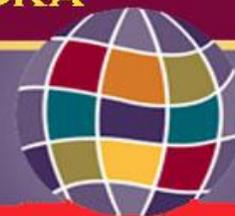


THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

MALTESE NEWSLETTER



BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN MALTESE ALL OVER THE WORLD



**MALTA: 'NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN'**

Malta GC — the island nation awarded the George Cross for the gallantry of its people under siege in the early years of World War 2 is renowned also for its care of the wounded in World War 1.

A new memorial recognising this chapter in Malta's history has been installed in Prospect Memorial Garden. It carries the names of 18 South Australians who were buried on Malta after dying of wounds from the Gallipoli campaign

It is most fitting that the Maltese Community in South Australia are amongst those doing something special to commemorate the lives lost in World War 1 and to share their memories and thoughts with today's generations

The memorial (pictured above) was unveiled by the RSL state president, Brigadier Tim Hanna, accompanied by the president of the Maltese sub-branch, Mr. Charlie Farrugia a veteran of the Royal Malta Artillery.

"Almost 58,000 ANZACs were taken to Malta — 4,000 alone May 1915 after the first weeks of the landings — to be treated for their wounds," Brig. Hanna said. "This contribution resulted Malta becoming known as the Nurse of the Mediterranean.

He added that Maltese immigrants had contributed significantly to the multicultural character of contemporary Australia. A commemorative book **MALTA AND THE ANZACS – THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN**, edited by Frank Scicluna, was also published to record this period of WW1 and to remember the Australian and New Zealand soldiers who are buried in Malta.

(*SIGNAL – RSL South Australia magazine 2015*) OBTAIN A COPY OF THE BOOK NOW – Email: [honconsul@live.com.au](mailto:honconsul@live.com.au)



## Josephine Zammit Cordina – Actress and Broadcaster

Mrs Zammit Cordina brought a slice of life in Australia to our television screens and gave our emigrants the sense of nostalgia they craved. Maria Stivala interviews Josephine Zammit Cordina

Hers is the name that is synonymous with the popular TV programme *Waltzing Matilda*. Josephine Zammit Cordina is the woman that has bridged the Maltese community in Australia with that in Malta, bringing to our TV screens the life of a typical Maltese family in Oz. "It simply fascinates me that our Maltese brothers and sisters in Australia have never forgotten about their roots. They are very proud of their homeland and I love to showcase that." Josephine said. The never-ending cyclical journey to Australia started in 1988 when she produced a radio programme for SBS Radio Australia, a series of 28 episodes about the Grand Masters of the Order of St John in Malta. The production of the show ignited a sense of belonging to the Maltese community of people who are living so far away from their homeland.

"I can empathise with these people," she said, recalling the days when she and her family emigrated to Egypt and then to the UK, following her father Carmelo Gauci when he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps. "Living away from the country you were born and raised in, is definitely not easy... being away from the rest of your family and in a place that is culturally different to what is familiar to you..." She also recalls the emotional moments when she would be back on the island after a long journey by sea. "I would almost want to jump off the boat as soon as I saw Malta, I couldn't get here fast enough... it was almost as if Malta was beckoning us with joy, welcoming her children back home."

*Waltzing Matilda* premiered almost 18 years ago and has been airing both in the summer and winter schedules ever since. Her prime aim was and still remains, to make the Maltese audience more aware of our compatriots offshore. Along the same analogy, Josephine has been producing and presenting the famous radio program *il-boomerang* for the past 29 years, carrying the same concept.

"*Waltzing Matilda* and *il-boomerang* give me an opportunity to show people's individual stories and their accomplishments and ultimately rekindle their nostalgia towards our much-loved island". Whether you are a priest, a farm man or an author, Josephine is interested in everyone's story. It is for this reason that attracted such a remarkable audience for all these years. Notably, she received a number of honours for her dedication to the Maltese expatriates in Australia including, The Midalja Għall-Qadi tar-Republika in 1995, Honorary member of the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2003 and recently Gieh il-Hamrun in May 2011.

"I dedicated my life to these programmes," she confessed. As women always do, we started to talk about our families. She recalls leaving her husband and children to go to theatre rehearsals, or her weekly appointments with emigrants who return to Malta for a holiday. "It was never easy, leaving Harry and the children. But I never gave up, I am a fighter." She persevered through the odds and succeeded.

**WHO IS JOSEPHINE ZAMMIT CORDINA?** Born at Hamrun, Josephine Zammit Cordina attended the secondary school in Sliema, the British School at Suez in Egypt, and the Secretarial College, Reading, UK. Cordina is a well-known actress for television, and stage productions. She presented and directed several programmes for both radio and television. She is currently producing *Waltzing Matilda*, a very popular TV programme about Maltese in Australia on Maltese and Australian TV Programs.

In 1987 Zammit Cordina was in Canada where she featured in a ten hour telethon for cable TV in Ontario, Canada in aid of the *Dar tal-Providenza, Siggiewi*. In 1988 she produced for SBS Radio Australia a series of 28 programmes about the Grand Masters of the Order of St John in Malta, entitled "*Minn L-Isle Adam sa Hompesh*". She was member of the Film and Stage Censorship Board (1988-91) and of the *Kummissjoni għal-Maltin ta' Barra* (1991-94). In 1995 she was appointed chairperson.

In 1993 Zammit Cordina was awarded the Manoel de Vilbena Award by the Harmonic 65 Culture Centre of Melbourne, Australia for her outstanding contribution to the propagation of Maltese arts and culture in that country. In 1995 she was awarded the Midalja Għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika (MQR). On Australia day January 26 2004, the Australian Government has awarded Mrs. Josephine Zammit Cordina with the Australia Medal of Honorary Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia. She is married to Harry.

Source: *maltamigration.com* *Maltese Biographies of the Twentieth Century* (1997), editors Michael J. Schiavone and Louis J. Scerri

## ZFIN MALTA PERFORMS IN NEW DELHI, INDIA



*John Aquilina introducing the Zfin Malta Ensemble performance*

Reference Number: , Press Release Issue Date: Sep 07, 2015

The capacity audience at the Azad Bhavan Auditorium, New Delhi, sat in silent rapture, enthralled by the rhythmic movements of the dancers who comprised the internationally renowned Malta Dance Ensemble, ZFIN MALTA. The occasion was part of the External Cultural Programme arranged by Malta leading up to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2015.

John Aquilina U.O.M., Malta's High Commissioner to India, introduced the performance by highlighting the work which Malta was undertaking

in its preparation for CHOGM, and the high hopes that Malta has of attracting large government and business contingents, not only from India, but also from other SAARC Commonwealth countries, notably Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

Formal invitations had been sent to 500 especially selected guests, along with thousands of email invitations forwarded to a wider audience. "I was stunned by the response," said John Aquilina. "The audience included not only persons resident in Delhi, but also many from much farther afield, including Mr M. Shoeb Chowdhury, Malta's Honorary Consul to Bangladesh, who flew from Dhaka to Delhi specifically for the performance."

The people who attended comprised a vast range of India's business and entertainment community, including a number of well-known Indian experts on classical dance.

Also present was a large contingent of India's diplomatic core, including the High Commissioner of Bangladesh and the Ambassadors of Bulgaria, Colombia, Egypt, Iceland, Kuwait, Lithuania, Slovakia, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe. In addition, Cultural Attachés and Consular Officials also attended from the EU Delegation, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, Indonesia, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovenia, Suriname and Sweden.

The nine dancers dazzled the audience with an hour long contemporary adaptation of Mallarmé's 1876 'L'Après-midi d'un Faune' and Debussy's 1894 Prélude a L'Après-midi d'un Faune. The intricate dance was brilliantly choreographed by the ensemble's artistic director and lead dancer, Mavin Khoo, to the tune of a resonant composition by Malta's Renzo Spiteri, and a narrative adaptation by Giuliana Fenech.

"After I forwarded the invitations I received many phone calls from persons wanting to know what the dance was all about. I am sure that many came along out of goodwill, not really confident about what to expect," Mr Aquilina said.

"However, by the end of the performance, not a single person was left in any doubt.

"The ovation lingered for longer than five minutes, occasioning four curtain calls," Mr Aquilina said.

<https://foreignaffairs.gov.mt/>



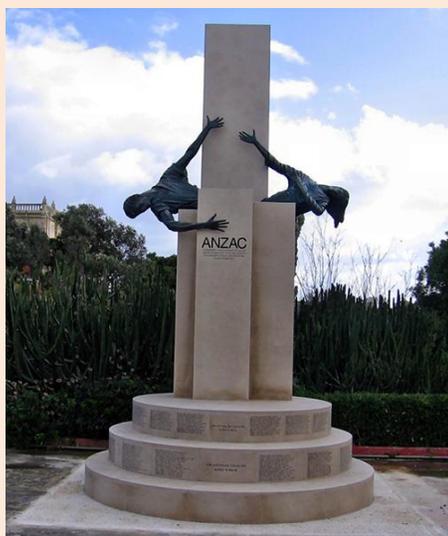
## Bonello Nicholas OAM

Nicholas was born at Hal Balzan, Malta. He was educated at the government schools of Lija/Balzan/Attard, and at Birkirkara. He attended St Mary's College, Bormla. In January 1941, he entered H.M.Dockyard as an apprentice boiler-maker where he attended the dockyard technical school.

He migrated to Australia in December 1954 with his wife Desdemona and children Carmen, Anthony and Monica and settled in Sydney. He served as a court interpreter for a number of years.

In the sports field, he was a soccer referee from 1955/64.

He was very active within the Maltese Community of Sydney, and served in many of the Maltese Associations then existing in Sydney, amongst them in various positions on the Melita Eagles Football Club managing Committee. He was co-founder of the Maltese Herald, which was first published in Sydney in 1961.



He served on the first Maltese Community Council of NSW. He is also co-founder of the Bajda W Hamra Association in Sydney (now defunct). He returned to Malta in 1973.

Served as High Commissioner for Malta in Australia during 1986/7

In 1974 he instigated the founding of the Maltese Australian Association in Malta, of which he was the co-founder. He served continuously in various positions on the managing committee of the same Association.

- Chairman-ANZAC Memorial Committee-Malta.
- Former High Commissioner for Malta to Australia
- Co-founder of the Maltese Herald of Australia in 1961
- Founder of the Maltese Australian Association-Malta 1974
- Honoured by the Government of Australia by the Order Of Australia OAM Originator of the idea to erect a memorial to WW1 ANZAC's who are buried in Malta. Such Memorial was Inaugurated on 25 th May 2013 at the Argotti Botanical Gardens in Floriana - Malta.  
[Source: Dr Charles Savona Ventura]

**(From left) H.E. Anne Lambert – Australian High Commissioner, Mr. Nicholas Bonello – Chairman, ANZAC Memorial Committee, Malta, Mrs. Vella and Hon Dr. George Vella – Minister for Foreign Affairs**



## INDEPENDENCE DAY

Malta gained its political Independence from Britain on the 21st of September 1964. On the night of the 20-21st September, the Maltese flag was raised at Independence Arena, Floriana, amidst the cheers of the large crowd present. Malta had become an independent nation

## MALTESE COMMUNITY CELEBRATES TRADITIONAL FEAST IN ISTANBUL



Reference Number:

Press Release Issue

Date: Sep 09, 2015

On 8th September 2015, the Consulate General of the Republic of Malta in Istanbul, Turkey invited members of the Maltese Community, Maltese descendents and holders of Maltese and Turkish Nationality to celebrate the Feast of the Birth of Our Lady,

known in Malta as "Il-Bambina". The Consul General, Mr Reuben Gauci, said that Malta and Turkey has enjoyed excellent diplomatic relations immediately following Malta's attainment of Independence. He said that a lot of Maltese Nationals have visited Turkey and some of them, like those present at the reception, have chosen to live in Turkey.

The Consul General made reference to the Maltese Painter Amadeo Preziosi, who migrated to Istanbul in 1842 and lived there for the rest of his life, making paintings of the city and of Ottoman life in the period. Some of his paintings are very famous today. He also mentioned the renowned Maltese writer and scholar Patri Manuel Magri S.J. who lived and taught in Istanbul in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and even took his vows as a Jesuit there. Mr Gauci also made reference to the Maltese who migrated to Turkey throughout the years taking note that a Turkish National with Maltese descent was among those present at the reception.

Finally, the Consul General said that on 8 September, the Maltese celebrated the end of two Great Sieges, one against the Ottoman forces and in a much later date against the Axis powers. He said that the Ottoman Empire had nonetheless left an important mark on Mediterranean history, being inclusive of a number of faiths and having hosted the Jewish communities who were banished from the Spanish Empire in 1492, with Malta being subject to this Empire at the time. The Reception took place at the Little Sisters of the Poor, Home for the Elderly, in Şişli Bomonti, Istanbul.

**Dear Frank,**

**I wish to acknowledge receipt of your book Malta and the ANZACS THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN which I have just received. I will be presenting it at the Executive meeting and for the same to be placed in the MCCV Library. I have my own copy at home and I have enjoyed reading it as well as going through the various photographs in the book. Congratulations it is a job well done and I am sure that everyone will enjoy reading it.**

**Victor Borg  
President'**

**Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc (MCCV)**

**SIMPLE MALTESE TRADITIONAL RECIPES**  
**GALLETTI \* BIGILLA \* BISKUTTINI TAR-RAHAL**



**Galletti**

**Ingredients**

- 15g. fresh yeast or the equivalent in easy blend or dried yeast
- 150 – 175 ml. warm water
- 200g. plain flour
- pinch of salt
- 150g. semolina
- 25g. butter

**Method**

Cream the yeast in water, sieve the flour and salt into a bowl, add the semolina rub in the butter, add the yeast and enough water until you have a pliable but rather dry dough, work a little dough at a time, keeping the rest in a refrigerator to retard the rising, roll out very thinly on a floured board and cut into rounds using a plain 5m cutter, prick each biscuit with a fork and lay on a floured baking sheet, bake at 200c / 400/ F/gas mark 6 until just coloured, cool on a wire tray, when completely cold store in a airtight tin.

**Bigilla**

**Ingredients**

- 450g dried broad beans
- 2tsp. chopped parsley
- 1 garlic crushed
- 1 chili pepper
- a dash of harissa
- 1 tbsp of mixed fresh mint, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp olive oil

**Method** Soak beans overnight replace water. add salt to taste. Place in a saucepan on the stove bring to boil or simmer until beans are soft mash beans and place them

in a serving dish Pour olive oil on top Add other ingredients to taste. Serve hot or cold.



**Biskuttini Tar-Rahal**

**Ingredients:**

- 800g flour
- 800g sugar
- 6 eggs
- Flavouring
- Whole cloves

**Method:**

Put the sugar in a food processor and the eggs slowly, 1 every five minutes. Insert the flour, flavouring and whole cloves. Bake in the oven at a medium temperature for 15 minutes. Before serving place some icing on top.



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# RECORD YEAR IN SIGHT FOR AUSSIE CINEMA

Australian cinema is targeting a record year at the box office, with the local industry in its strongest position



since 2001 following a string of big releases this Aussie movies have raked in more \$50 million at local box office far in 2015, according to Screen Australia, on back of the success of productions like Mad Max: Fury Road, Paper Planes and The Water Diviner.



year. than the so the

With homegrown films The Dressmaker, starring Kate Winslet and Liam Hemsworth, and Blinky Bill: The Movie yet to premiere, a record year is on the cards. In 2001, domestic movies made \$63.4 million at the Australia box office.'

Australian film is having an incredible year in cinemas ... demonstrating that audiences are still interested in seeing quality Australian stories told on the big screen,' said Screen Australia's Richard Harris. Local films have gained a more than six per cent share of the domestic cinema market - the Aussie industry's best year since 2001. There has also been strong recognition overseas, with local productions dominating the international film festival circuit.

A total of 13 local productions will be shown at the London Film Festival next month - the largest number of entries since Screen Australia began keeping records - with The Daughter, starring Geoffrey Rush, selected by the British Film Institute to compete for the festival's coveted best film award.

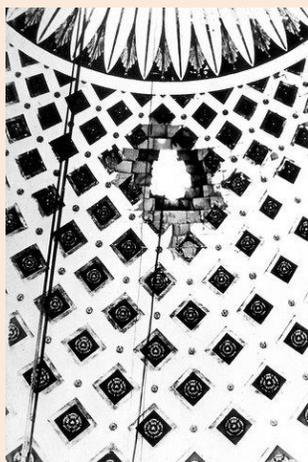
Also featuring in London will be Maya Newell's controversial documentary Gayby Baby. At the Toronto International Film Festival, 13 local films were chosen to feature, the biggest number since 2009. Among the films selected is The Dressmaker, which will make its world premiere during the 10-day event, that began on Thursday. 'Festivals such as Toronto continue to play an important role in gaining profile and international sales for our films,' Richard Harris said. 'The strong festival presence that Australian film has had this year, the largest since 2009, is another great outcome.'

## MALTA - THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

We have just received the lovely book MALTA AND THE ANZACS. What a wonderful work it is! Congratulations and thank you so much for taking the trouble to send it so well packaged! The book will take pride of place in my house and I am keeping it where as many people as possible can see it and know what a great part Malta took in the first World War. But also it is a fantastic opus on your part with so many illustrations and details. Sahniet and xewqat sbieh! Georgina & Reg Scillio (Victoria)

## Mosta Church WW2 Bomb: Myths and Facts 1942

Mosta was in the direct flight path of enemy bombers retreating from or heading to the RAF base at Ta Qali. As a result the town was heavily bombed in the first four months of 1942, and civilian casualties were high. Never before had their faith been more important to the people of Mosta.



At 4 pm on Thursday 9 April 1942 Mosta's parishioners were assembled beneath the beautiful Rotunda of St Marija Assunta for the daily hour of prayer. At the sound of the air raid alarm, many headed for shelter; some preferring to remain in one of the side chapels to pray.

At approximately 1640 hours a 500kg Luftwaffe bomb pierced the dome, smashed into masonry and clattered to the stone floor. It did not explode. The shocked parishioners were ushered out of the Church to safety and no-one was hurt.

A report was telephoned through to Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal of an unexploded bomb in a priority location: inside the Rotunda at Mosta. This designation meant it must be dealt with immediately and personally by one of the two RE Bomb Disposal Officers, Lt T W T Blackwell or Lt G D Carroll.

The disposal of the unexploded bomb at Mosta on 9 April 1942 is logged in the official War Diary of the Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal as UXB report No 2175: priority; 500kg, defuzed and removed. A second bomb was reported on arrival, a 50kg was added to the report as UXB No 2175 (a), defuzed and removed.



### *No 1 Bomb Disposal Section January 1941*

This is not the bomb which penetrated the Rotunda in Mosta. For many years the photograph was believed to show the actual unexploded bomb removed from the church. However, it was taken in January 1941 and shows the Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal Section with a 1000kg bomb. The BD Officer, Lt E E C Talbot (*pictured left*) was killed in October 1941.

**The bomb** - The UXB removed from the church on 9 April 1942 was a 500kg German high explosive. Contrary to rumours, it was not full of sand and did not contain a message of greeting. It was a live bomb, and was

defuzed and removed: all such neutralised bombs were taken to the west coast of Malta and dumped in the sea. The bomb on display in the church today is not the original one but a similar example.

**The removal** - Many who served in Malta during World War 2 have been drawn to return in recent decades. They often identify strongly with Mosta, so much so that some believe they were present on that day in 1942. According to several sources, former RAF and Army servicemen from a range of regiments have stated that they shepherded the congregation out to safety, others that they picked up the bomb and carried it out of the church.

**So who dealt with the Mosta bomb?** - Unfortunately no-one can identify with certainty who tackled the unexploded bomb in the Rotunda, except that it was a Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal Officer. The bomb was then removed by members of the BD squad and dumped in the sea. For them, arriving after people had been led out of the church by their priests, there was no sense of a miracle at the time – this was just one of the many unexploded bombs they were tackling all over the Island in those weeks of intense bombing. <https://maltagc70.wordpress.com/1779-2/>

**SALTPANS IN GOZO**



On the north coast of Gozo, just past Qbajjar Bay west of Marsalforn, the coast is characterised by a chequerboard of rock-cut salt pans protruding into the sea. These 350-year-old salt pans, which stretch about 3km along the coast, are more than just scenic. They are part of the centuries-old Gozitan tradition of Sea-Salt production that has been passed down within certain families for many generations. During the summer months, locals can still be seen scraping up the crystals of salt. Once collected, the salt is stored and processed in the caves that have been carved into the coastal rock. Salt pans, believed to have been used for harvesting sea salt since Roman times, stretch straight to the Mediterranean outside the village of Marsalforn on the island of Gozo. The second largest island in the Maltese archipelago, Gozo is known for its scenic countryside, beautiful beaches, and many churches.

**Mango Festival, India**



A priest arranges an offering of mangoes for the Hindu god Lord Krishna during a mango festival in the western Indian city of Ahmedabad. During India's mango season—around March to June—the so-called King of Fruits is widely sold, celebrated, and, of course, eaten.



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**THE STATUE OF LIBERTY - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**



There are scores of interesting Statue of Liberty facts to consider. Many of these facts relate to the structure's immense size. From the base of the pedestal to the top of the torch, for example, the lofty monument measures 305 feet and six inches. The face alone is eight feet tall, and Lady Liberty's index finger is a little more than eight feet long. In regards to weight, the famous New York City statue is a hefty 450,000 pounds.

As far as the history of the Statue of Liberty is concerned, the famous monument to freedom was officially dedicated on October 28, 1886. The statue itself was constructed in France, while the pedestal was made in the United States. President Grover Cleveland presided over the dedication ceremony. This is somewhat odd when you consider the fact that the same president

vetoed a bill that was intended to provide funds for the statue in 1884.

Certain facets relating to the design of the Statue of Liberty are worth pointing out. One such example is the crown that tops Lady Liberty's head. It features seven rays—one for each of the world's continents. For those who might be wondering about the tablet in the statue's left hand, it is inscribed with the date of the Declaration of Independence, or July 4, 1776. Another design highlight is in reference to the broken chains and shackles that lie at the statue's feet. These mechanisms of restraint represent tyranny and oppression. Lady Liberty herself was modeled after the Roman goddess of freedom—Libertas.

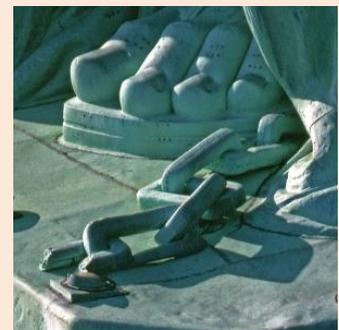
No discussion about interesting Statue of Liberty facts would arguably be complete without mentioning the greenish color of the monument. Originally, the statue's exterior exhibited a rather dull copper color. This is due to the fact that it is sheathed in copper. As copper tends to do when exposed to the elements, the exterior of the Statue of Liberty eventually started to turn green. The green patina began to spread in and around the year 1900, and by 1906, the entire statue had changed color.

Torch

Crown and Face

Tablet and Dates

Chains



**NEW YORK STATE**, one of the original thirteen colonies and the eleventh state to join the Union, has a long and fascinating history that has made for one of the finest places to visit today. New York is a fixture within popular culture, and has been depicted in countless movies, television shows, and books. New York has a varied and interesting geographical boundary, touching lakes, Canada, an ocean, and other states. A New York vacation can include all manner of outdoor adventure.

New York State is unofficially divided into "upstate" and "downstate" New York. Many consider Upstate New York to include anything other than New York City, and this beautiful part of New York State includes an array of vacationing opportunities such as camping, sightseeing, and touring some of the most scenic cities, towns, and natural points of interest on the East Coast. Many popular New York events take place in the upstate portion of New York.

New York City, situated at the southeastern tip of New York State, is the most populous city in the United States, with a population of 8.2 million within a 321 square-mile area. The city is separated into five boroughs, which include Manhattan, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Staten Island, and Queens. New York City is the global headquarters of the United Nations, and is host to visiting political figures year-round.

Vacations in New York City account for the bulk of New York tourism---and with good reason. New York City is the quintessential metropolis, with its endless cultural, historic, and entertainment venues and big-city skyscrapers and commerce. New York City is home to the Empire State Building, Rockefeller Center, and Yankee Stadium, to name just a scant few. Various New York shows and New York events can be taken in at Madison Square Garden and Broadway and off-Broadway theaters. Visitor accommodations in New York City range from the budget-conscious to the extravagant, and everything in-between, and this city of cities is home to endless restaurants, pubs, and eateries.

Other points of interest abound in New York State. Recommended itinerary items for any New York vacation include Niagara Falls, Buffalo (the state's second-largest city and home to historic sites and a burgeoning culture and arts scene), and the Catskill and Adirondack Mountains. Adirondack State Park in the northeastern portion of New York State is the largest publicly-protected area in the contiguous United States, and its geographical size is larger than Yellowstone, Glacier, Everglades, and Grand Canyon National Parks combined. The Empire Expo Center in Syracuse is home of the New York State Fair and other year-round New York events, and hosts more than 2 million visitors annually.





**PROGRAM:**

**Friday - 2 October: 7.00 pm** Statue processed from the Franciscan Sisters' Regional House to the parish church and a tribute by the Maltese associations

**Saturday - 3 October: 6.30 pm** Roast Meal Buffett at Lockleys Parish Hall

**Sunday - 4 October: 3.00pm** Solemn Mass and procession with the statue and outdoor festivities

**Monday- 5 October: Midday** Mass of thanksgiving and barbeque

**MALTESE CHAPLAINCY FESTIVITIES GROUP**

**Chaplain: Father Grabiell S Micallef OFM**

Chairperson: Joe Cassar, Secretary: Melita Aquilina, Treasurer: Peter Mallia, Public Officer: Mary Saliba, Hospitality: Jane Agius, Outdoor decorations: Joe Caruana, Kitchen: Tony Grima, Auditor: John Bonnici, Liturgy: Charles Zarb and Edgar Agius, Choir: Sister Bonnie Attard, Organist: Lynda Eyerer, Church decorations: Emm and Carmen Monsigneur, Joe and Pauline Monsigneur, Euregene and Jane Agius

## STATUE OF A DIVER MADE FROM PLASTIC BOTTLES RAISES ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

by [www.gozonews.com](http://www.gozonews.com)



When attending the unveiling of a statue in Cirkewwa of a diver made from used plastic bottles organised by DAN EUROPE, an international eNGO, Minister Leo Brincat said that this went beyond what one expects from a normal statue unveiling ceremony.

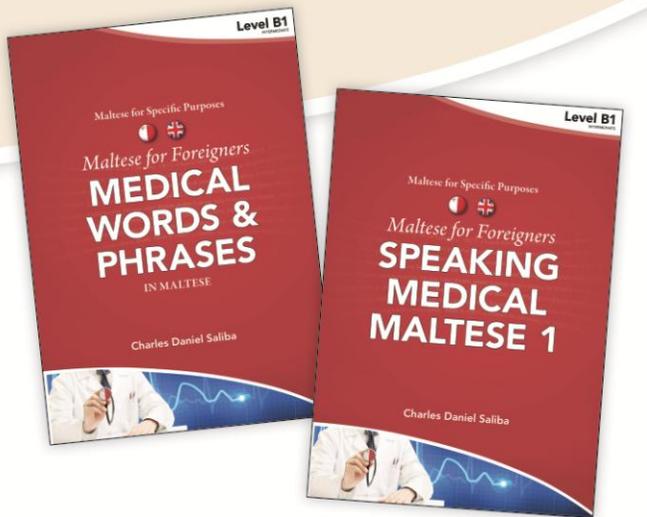
“It underlines the sustainability of their efforts, the sustainability of diving on its own merits, sustainable health care as well as sustainable environment. Particularly since this international NGO is currently conducting a campaign in Malta to show how drinking water can prevent serious health complications for divers.”

Minister Brincat added that on its part the Government is working hard to issue a Request for Proposals regarding the disposal of plastic bottles and aluminium cans, as it committed itself to do in Budget 2015.

“This will continue to enhance Malta’s environment, both on land and sea, creating a better atmosphere for locals and foreigners alike when enjoying our island’s beauty through activities like diving.”

“In a year where there is global commitment towards Ocean Governance it is imperative that sea water pollution and littering should be addressed even more pro-actively since it would be a mistake to think that plastic bottle littering is only a land based issue,” the Minister said. He felt confident that through such creative initiatives it was much easier for NGOs like DAN EUROPE to capture the imagination and grab public attention rather than through conventional run of the mill events of which we have seen far too many,” he said.

## Maltese for Foreigners: Medical Maltese



After publishing the Maltese/English book series entitled Maltese for Foreigners, Charles Daniel Saliba recently completed two new books, *Medical Words & Phrases in Maltese* and *Speaking Medical Maltese 1*, to supplement this series.

*Medical Words & Phrases in Maltese* is a bilingual vocabulary book in Maltese and English that teaches Maltese medical vocabulary and expressions in an easy-to-follow format. Designed in full colour, it includes exercises and activities to teach vocabulary and phrases in a cyclical manner while sharpening the learners’ speaking, reading, writing and listening skills.

*Speaking Medical Maltese 1* contains 24 realistic dialogues, with parallel translations, to help learners practise spoken medical Maltese. After each dialogue there is a box with important phrases and medical expressions and their translations. Saliba has also updated the accompanying CD, with the audio files linked to the books’ content, so learners can listen to native Maltese speakers reading the text and performing the dialogues.

Both books are ideal for medical and healthcare professionals and students who need to use Maltese in their work or study to communicate with patients and colleagues. It is also useful for foreigners living in Malta to learn basic medical terminology.

This year, Saliba, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the University of Sheffield (UK). He specialised in teaching Maltese as a foreign language and was sponsored by the MGSS Scholarship. For more information about each book, please visit [www.charlesdanielsaliba.com](http://www.charlesdanielsaliba.com)

**Domus Australia Roma - Via Cernaia 14 / B, 00185 Roma - Italia**

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Established by the Australian Catholic Church, DOMUS AUSTRALIA is an authentic Italian guest house in central Rome within walking distance to the Spanish Steps and Rome's major cultural attractions. Prior to the commencement of the renovation works, archaeologists undertook "sample digs" looking for historical remains on the Domus Australia site. The remains of a 1st century BC house and pavement were discovered and these finds have been preserved so that guests can view them.

Once the works had commenced a section of the foundation of another very large 1st century building and sewers from the 2nd – 3rd century were unearthed beneath the building. Again we worked with our expert team to ensure that the finds were preserved and where possible are on display for guests.



### Wonderful Artworks

The Chapel and the Domus feature some marvellous artworks, including paintings by award-winning Sydney artist, Paul Newton. Paul created the acclaimed "Our Lady of the Southern Cross" for World Youth Day in Sydney (which hangs in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney) and has completed a new interpretation of Our Lady for the Chapel of St Peter Chanel.

Charting the Australian Catholic experience, Paul Newton's series will also include portraits of pioneers of the Church such as Caroline Chisholm, Father John Therry, Blessed Mary MacKillop and founder of the Archdiocese of Sydney, Archbishop Bede Polding.

Portraits of Pope John Paul II, Cardinal Francis Xavier van Thuan and Mother Theresa and other outstanding Catholic figures with strong ties to Australia will also feature.



### The crucifix by Louis Laumen of Melbourne

Louis Laumen created a life-sized, bronze sculpture of the Crucifixion, which was commissioned by Cardinal George Pell in 2007 and originally placed in the Seminary of the Good Shepherd Chapel in Homebush. Cardinal Pell decided that the Crucifix would be better suited above the high altar of the Domus Australia chapel, so it was shipped to Rome early in 2011.

The Crucifix took four months to create – two months making the clay model, and a further two months working with a foundry team to complete the moulding and casting work. Louis works primarily with bronze, and uses an

ancient 'lost-wax-casting' process, which was developed in China and dates back to 2000 BC.

This process was used by the ancient Greeks, it was used in the Renaissance, and it is still used today because it gets a level of detail that you can't get in any other process. [www.domusaustralia.org](http://www.domusaustralia.org)

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## THE GLORIOUS HERITAGE OF MALTA

Malta's geographical and cultural qualities intrigue many. It is mostly due to its glorious historical heritage influenced by its past rulers that all have left their imprint on these islands.

The strategic importance of Malta was recognized by the Phoenicians, who occupied it, as did, in turn, the Greeks, Carthaginians, and Romans.

The apostle Paul was shipwrecked there in A.D. 60. With the division of the Roman Empire in A.D. 395, Malta was assigned to the eastern portion dominated by Constantinople. Between 870 and 1090, it came under Arab rule. In 1091, the Norman noble Roger I, then ruler of Sicily, came to Malta with a small retinue and defeated the Arabs. The Knights of St. John (Malta), who obtained the three habitable Maltese islands of Malta, Gozo, and Comino from Charles V in 1530, reached their highest fame when they withstood an attack by superior Turkish forces in 1565.

Napoléon seized Malta in 1798, but the French forces were ousted by British troops the next year, and British rule was confirmed by the Treaty of Paris in 1814.

Traces of the British presence on the islands are still present and range from driving on the left to the military bases used during the Second World War, and displays <http://margeritagozo.com/>

of pure Maltese style can be seen in the vast majority of houses, looking up to the colourful enclosed wooden balconies.

***Gozo and Comino, the other islands of the archipelago, are significantly different from mainland Malta, as well as from each other.***

**Gozo** is a rural island, where people are friendly and have a simple countryside life. Its highlights are the uncontaminated wildness of its nature, the clearness of its water and a non-negligible cultural and architectonic patrimony. Prehistoric temples, sandy coastline, cliffs and creeks attracts tourist coming to Malta for a few days, although it would be worth to stay in Gozo much longer to fully experience its relaxed rhythms and customs.

**Comino** was the Knights of the Order of Saint John's game reserve, and as a military outpost to protect the sister islands from piracy and invaders. Nowadays it is one of the favourite destinations for cruises that takes tourists to its famous Blue Lagoon, from where it is possible to see one of the most suggestive views of Malta skyline and features. The bay's name is no coincidence, its water are deep blue, and ideal for snorkelling and diving.

## Turnbull sworn in as new Australian Prime Minister



**Malcolm Turnbull has been sworn in as the 29th Prime Minister of Australia after a leadership challenge saw the ouster of Tony Abbott few days ago (Sept 2015).**

Mr Turnbull's Liberal Party colleagues voted 54-44 to replace Mr Tony Abbott during a surprise ballot on Monday.

He becomes the nation's fourth leader in a little over two years, but despite division in his party, Mr Turnbull says he will lead a "very strong government".

## JOSEPHINE ZAMMIT CORDINA Rapport: Fiorella Pace



Il-preżentatriċi, attriċi u xandara vetterana Josephine Zammit Cordina għandha 80 sena. Fl-istess żmien se tiċċelebra 51 sena fix-Xandir Nazzjonali. Għadha kemm habbret li ser tirtira mix-xogħol tagħha dalwat.

Josephine Zammit Cordina, isimha hu marbut b'mod partikolari mal-Maltin tal-Awstralja għax ilha għal dawn l-aħħar 30 sena tipproduċi u tippreżenta l-programm tar-radju Il-Boomerang u għal 18-il sena fuq it-televiżjoni pproduċiet u ppreżentat il-programm Waltzing Matilda u għamlet 'il fuq

minn 400 programm. Waltzing Matilda kien jintwera wkoll fl-Awstralja u kien popolari mal-immigranti Maltin tant li kienu jarawh madwar 50,000 persuna.

Minħabba li Josephine għadha tagħmel il-programm tar-radju Il-Boomerang, għadha f'kuntatt sew mal-Maltin tal-Awstralja. Il-karriera ta' Josephine fix-xandir bdiet ftit jiem wara li għalqet 29 sena u bdiet bix-xandiriet għall-iskejjel.

Josephine Zammit Cordina għamlet karriera wkoll tirreċta fuq il-palk, għaddiet għar-radioplays u għad-drama fuq it-televixin. Hija f'adett sehem f'għadd ta' serje televiżivi, fosthom F'Baħar Wieħed, Leli ta' Haż Żgħir, Meta jonfoħ ix-Xlokk, Dejjem tiegħek Becky u DejaVu.

Josephine qaltilna li minkejja li meta kienet iżgħar qatt ma bassret li se jkollha karriera twila fix-xandir, dejjem kienet tiegħu sehem fir-reċta tal-iskola.

Mistoqsija x'inhuma l-isbaħ mumenti tal-50 sena karriera fix-xandir, Josephine semmiet ir-rikonoxximent li ngħatat permezz ta' għadd ta' awards u midalji fosthom il-Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika.

Josephine waqt li rringrazzjat lil dawk kollha li dejjem appoġġjawha u f'admu magħha qalet li hija kburiya li tul dawn il-50 sena, kienet u baqgħet leali lejn ix-Xandir Nazzjonali.

## Mdina



### Mdina, Malta's silent city

Mdina is a fortified medieval town enclosed in bastions, located on a large hill in the centre of Malta. The town was the old capital of Malta, and with its narrow streets, few inhabitants and beautiful views over the Island it is truly a magical town. Mdina is referred to as the "Silent City" by Maltese and visitors alike - no cars (except those of a limited number of residents) have permission to enter Mdina and the town provides a relaxing atmosphere among the visitors walking its narrow streets and

alleyways.

Mdina has a small population of around 250 people who live at 0.9km<sup>2</sup>, within the city walls. In contrast, outside the city walls, the village of Rabat is just a step away, and has

a population of over 11,000 people. The medieval town of Mdina presents a mix of Norman and Baroque architecture and is the home to many palaces, most of which today serve as private homes. The large and striking Cathedral of the Conversion of St. Paul stands in the main square of the town.

Mdina was first inhabited and fortified around 700 BC by the Phoenicians and was at that time called Maleth. Mdina benefits from its good location on the island's highest point, far away from the sea. Under the Roman Empire the Roman governor built his palace in Mdina and it is said that even St. Paul stayed there after he was shipwrecked in Malta.

It was the Normans who surrounded the city with its thick defensive fortifications and they also widened the moat around Mdina. After an earthquake in 1693, there was the need to redesign parts of the city. This introduced Baroque designs within the city, and the Knights of Malta rebuilt the cathedral as well as the Magisterial Palace and Palazzo Falzon.

The gate that stands at the entrance today is not the original entrance; the bridge was built later on to enable cars and people to enter Mdina. The original entrance gate stands approximately 100 meters to the left.

Visit Mdina after dark: Take a walk around the old Capital City of Mdina. Get to know the facts about important buildings, hear some fascinating tales and historical gossip. Mdina is the pivot of Malta's 7000 year history, and Prehistoric remains in the area can vouch for this. Go around the narrow, winding roads of medieval Mdina, while appreciating the baroque buildings the Knights have left us. Amazing views from the Belvedere shows off the beauty of Malta by night.



Hi Frank

Reading the newsletter I saw the part about the person wanting to learn Maltese. There was a good list of books, but I wanted to add that there are also online resources which can be useful especially in pronunciation. Here are some sites :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGHIMGnJARY>

<http://www.digitaldialects.com/Maltese.htm>

<http://ilanguages.org/maltese.php>

There are other sites available if you Google as well (I used "learn Maltese online" and got a lot of hits) and I would also very much recommend listening/viewing Maltese television and radio. Programs are available online both live and on demand by following links at <http://www.tvn.com.mt>

all the best Rosanne

WE WELCOME ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS FROM OUR READERS



Somewhere in Malta

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