small exhibition of ancient tools used in agriculture. There is also a well kept old water mill, while in another part of the garden there is a farmhouse which is open to the public.

From the year 1912 the Carmelite friars ran the old Church of Santa Venera, which became a Parish six years later. Due to the rapid increase in population, the friars built a new church which was consecrated as the new Parish Church of the locality in 2005.

*More informtion: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa\\_Venera](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Venera)*

