


THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

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THE SPIRIT
LIVES
2014 - 2018

Anzac Day in Malta 25 April 2017

In accordance with long-standing tradition in Malta, the High Commission will hold a commemorative and wreath-laying ceremony on Anzac Day at Pieta Military Cemetery, commencing at 10.30am on Tuesday, 25 April 2017. The event will be co-hosted by the Australian High Commission and the New Zealand Honorary Consulate. On this occasion the President, H.E. Mrs Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, will be in attendance to represent the Government of Malta at the ceremony, we anticipate there will also be a number of VIPs and members of the Diplomatic Corps who will attend the ceremony.

The general public is welcome to attend. Queries can be directed to Sofia Galvan, (+356) 2133 8201 ext. 107 or at aushicom@onvol.net The commemoration will run quite similarly to the event held last year



ANZAC DAY CEREMONY AT PIETA CEMETERY MALTA

This month in history: Malta's George Cross – 15 April 1942

'To honour the brave people'



On 15 April 1942, King George VI awarded the people of Malta the George Cross in recognition of their continuing and heroic struggle against repeated and continuous attacks during World War 2.

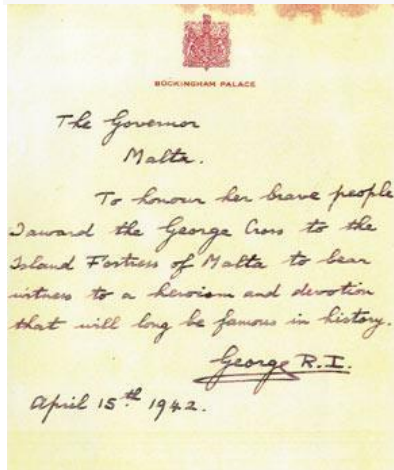
Malta was the first British Commonwealth country to receive the bravery award, which is usually given to individuals, and is second only in rank to the Victoria Cross. The George Cross was 'intended primarily for civilians and award in Our military services is to be confined to actions for which purely military Honours are not normally granted.'

Why was Malta so crucial to both the Allies and Axis?

The island was of vital strategic importance for the Allies to sustain their North African campaign, being situated between Italy and North Africa. The Navy's Force K was based at Malta, from where ships and RAF aircraft could attack Axis convoys trying to supply

their forces in North Africa.

Since 1940, Malta had been under almost constant attack from German and Italian aircraft, day and night. Field Marshal Kesselring made his plans for Malta quite public – that he wanted the island to be taken, and that his 2nd Air Corps (Fliegerkorps II) was capable of achieving this. An invasion in 1941 was foiled when coast defenders spotted Italian torpedo boats.



In early 1942, Hitler ordered Malta to be 'neutralised' in preparation for a German invasion. The Luftwaffe carried out hundreds of air raids on the island, and from January to July 1942, there was only one 24-hour period when no bombs fell on the island.

Malta holds the record for suffering the heaviest, sustained bombing attack of WW2 – 154 days and nights and 6,700 tons of bombs. During the entire time, the island's population of 270,000 were unerring in their refusal to capitulate.

How did conditions affect the people of Malta?

Food was in extremely short supply, fuel was restricted to military use, and ammunition was running so low that only a few rounds could be fired each day from anti-aircraft guns.

The people of Malta were on the brink of starvation, and spent so much time in underground shelters that health standards declined, and malnutrition and scabies became widespread. Medical supplies were also scarce. Whole families dug their way into the sandstone, and made homes in stifling underground shelters.

The war left the island devastated, with over 10,000 buildings damaged or destroyed, and the docks at Valetta heavily damaged. Thousands were injured, and it took several decades to rebuild the economy.

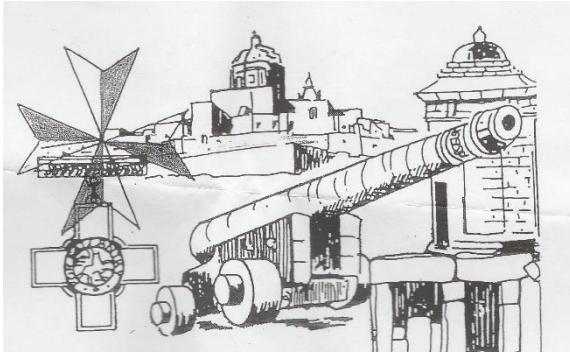
Why the George Cross?

The George Cross was instituted by King George VI in September 1940 as a replacement for the Empire Gallantry Medal, and as a civilian equivalent of the Victoria Cross. It was awarded for 'acts of the greatest heroism or of the most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme danger' and 'which we desired should be highly prized and eagerly sought after'.

The award for the island of Malta was announced by Buckingham Palace with the publication of a citation written in the King's hand in a letter to General Sir William Dobbie (GCMG, KCB, DSO), the governor of Malta. The award was not, however, formally gazetted.

In his message to the island's governor, King George VI said: **"To honour her brave people I award the George Cross to the Island Fortress of Malta, to bear witness to a heroism and a devotion that will long be famous in history."**

Dobbie accepted the award with these words: "By God's help Malta will not weaken but will endure until victory is won."



The George Cross was formally presented to the people and garrison at a ceremony on the Palace Square in Valletta on Sunday 13 September. The delay was due to the need to wait for the raids to have declined in intensity. Dobbie had been replaced due to ill health by John Vereker, 6th Viscount Gort VC, KCB, DSO, MC, who took the George Cross to the island.

The end of the siege

In May 1942, Germany prematurely declared that Malta had been 'neutralised' and diverted the Luftwaffe elsewhere. In the brief lull that followed, over 60 RAF Spitfires arrived on the island, together with other reinforcements.

Conditions started to steadily improve for the people of Malta, as supplies began to get through. On 15 August 1942, a British convoy, Operation Pedestal, fought its way to the Grand Harbour to bring 32,000 tons of supplies to the islanders. It became known as the Santa Marija Convoy, after the national religious festival. There were heavy casualties and much damage to the escorted convoy due to constant aircraft and submarine attacks; of the 14 merchant ships that set out, only 5 survived, and 4 warships were also sunk.

For his actions during Operation Pedestal, Vice-Admiral Edward Syfret was knighted for his 'bravery and dauntless resolution in fighting an important Convoy through to Malta in the face of relentless attacks by day and night from enemy submarines, aircraft, and surface forces.'

The George Cross was awarded to Captain Dudley William Mason, master of the fuel-carrying tanker Ohio: 'The violence of the enemy could not deter the Master from his purpose. Throughout he showed skill and courage of the highest order and it was due to his determination that, in spite of the most persistent enemy opposition, the vessel, with her valuable cargo, eventually reached Malta and was safely berthed.'

Other awards, from the Distinguished Service Order to Mentions in Despatches, to mark the bravery of those who were part of the convoy, were gazetted on 6 November 1942.

Germany launched another all-out offensive to take the island in October 1942, which failed. The siege of Malta was finally lifted in May 1943, when the Axis forces faced defeat in North Africa.

The George Cross is woven into Malta's flag on the upper left-hand corner, clearly visible when the flag is flown.

King George VI's message and the cross are on display in the War Museum in Fort Saint Elmo, Valletta.



Identity Malta taking years to process Maltese citizenship applications

The Maltese government agency, Identity Malta, has been inundated with applications for Maltese citizenship and is struggling to cope with the volume. The agency is responsible for the processing of such applications which have drastically increased over the last years.

In an article published on 23 January 2017, the Times of Malta reported receiving various complaints from applicants complaining that their requests for citizenship have been “stuck for years” at Identity Malta. The newspaper was informed that the number of applications “through the normal channels” have more than doubled in the last five years.

While refusing to give information on how many applications were currently pending at Identity Malta, a spokeswoman for the agency said that last year “the number of applications for Maltese citizenship increased by 53 per cent when compared to 2011”.

Excluding applications related to the scheme selling Maltese passports – technically known as the Individual Investor Programme – Identity Malta said that in 2016 the agency received 1,233 applications for citizenship by registration and another 410 applications for citizenship by naturalisation. At the same time, the agency said that during 2016, the agency processed a total of 1,641 applications out of which 333 were turned down.

The previous week, the same newspaper reported the story of a mother, Ms Elena Spagnol, originally from Russia, who obtained Maltese citizenship five years ago complaining that her children’s applications had been ‘stuck’ at Identity Malta for four years.

She complained that “the agency is a mess” and asked the responsible minister (Dr Owen Bonnici) to intervene and get the agency’s act together. The Russian woman, who became a Maltese citizen more than five years ago after marrying a Maltese man, said that despite spending hours queuing to ask Identity Malta about the state of the applications of her two children, aged 20 and 12, the only response she got was that she still had to wait. She said that she applied for her children to be given Maltese citizenship more than four years ago. She claimed that they have a right to citizenship because she is already Maltese. However, every time she sent to Identity Malta to ask about the status of the applications, she was told to wait and that the applications are still being processed.

“How can an application take four years to be settled? We are dealing with human beings here. It’s not acceptable that this state of affairs continues in a supposedly modern European country,” Ms Spagnol said.

She said Identity Malta officials came up with “all imaginable types of excuses”. On two occasions she was even told they had lost their applications, she added. Ms Spagnol said she decided to speak to the *Times of Malta* because the situation was “really becoming intolerable”.

Her elder son, who has been living in Malta for 11 years and works for a private company, was informed by his boss that if he did not become a Maltese citizen by 21 he would be fired, she said.

Ms Spagnol said, though, judging by Russian friends’ experiences, the process of citizenship took long in some cases, she knew of nobody else who had to wait for four years. “It seems I’m not lucky enough to know some politician”, she said.

A number of people contacted the Times of Malta following the publication of the mother’s story, recounting similar experiences.

“It seems that if you don’t have €650,000 to buy a passport, the Maltese government treats you like a second class applicant,” said a British passport holder, who qualifies for dual citizenship. “The problem is that since I placed my application more than two and a half years ago, I have been completely left in the dark over its status,” he said.

An Italian citizen who said she qualified for a Maltese passport through marriage said she has been going through the process for three years. “Every time I go to the office (in Valletta) to ask why it’s taking so long, the officers just tell me that they can’t cope and we have to wait.”

Sources at Identity Malta told the *Times of Malta* that the agency is understaffed. “The agency’s officials have been asking for additional staff for the last two years. However, it seems that the government is only interested in giving a sterling service to these applying to buy citizenship while all the others have to wait,” the sources said.

The issue was also raised in Parliament with MPs from both sides of the House submitted parliamentary questions asking about the state of applications of various ‘future’ constituents. In his answers, Minister Owen Bonnici told MPs that the process was a very rigorous one which takes time.

Maltese citizenship can be acquired through two different processes – either by registration or by naturalisation. However, following the introduction of a specific programme, the Maltese government is also offering citizenship at a price through the Individual Investor Programme.

Interested non-EU citizens will have to pay some €650,000 and buy or rent a residence in Malta in order to qualify. For this category of citizenship, the government is bound by a specific time by when an application is processed and a passport is issued.

[Main Source: timesofmalta.com]



The Samuel brothers, Salvu and Ġuži, were among the best Maltese footballers in the local league of the pre-World War One era.

Charity match heralds birth of Maltese national team in 1912

Carmel Baldacchino

The Maltese national team was officially born in April 1912 but the first seed was really sown a month earlier in a game between the Malta Athletic Club and the Pick Navy XI. That season, the Malta Athletic Club organised the Civilian Football League and, in the absence of a formal body, it assumed the role of a national association. This game received a lot of publicity and it brought together for the first time a Maltese representative XI. It also fostered the idea in the minds of the Maltese of having a national team to represent the country.

The match in question was played under the patronage of vice-admiral Ernest A. Simmons, the senior naval officer in Malta with the aim of raising funds for the relief of the families of the victims of the Submarine A3 disaster. The game was played on a crisp cold day in March 1912 at Corradino in front of a modest crowd of 3,000 spectators.

For this occasion, the two teams lined up as follows: The Navy: Biddlecombes, Wilkinson, Percy Cooper, Holness, Holland, Wyness, Allen, Wallis, McGann, Lamp, Miller. The MAC: Grech, G.C. Bryan, Victor Bonavia, Alex Semini, Thompson, H.H. Selley, J. Bellia, Salvu Samuel, Walter Bonavia, William McAllister, Ġuži Samuel.

This was the first time a full Navy XI played against a Maltese selection. The MAC being a

club and not a national association, chose its team only from its members. The team therefore, could not be considered to be the national XI. Still, it was made up of some of the best footballers in Malta of that period. One must especially mention the brothers Samuel and Bonavia and Scotsman William McAllister. The club gave a good account of itself but the sailors were far more experienced and won 3-0.

The Maltese were not disheartened. There was an abundance of talent in the league but, alas, very little co-ordination and this hampered the development of football. Fortunately, the Maltese learn very quickly and it was not long before our National XI was not only holding its own but also beating the best teams the Services could offer.

The improvement in the Maltese team could be gauged a month later when the MFA League XI made its official debut at the newly-opened Mile End Sports Ground. The game between the Navy and the MAC was a huge success and it served its purpose well as £57 were collected.

This success is evident in the letter of thanks sent by the Navy authorities to the Malta Athletic Club expressing its gratitude the MAC's participation in the charity match.

This letter is reproduced below:

"On behalf of the Committee formed in respect to the Charity Match between the Navy and the Malta Athletic Club on the 2nd March, we are desired to express our grateful thanks to you, your Committee, your players and your interested spectators generally and the thanks of the ranks and ratings at present in Malta representing the Naval element. "We are conscious of the great trouble that the match in question occasioned you." "We are appreciative of the excellent sportsmanlike attitude displayed by your players and are grateful engerally for the support you gave us which culminated in so successful a result in aid of the funds being raised on behalf of the men in the sad loss of the Submarine A3. "The amount of the funds already realised is at present approximately £57." Yours faithfully, C. Be Burgh, Lieutenant R.N President Football Committee



Mons Alfred Vella Malta -CONVENTION 2015

PART 2

Emigration: ties between the past and the present

The contribution of the Catholic Church

In this picture we cannot leave out the contribution of the Catholic Church which was always interested to keep on accompanying all people on the move. There were the missionaries who themselves left their country of origin not to seek a better future but to spread the good news. Besides the Church urged local churches not to leave on their own those of the fold who undertook this step in life and left home. It was Pope Pius the 12th who saw the need to set up a commission within the Roman Curia to take upon its shoulders the pastoral care of all people on the move. Exsul Familia is the apostolic constitution written by Pope Pius XII on the topic of migration. It was released on 1 August 1952. The title of the document refers to the migrant Holy Family, forced to flee into Egypt, taken as the archetype of every refugee family.

Exsul Familia is the only papal document in which Pope Pius himself outlines the nature and extent of Papal charities during and after World War II on millions of refugees and displaced persons.

The Church in Malta took this challenge as from the beginning and from a humble effort by the then Catholic Action, an association within the Catholic Church, the Valletta branch, at 'Palazzo Caraffa', in Old Bakery Street, it turned to be an organization on its own which evolved throughout the years. It was elevated to be part of the integral set up of the Church's Curia on the level of one of the eight secretariats which constituted the setup of the same Curia. As the Latin expression goes, "Ad perpetuam rei memoriam", to be remembered for ever, all this was through the zeal and hard work and vision of Mgr. Philip Calleja, President and Founder of "Kummissjoni Emigranti".

The Catholic Church kept alive this mandate to keep accompanying those who had to be uprooted and travel to far and distant countries and settle there. In 2004, 'The Pontifical Council for the pastoral care of Migrants and Itinerant people' published the Instruction called 'Erga Migrantes Caritas Christi' (The Love of Christ towards migrants) to renew its teaching and keep on urging all those involved in this pastoral work to do their utmost and keep burning in them the love for their fellow countrymen who had to undergo this difficult and turbulent experience. During the first decade of the 21st century Malta was negotiating to join the European Union and so many Maltese were longing to make their way to go and work with European institutions. When Malta became part of this Union many others went to Brussels and Luxembourg to find a living and make a career of their own. This number continued to grow and is expected to grow larger since Malta is going to hold the Presidency in 2017. The local Catholic Church kept being on the lookout for our brothers and sisters who decided to give it a go outside our Island and took this opportunity. It was once again a mission entrusted to Emigrants' Commission to keep on being of service to them.

The Story that never ends

Migration is an ongoing adventure. One has to have a record of this perennial experience. There are various means how to keep alive this experience and to keep ties between the past and the future. We are all in duty bound to leave future generations aware of what has happened to their ancestors and what where their roots. This yearning is within every one of us, it is a need which we have an obligation to satisfy and cherish. How are we going to preserve the past and present it to future generations the best way possible?

These questions have been brewing in the minds of so many and were dealt with since the very first 'Convention of Maltese living abroad' way back 1969. It was renewed in the second Convention of the year 2000 and in during the third convention of 2010 the project started rolling. Now we are attending the fourth Convention and we can look forward and appreciate all efforts that were done to have the "Malta Migration Museum" set up at 'Dar l-Emigrant. Like so many other countries we can boast now that we have this museum where future generations can see and study for themselves why and how so many of their dear ones of past times had to leave their country of origin and settle abroad. How they managed to survive in the receiving country and were able to make their way through. Not only but they managed to make a name for their own and the country of origin.

The values of encounter

Migrants carry with them a sense of trust and hope which inspires and sustains their search for better opportunities in life. Yet they do not seek simply to improve their financial and social condition.

The experience of migration often begins in the trauma of having to leave behind family and possessions which had in some way formed part of their existence. At times they also face a sense of disorientation due to an uncertain future. Yet, they do not lose the dream of being able to build, with hope and courage, a new life in a new country.

Migrants trust that they will encounter acceptance, solidarity and help. They also hope to meet people who recognise the values and resources migrants have to offer, and are open to sharing humanly and materially with other humans.

If it is true that migration has marked the history of humankind, it is also true that there is no country which its history has not been enriched through the encounter with other peoples. In general, all countries have experienced the wealth of the encounter between cultures and the positive contribution which migrants have brought to their economy and to their societies.

Progress in the capacity to live together within the universal human family is closely linked to the growth of a mentality of healthy hospitality.

Centrestage.com



LOLLI POP THE SHOW

This performance incorporates live singing together with the 1940's war themed show party. The girls offer close harmony singing, of various hits from great artists such as The Andrews' Sisters and The Chordettes, Louis Armstrong, The Ramblers amongst others. The performers are very outgoing and during the show they invite the audience to dance and sing along with popular tunes such as 'Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy', 'Lollipop', 'Be my Baby', 'In the Mood' and more. The WAR Girls take us back to a time when Jazz and Swing were very popular. These two music genres were a hit in the period between the end of World War I and the Great Depression. They took over a combination of Ragtime, marching band music and blues. With their military and

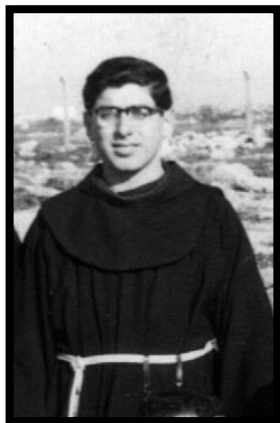
navy pin up inspired costumes, The Girls remind us of a time when the average woman in the street aspired to and reflected a glamorous side of life that seemed to be missing. The 1940's show you've never experienced before! Website: centrestage.com Tickets – pr.centrestage@gmail.com



Franciscan Milestones in South Australia

Ron Borg writes from Adelaide

Right here in South Australia we have been spiritually very lucky as a Maltese community because we have always been well looked after especially by the Franciscan friars since **Fr Giles Ferrigi** was appointed Chaplain to the Maltese Community in Adelaide in 1948. Originally the Nissan hut at Lockleys served as the Church and later on also as the gathering place for the South Australian Maltese Community until Christ the King Church was built in 1960.



It is very noteworthy right now to make a very special mention of 3 of the 16 Maltese Franciscans who have diligently served our spiritual needs at Lockleys Parish because they are celebrating special milestones in their lives.

Fr Marcellinus Mejlaq OFM, (left) was here with us from 1967 to 1965.

I personally have very fond memories of the gentle Fr Marcellinus, and I also had the privilege of having him as my marriage celebrant in 1974, and although he now lives in Maylands Western Australia, I surprisingly met up with him at the Mary McKillop Centre at Penola some 3 years ago, and it was a heart warming encounter

that I will not forget.

Fr Edward Zammit OFM (right) was also with us for about 17 years "in broken Shifts" between 1972 and 2003, and was very much a part of the Maltese Community in Adelaide, and as a member of the inaugural Queen of Victories Maltese Community

Council participated in the feast of Our Lady Queen of Victories which was celebrated with the newly acquired statue in 1980. His generous help to the Maltese Queen of Victories band was acknowledged in 1990 when he was bestowed with the honorary life membership. Fr Edward now resides in George Town Tasmania.

Both these zealous Franciscan priests share something in common. On the 11th March 1967, they were ordained priests at St John's Co-Cathedral Valletta, Malta. Consequently, these two "Gentlemanly" priests celebrated their 50th Jubilee of their Ordination on the 11th March 2017. Our hearty 'Thank you', and congratulations to both, our prayers are with you.

Fr Giles Ferrigi welcoming Fr Gabriel to Adelaide. Our present South Australian Maltese Chaplain, **Fr Gabriel Micallef OFM**, arrived to be appointed Chaplain to the Maltese Community in Adelaide in July 1966, and ever since then he has looked after the spiritual needs of this community. Born in "San Lawrenz" Gozo, on the 24th March 1944, he has just celebrated his 73rd birthday. The Maltese Queen of Victories Band were enthusiastic about celebrating this occasion of their Spiritual Director



with a Birthday Cake befitting the occasion. Really it was a double celebration because, 2 days beforehand, on the 22nd March he had reached a milestone of his vocation, the 48 years since his Ordination in 1969. What a dedicated achievement. A heartfelt "Thank You" from the Maltese Community of South Australia.

LET'S MAKE OUR JOURNAL GREAT IN 2017

KEEP ON SENDING YOUR COMMENTS, ARTICLES,
NEWS, STORIES, POEMS, PROFILES AND EMAILS

MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal
of the MALTESE DIASPORA

honconsul@live.com.au



'Thank you, we are so proud' – MALTESE COMMUNITY IN SOUTH AFRICA - Sunday Times November 2, 2008,



The small Maltese community in Cape Town, South Africa, standing in front of the Maltese flag: 'thank you, we are so proud'.

The small Maltese community in Cape Town, South Africa, recently flew the Maltese flag with pride when they met for a luncheon. The organisers of the get-together wanted to show off their children's newly acquired Maltese citizenship document. Some of the youngsters were, for the first time, in possession of their Maltese passports.

The organisers planned this activity to thank three families in particular, for being instrumental in helping them see their dream come true. Flowers were presented to Lydia Calleja, whose husband emigrated to South Africa 60 years ago at the age of 24. The Callejas motivated them to contact Malta's honorary consul in Cape Town. Josette Meyer, born in Malta of Maltese parents, was the second lady to be thanked for the way she encouraged them during the waiting period that followed.

Grace Saliba, the consul's wife, was given a round of applause, for not only helping the applicants complete the forms and assisting them in acquiring the relevant documentation, but for personally collecting the certificates and passports during a recent visit to Malta.

Vivienne Kotze, née Busuttil, whose father emigrated to South Africa in the early 1950s, said she was grateful to the Maltese government for recognising that her children, are now officially Maltese citizens.



MALTESE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



THE FLAG OF BAGLEY-TRUMBULL **Bagley-Trumbull is an intersection in** **the heart of the Corktown Historic** **District within the** **broader Corktown neighborhood in** **the American city of Detroit.**

The Bagley-Trumbull flag was created by Detroit designer Jessica Janda.

The Shamrock in the green panel is a symbol of Ireland and the Irish people. In the early 1800s, Irish Odawa and Potawatomi. Throughout the 1700s, the Potawatomi village was near today's Corktown and served as an intersection among the French and Native Americans, who exchanged cultural ideas, played baggataway (lacrosse), engaged in commerce and intermarried.

The two fleur-de-lis represent both the French and Spanish aspects of the Kingdom of Navarre and by extension one fleur-de-lis represents the early French settlers of Detroit and the other fleur-de-lis represents the current Spanish-speaking peoples of Corktown from Latin America. The intermingling of the flames and fleur-de-lis represents the Métis people who descend from Corktown's original inhabitants.

Red

The red panel in the Bagley-Trumbull flag represents the noble blood that unites all people of African ancestry and the Maltese people who settled at Bagley-Trumbull and throughout Corktown. Before, during and after America's civil rights era, black Detroiters funded, marched and bled in the fight for freedom. The red panel honors Detroit's longstanding ethos and vision of freedom for all people.

The Maltese Cross in the red panel is a symbol of Malta and the Maltese people. The building at the

immigrants escaped famine and the systematic oppression of their language, religion and culture by the British Empire. They arrived in large numbers near the shores of the strait. The original French ribbon farmers, their widows, their descendants and real estate developers subdivided the land west of downtown Detroit - including the parcels at Bagley-Trumbull - into a mixed-use neighborhood, where the Irish settled. The area became known as Corktown. Black

The black ribbon in the Bagley-Trumbull flag represents the people of Africa and the rich soil of the original Robert Navarre ribbon farm. During the Great Migration, African-Americans arrived in Corktown joining Irish, Maltese and Latinos to make Corktown one of the most culturally diverse neighborhoods in North America.

The ribbon shape of the black panel recognizes that Bagley-Trumbull sits on land that was subdivided from the original, long and narrow Navarre ribbon farm.

The three silver flames within the black ribbon represent the Council of Three Fires. The council is a long-standing Anishinaabe alliance of the Ojibwe, Northwest corner of Bagley-Trumbull was owned for decades by the Maltese Formosa family, where they operated a popular market which evolved into an important social center for the community. Through the generosity of the Formosa family, one apartment above the market served as an affordable residence for new arrivals to Detroit - many were Maltese, Latinos and Blacks from the American south. Another apartment above the market served as a Maltese social club and dance hall. Detroit is home to the largest Maltese-American population in North America.

MALTESE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION **(AUST) INC.**

April Lecture:

THREE ANZACS FROM MALTA
 a true story of friendship, love,
 and loss by Dr Gioconda
 Schembri at 7:30pm Tuesday
 18th April 2017 at the
 Maltese Community Centre
 477 Royal Parade, Parkville,
 VICTORIA (Enter from Levers St)



All welcome



Europe Day 2017

Europe Day (9 May 2017) is an annual celebration symbolising the peace and unity of Europe. In recognition of this occasion, the Hawke EU Centre for Mobilities, Migrations and Cultural Transformations at the University of South Australia invites you to **Slovenia in Europe Now - Is there an Alternative?**,

a public lecture by the Slovenian Ambassador to Australia, H.E. Ms Helena Drnovšek Zorko on **Monday 8 May 2017**.

Forming part of the Hawke EU Centre Ambassador Lecture Series, the Ambassador will explore Slovenia's place within the European community, and the many challenges the country has faced since gaining independence 26 years ago.

A cocktail reception will follow the lecture of which all guests are invited to attend. We will also use this occasion to announce the winners of some of our recent postgraduate fellowships overseas.



Date and Time Monday 8 May 2017 6.00pm - 8.00pm **Venue** Bradley Forum Level 5, Hawke Building City West Campus University of South Australia

The Community Chest Annual Charity Dinner Dance

Saturday 20th May 2017 6:30 – 11:30 pm

GRAND STAR RECEPTIONS

499 Grieve Parade, Altona North, VICTORIA 3025

Tickets: Adults \$65 Children \$40

Includes 5 Course Meal Soft drinks, Beer & Wine

Live Music by Alchemy Band

Special Performance by Paul Rizzo as Michael Jackson

Enquiries and Tickets Contact:

Daniel 0404 096 560 Lourdes 0402 813 179 Joe 0420 547 696

All proceeds will be going to the Malta Community Chest Fun



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MALTA MIGRATION MUSEUM

Or visit the website

www.ozmalta.page4.me



THE MALTESE UPRISING AGAINST THE FRENCH OCCUPATION

2 September 1798

Memorial to those killed storming Mdina on 2 and 3 Sep 1798. Giovanni Cortis and Giuseppe Borg died on the assault of Mdina. Maruzzo Galea, Matteo Cortis and Giovanni Chircop were shot in the square. Maruzzo Vella was killed on the bastion as

he attempted to lower the tricolor. Torre dello Stendardo, Mdina square, with the coat of arms of De Vilhena and the municipality of Mdina.

On 12 June 1798, the French Army of the East took Malta with virtually little opposition, mainly because it had promised to respect the religious privileges and freedom of worship of the Maltese. The administration of Regnaud de St Jean d'Angely soon reneged on the Articles of Capitulation signed on board *L' Orient*. Pensions and creditors ceased to be paid, depriving people of their livelihoods. Religious institutions were suppressed and the silver and gold of precious reliquaries were converted into bullion for the military chest.

On Sunday 2 September 1798, an angry crowd prevented the removal of silver and damask from the church of the suppressed Carmelite convent at Notabile (Mdina). Villagers from Zebbug and Siggiewi flocked to Rabat. The situation would have been defused, were it not for the arrogance of Louis Masson, the officer in charge of the Mdina garrison. He foolishly confronted them with sword unsheathed. The mob set upon him, and slew him. The French closed the gates of Mdina. They bombarded Rabat, killing Master Carpenter Giuseppe Galea. On the following day, the rebels gained entrance to Mdina and massacred the detachment of 65 men.²

- The Maltese organised themselves. Armouries were raided and cannon from the coastal towers were dragged to batteries set up in strategic positions outside the fortified towns. The insurgents of Notabile, Rabat and Dingli were led by Notary Emmanuele Vitale, who was also elected commander of all Maltese troops. Those of Zurrieq and Zebbug, however, recognised only Canon Francesco Saverio Caruana. The armed camps were:³
- San Giuseppe situated two miles from Valletta on the road to Mdina. It was commanded by Canon Francesco S. Caruana with men predominantly from Zebbug, Valletta and the Three Cities. San Giuseppe formed the reserve for the advanced post of Ta' Samra.
- Ta' Samra, (Ta' Braxia Hill), overlooking Porte de Bombes and about a mile and a half from Valletta. It extended from the road to San Giuseppe to the Marsa, and up to Corradino Hill. It had 600 men from Zebbug, Naxxar and Siggiewi under the command of Angelo Cilia. The camp surgeon was [Antonio Muscat](#).
- Jesuit's Hill Battery attached to Samra, though its guards were furnished by Casal Floriana. It covered Marsa and extended to the sea separating it from Corradino Hill.
- Corradino Hill overlooking the Grand Harbour and occupying the grounds of the Grand Master's stables. This area was held by the battalions of Mdina, Rabat and Dingli, under the command of Emmanuele Vitale. The entrenchments extended from Corradino around Cottonera to Ta' Grazia

Tower on the far east. A guard in the Belvedere monitored the movements of French vessels in the Grand Harbour.



- Ta' Borg Post occupying the road between Tarxien and Zejtun, and the short road to Zabbar as far as the old windmill. The Post of Zabbar extended from the old windmill to the sea below St Roche. Casal Zejtun provided men for the towers and batteries at Marsascale, Marsaxlokk and St Thomas.
- Tal Harhar, above Fort Manoel, forming part of San Giuseppe. It stretched out from St Julians to the limits of Msida and to the small hill of Tax Xbiex. Harhar (Naxxar) was manned by the battalions of Mosta and Birkirkara under the command of the cotton merchant Vincenzo Borg (1771–18 July 1837).

The number of armed Maltese manning these posts was reported by Brigadier General Thomas Graham on 28 December 1799, as 2,358 men, consisting of 149 sergeants, 170 corporals and 2,039 private soldiers. In July 1800, Captain James Vivion RA, Acting Quarter Master General with responsibility for the pay and rations of the troops, returned a total of 3,282 men provided by the various casals to man the outposts. From these, on daily guard duty at the posts and batteries between St Julians and St Roche were 174 sergeants, 179 corporals and 1,854 privates (table I). This number concurs with the dispatch from General William Anne Villette dated 15 May 1802, which stated that the number of volunteers in the field during the blockade never exceeded 4,000 men, of all ages and descriptions. When on duty, Vivion paid them at the rate of: sergeants 44 ounces of bread, pay 3d; corporals 44 ozs of bread, pay 2 1/2d; privates 40 ozs of bread, pay 2d. The men only received half pay when off guard duty.

Strawberries at picturesque village of Mgarr MALTA



Mgarr is mostly synonymous with two very particular items on the Maltese menu. On one hand, the unique way in which the traditional Maltese rabbit is cooked, and for dessert, just right after the beginning of spring time, the juicy strawberries come into play. The event which every year attracts thousands to the small village of Mgarr, is now in its 11th edition. The event has now become one of the country's most anticipated events on the local calendar. Despite the weather not siding with the organisers, thousands flocked the streets of this tiny village

for the strawberry festivals. **Photos Baskal Mallia**



Farmers delivered freshly picked up strawberries to the square while chefs prepared a wide variety of snacks, beverages and desserts based on strawberries. As expected, the event also saw cooks preparing traditional Maltese dishes to feed the public. As announced earlier this week, the Ta' Hagra Temples in Mgarr were open to the public at a reduced price for those wishing to view the attraction themselves during Festa Frawli. Heritage Malta organised

the tours inside the temples. This event was organised by the Mgarr Local Council and 'Kummissjoni Lejla Mgarrija' with the help of hundreds of volunteers.



Giving a new spark to old Maltese songs

Etnika in front of the Sydney Opera House – Photo Ronnit Robaz

Etnika recently performed in Australia, where they were warmly welcomed by Maltese and international audiences. Stephanie Fsadni listens to their latest album, which marks a new musical direction for the band – one they like to call ‘tripfolk’.

Maltese world music band Etnika has recently performed in Australia as part of the 2017 Maltese presidency of the Council of the EU.

Their tour catapulted them to Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong, Canberra and Melbourne, where they promoted their latest album, Maddalena’s Marvellous Tripfolk Klabb, to numerous rounds of applause and standing ovations.

The tour was particularly significant for band members Andrew Alamango, Francesca ‘Ċikka’ Grima and Andrej Vujicic, whose passion for their art flourished in Australia. The trio flew Down Under in the 1990s after finishing their bachelor degrees at the University of Malta. Alamango had applied for a working holiday whereas the other two furthered their studies at the College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales.

Grima’s and Vujicic’s initiation into performing flamenco was born in Australia, while Alamango further interested himself in performance and the world music phenomenon, ethno-musicological research and the transmission of oral traditions, music and memory.

“Returning to Australia after so many years, especially performing on behalf of Malta’s current EU presidency in prestigious places like

the Sydney Opera House was an honour as well as an incredible experience in view of the fact that this is where we felt the whole project was inseminated,” says Alamango.

“It was like coming full circle, this time given the opportunity to perform to Maltese, Australian and international audiences alike, who responded overwhelmingly.” Another band member, Walter Vella, is still reeling from the experience.

“We had an enthusiastic welcome in all of our shows. We performed not only in different parts of the country but also to very different kinds of audience,” he says. “Undoubtedly, the Sydney Opera House performance was great and very important to us, but I personally enjoyed the club gigs, where the intimacy with the audience was much stronger.”

He describes their Melbourne performance at the Victoria Community Centre as “a riot”. “The centre was packed with people who had probably never heard our music and although we presented certain well-known songs in a different way, they loved every minute of it.” Since its inception, the band has had many different set-ups with musicians coming from various musical genres.

Alamango recounts the early years with Ġużi Gatt, Ruben Zahra and Steve Borg when the band was more focused on research and documentation of traditional instruments such as the żaqq, flejguta, żummara, tambur and the żafżafa. He says that meeting Toni Cachia ‘il-Ħammarun’, the last of the bagpipe players, tambourine player Tony Camilleri, and “soulful bard” Frans Baldacchino ‘il-Budaj’, among others, was a life-changing experience – they taught them about folk instruments and song.

“However, we also realised that we did not want to recreate museum pieces and that it was important to create new contexts for the instruments and sounds, which are relevant to us today,” adds Alamango.

“The Etnika performances gained popularity because of this. Up until then, there was little or no awareness, except maybe among academics, about folk instruments and their cultural contexts which had disappeared by then.”



H.E. Peter Paul Portelli - Grand Master of the Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul Inc.

Peter Paul Portelli was born in Nadur, Gozo, Malta on the 26 September, 1952. His father was Coronatu Portelli, son of Paul Portelli and grandson of Gamm Maria Portelli.

His mother was Margaret nee Falzon daughter of Mikiel Falzon ancestors of Majsi Falzon who went to live in Gozo after the great siege of Malta. The family name is tas-Sultan and lived in Ramla Road till he was 19 years old before emigrated to Australia. In Australia he settled in Melbourne. Peter Paul Portelli has three children Corey, Catherine

and Aaron from a previous marriage. Peter Paul Portelli is now married to Mary, nee Saliba from Zebbug, Gozo..

At the age of fourteen years, he was already a community leader, involved in music, dancing, singing and football in his home town of Nadur. He was a member of the Mnarja Philharmonic Society, was a member of the local dance group, sang in the local choir and solo and coached the Catholic Action soccer team. In Australia he formed soccer teams at the work place.

In 1979 he formed the Australian Nadur Association to organize the feast of St. Peter and Paul and became its first president. He ordered the statue of St. Peter and St. Paul that was made in Nadur, Gozo by Michael Camilleri Cauchi.



Bishop Nikol Cauchi blesses the statue of St. Peter and St. Paul before it was sent to Australia in 1981. The statue arrived 5 days after the celebration of 1981 and was used for the first time for the feast in June, 1982, in the year that the original statue in the Basilica of Nadur was inaugurated 100 years earlier.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

In 1986 he was elected Councillor of the City of Sunshine winning by 51% of the primary votes. During his term in office of Councillor, the council named a street after Portelli's home town of Nadur. The street is named Nadur Court and has nineteen houses in the suburb of St. Albans. In 1987 the council of the City of Sunshine chose Nadur as its Sister City. On New Years Eve of 1987 during Monsignor Archpriest Sam Muscat visit to Melbourne the Mayor of the City of Sunshine Cr. Gerry O'Connor officially invited him at the Town Hall together with Cr. Portelli and Mr. Guzi Muscat from Nadur. Councillor Peter Paul Portelli presenting the flag of the City of Sunshine.

In 1988 Councillor Portelli represented the City of Sunshine at the tri centennial celebrations of the parish of Nadur. Councillor Peter Paul Portelli presented the flag of the City of Sunshine to the Mnarja Philharmonic Society. He also presented a flag to the Mnarja Philharmonic Society that was paid for by the Nadurin living in Melbourne.



FOUNDER OF ASSOCIATIONS

The late Bishop of Gozo Mons. Nikol Cauchi visited the Maltese Cultural Centre in 1995.

In 1991 he founded the Maltese Cultural Association Inc. In 1992 he acquired an old railways building and established the Maltese Cultural Centre, in Albion. The Hon. Ian Baker State Member for Sunshine officially opened the Maltese Cultural Centre and was blessed by the Rector of Ta' Pinu Sanctuary in Gozo, Malta, Mons. Benedict Camilleri on the 23 December,

1993. Peter Paul Portelli founded many associations which some of them are still very operating

today. Including the St. Albans Christmas Festival of All Nations, the Rabat Malta Seniors Citizens Association, the St. Albans branch of the Liberal Party,



KNIGHTS OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

In November 1996 he formed the Order of St. Peter and Paul to honour members of the Catholic faith for their tireless work in the community.

The first investiture took place at St. Bernadette's parish church in North Sunshine in 1997. The name Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul, was changed in 2009 to comply with the



Catholic church.

The Confraternity now has chapters in Melbourne - Sydney - Canberra - South Australia - Western Australia - Malta- Croatia - Austria - Toronto Canada - Cambridge Canada - Gambia - Angola - Cameroon - Peru - Russia - Italy - Sicily - Germany - Argentina, Spain - Portugal and Holland. The feast of St. Peter and St. Paul in Melbourne in June. 2013 with the Very Rev. Fr. Tony Kerin Parish Priest of St. Martin De Porres in Avondale Heights after the Solemn Mass.

The Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul is holding a Convention in Malta on 23 - 30 June, 2017.

NADURJANA.COM

Peter Paul Portelli started this website Nadurjana.com on the 12 February, 2006. Nadurjana.com provides a lot of interesting programs to the visitors. Every day people from all over the world visit this website. Countries such as Germany, Russia, Vietnam, just to name a few.



Vinum magazine features Delicata's Syrah

Delicata's Gran Cavalier Syrah, 2015, DOK Malta was selected by **Vinum** as one of the magazine's hot wine picks of the month of March. This international acclaim follows hot on the heels of the wine's release for sale in Germany, where it retails for around €24.90 per bottle.

Malta's iconic barrel-aged red was featured as a spicy, flavoursome and characterful wine; a special discovery which has the wow factor and is also intellectually stimulating. The flattering review and tasting note was penned by Vinum editor Rudolf Knoll, a German wine journalist and author who judges thousands of wines every year.

With a total circulation of more than 84,000 printed copies in Europe, Vinum is probably Europe's largest wine magazine with a strong online presence at www.vinum.info.



The Importance of the Maltese Scholarship

December 6, 2016

Over the course of the past three years I have been fortunate enough to earn the Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Grech Cumbo Family Foundation Scholarship. My Maltese heritage has always been extremely important to me, as my dad has made sure that I valued where I came from.



With that being said, when I was a high school student and looking for scholarships I was extremely disappointed to find out that there were no Maltese Scholarships available in the Detroit area. There was one that I found in California. I applied for it anyways, regardless of the fact that I did not meet the zip code qualifications. The

scholarship foundation contacted me explaining that they valued the fact that I applied and was proud of my heritage, but they could unfortunately not award me the scholarship. I was pretty bummed out about it, but I appreciated him reaching out to me. I thought that a dead end had come to my search.

During the span of the summer before I started college, I finally found the hope that I was looking for. My dad has been a member of the Detroit American Benevolent Society for a very long time and the news came out that a scholarship for college students was about to become available! I was delighted!

I jumped on the opportunity to apply for the scholarship and I hoped that I would receive it. When the news came that I was a recipient, I nearly cried because I had been waiting for this opportunity for a long time. For the past two years, after the initial year, I decided that re-applying never hurt. I have never run out of things to say about my heritage or my college career decisions. I am very fortunate to be able to have had this opportunity over the past three years.

Earning this scholarship has meant so much to me in many different ways. Financially it has been an incredible blessing. Spring Arbor University is fairly expensive to attend, so every bit has helped. Besides financial reasons, I absolutely love telling people about Malta, how much it means to me, and how important I believe valuing heritage is. All of my close friends and family know how passionate I am about my heritage. In today's day and age, people shuck off culture to assimilate to the western world. Being able to not stand in that pot is extremely liberating. Once people realize the passion I have, I think that it sparks them to figure out more about their history. The feeling that I get from that is immeasurable.

The Maltese community has meant the world to me. It has given me a fresh perspective on what it means to truly value my heritage. Many times people only know about their culture, but I can say that I actually get to live mine out. That is incredibly special. The Maltese community can only benefit from this scholarship opportunity. To get the younger generation involved is critical to the success of the Detroit and Dearborn clubs. Without younger people flooding in, the demise of the cultural hub that we have will happen. This opportunity is one small bridge that draws in younger members. Continuing to bring in a younger crowd only expands the Maltese Community in Detroit.

I have been instilled with a rich cultural heritage, all thanks to my dad. He deserves the credit for my passion. Without him, my desire to explore and live out my culture would be lacking. This scholarship has only added to the



love that I have for my community. I am incredibly humbled and honored to have been a three year recipient of this scholarship.

Cecilia Said is a Junior at Spring Arbor University just

outside of Jackson, Michigan. Ms. Said is majoring in Psychology with a minor in Urban Studies. She hopes to be a school counselor or psychologist in elementary schools that at-risk children attend. In her free time she loves to play soccer and hang out with her family.

www.detroitmaltese.com

**NEXT ISSUE – SPECIAL FEATURE ON
MALTESE AMERICAN BENEVOLENT
SOCIETY INC**

Hon. Anglu Farrugia - Small Branches (SB) Chairperson



The newly elected **Chairperson of the COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION Small Branches** is the **Hon. Anglu Farrugia MP**, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Malta. The role of Chairperson of Small Branches is a new Officer role for the CPA and the new incumbent will sit on the CPA International Executive Committee to bring a voice for Small Branches to the governing body of the CPA.

Hon. Anglu Farrugia MP is the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Malta and he was first elected to the Parliament of Malta in 1996. He has held many positions including Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, Chairman of the Standing Committee for the Consideration of Bills and Member of the Privileges Committee before being elected as Speaker in 2013. He currently represents the CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region on the Standing Committee of the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (2016-2018).

Speaker Farrugia expressed in his acceptance speech the pressing need of small legislations within the Commonwealth to come together, within their smallness to address common difficulties and strengths and share experiences of their parliaments or legislative assemblies. He also stated that as a state in the Commonwealth, among other small countries, Malta has learnt to appreciate the strengths of a small country being flexible enough to be able to work with other parliaments, yet big enough to be influential. Speaker Farrugia also encouraged fellow Parliamentarians to be leaders in understanding their citizens and advocate in the best interest of their countries, both locally and on multilateral levels, especially in contemporary challenges such as youth unemployment, and the ever-increasing importance to combat terrorism.

The election of the new Chairperson of Small Branches took place at the **35th CPA Small Branches Conference** held in London, United Kingdom today as part of the 62nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. Fortyseven Members of Parliaments and Legislatures from 26 CPA Small Branches attended the conference.

Of the over 180 Branches of the CPA, forty-three Branches are classified as 'Small Branches' which are defined as jurisdictions having a population below 500,000 people. The CPA Headquarters Secretariat works closely with Small Branches in all Regions of the CPA to identify their unique needs and requirements in parliamentary strengthening, development and cooperation. (*Thanks to Greg Caruana*)



The Maltese Community Council



Wishing you, your staff
and readers
A very Happy and Holy
Easter. Emanuel
Camilleri- President

We received hundreds and hundreds of messages and they will be published in future issues because of space. Thank you all

The Maltese e-Newsletter

*Happy Easter
to all our readers*



Il-Knisja Arcipitali
tal-Mosta

X'GARA FID-9 T'APRIL 1942 FIL-MOSTA

L-ghadu ma kienx kuntent b'hajjiet in-nies biss. Halef li, galadarba kien qed ibati biex jirkeb u jirbah lil gziritna, jaghmilha borg gebel, itellef sbuhitha u ma jhalliha qatt terga terfa' rasha. Il-Gvernatur Sir W. Dobbie fil-bidu tal-gwerra kien ha dan il-messagg: "Il-monumenti storici taghkom, il-kattidrali u l-knejjes qed jigu mgarrfin u mzebilhin mill-barbari". Dak il-kliem inghad fil-25 ta' Mejju, 1941, izda liema kliem seta' ntuza sena wara meta l-ghadd ta' djar, palazzi u knejjes imgarrfa kien bla qies?

Fid-9 ta' April, 1942, waqt hbit mill-ajru ghall-habta ta' 4.40 p.m., l-ghadu kellu jolqot vittma li min jaf x'fissret u x'ghadha tfisser ghall-poplu tal-

Mosta.

Kien il-Hamis u, bhal kull Hamis iehor, kellha ssir l-Ora Santa. Kien hemm hafna nies (jinghad madwar tliet mitt ruh), fosthom hafna xjuh u morda li, billi ma kenux jifilhu jinzlu fix-xelter, kienu jserrhu rashom mill-kenn tal-knisja. L-ghadu, li la kellu lejl u lanqas nhar, deher riesaq fil-hin li kellha tibda s-Siegħa. Xi ftit nies lahqu dabbru rashom ghall-kenn tal-blat izda l-hbit kien ghal gharrieda, tant li hafna baqghu fil-knisja.



Tliet bombers germanizi qabdu r-rotta ghal fuq Ta' Qali, izda, issikkati minn fighters inglizi, hattew il-bombi fuq ir-rahall biex idabbru rashom. Wahda minn dawn il-bombi li kienet tizen 500 libra, sfrondat il-koppla, habtet xi darbtejn mal-hitan u fl-ahhar striehet f'nofs il-knisja.

Fit-tempju waqghet dalma kbira bit-trab u l-laqx li waqghu. Wara li ghadditilhom l-ewwel hasda, daww l-imsejkna li kienu hemm gew fittxew il-bieb. Grew qalb ic-nagen biex jehilsu mill-ispluzjoni li kienu qed jistennu minn waqt ghal iehor. Ix-xelter tal-pjazza mtela daqs bajda, kulhadd imbnikkem u mwerwer jistenna tifqigh ikreh.

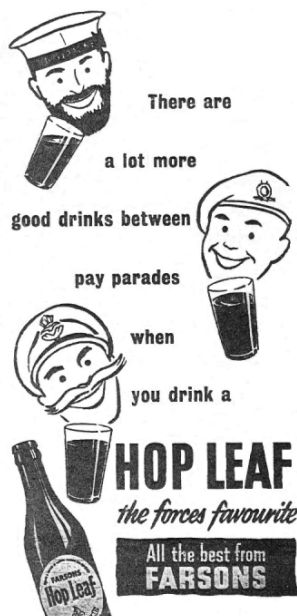
Izda ma kienx miktub li t-tempju ta' Marija, wirja u xhieda tal-fidi ta' missirijietna, jisfa herba f'dak il-jum. Bombi ohra, whud izghar, sabu ruhhom fuq iz-zuntier u l-frontispizju, izda ma ikkagunawx ksara kbira. Aktar tard dakinhar il-Gvernatur Dobbie, li gie fuq il-post, ordna lil Mons. Sciberras

biex jaghlaq il-knisja waqt li baghat l-ajjutant tieghu stess biex icempel ghall-Bomb Disposal Officer.

Meta l-bomba nifdet il-koppla habtet mal-lunetta ta' Kristu mal-Appostli. Din il-lunetta saritilha hsara konsiderevoli u wara giet irrestawrata mill-pittur, il-Kav. Rafel Bonnici Cali. Imbagħad tgerbet 'l isfel mal-hajt u tramblet bil-mod il-mod sakemm waqfet ftit passi bogħod mill-pulput.

B'hekk wiehed jara l-grazzja straordinarja li Alla u l-Madonna ghogobhom jaghtuna u li tagħha kull Mosti għandu jibqa' rikonnossenti għal dejjem. Ta' kull sena nhar id-9 ta' April inkantaw l-Antifona "VIRGO PRUDENTISSIMA" u TE DEUM lil Alla b'radd il-hajr. (Mibghut minn Mark Micallef Perconte, Malta)

AN OLD FARSON'S ADVERTISEMENT



KUMITAT TAL-CLUB TAL-HAMRUN
QEDIN JORGANIZZAW DINNER
Għad unur l-Onor Dr Angelo Farrugia
Speaker tal-Kamra tal-Parlament ta' Malta u
s-Sinjura tieghu



Nhar is-Sbit 29 t'April 2017, fis-sitta u nofs (6.30pm)
Se jkun hemm bosta mistiednin fosthom
l-Kummissarju Għoli għall-Malta -ET Charles Muscat
u s-sinjura tieghu
IL-Mayor ta' Blacktown - Mr Stephen Bali
State Member for Riverston - Mr Kevin Conolly MP
IL-Konslu Generali għall-Malta f'Sydney -
is-Sur Salvinu Giusti
President ta' Maltese Community Council -
Mr Emanuel Camilleri u Mrs Camilleri
Leaders tal-Għaqdiet Maltin,
sponsors ta' din l-okkazzjoni,
supporters tal-club
u hbieb tal-familja ta' Dr. Anglu Farrugia.

Social Organiser
Greg Caruana
Mobile: 0411 517 187

Message re the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Queens Baton Relay in Australia



Community organisations are encouraged to nominate individuals to carry the Queen's Baton.

The Queen's Baton Relay is a Commonwealth Games tradition that celebrates the Commonwealth's diversity, inspires community pride and excites people about the world-class festival of sports and culture to come.

The Queen's Baton carries a message from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II that calls the Commonwealth's athletes to come together in peaceful and friendly competition.

The Gold Coast 2018 Relay will be the longest and the most accessible ever, not just passing through, but spending quality time in each community it visits.

The relay started on 13 March 2017 at Buckingham Palace in Britain, and is travelling on an epic 388-day journey through all nations and territories of the Commonwealth.

The Queen's Baton will arrive on the Gold Coast for the XXI Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony on 4 April 2018, where Her Majesty, or a representative, will remove the message from the Baton and read it aloud to officially open the Games.

Organisers are looking for people of all abilities to share the dream and become a Baton bearer for the Gold Coast 2018 Queen's Baton

Relay. A Baton bearer is someone who meets one or more of the following criteria:

- ❖ Who contributes to a fun, friendly, vibrant and inclusive community.
- ❖ Has achieved something extraordinary or inspired others to achieve something extraordinary.
- ❖ Has made a significant contribution to either sport, education, the arts, culture, charity or within their community.
- ❖ Has excelled, or aspires to excel athletically or personally.

The minimum age of a Baton bearer is 10 years old as at 25 December 2017 (the start date of the Queen's Baton Relay in Australia).

Nomination details are available from the following website: www.gc2018.com/qbr

Poster available here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/23tv15vp5iexre9/QBR%20Batonbearer%20Poster.pdf?dl=0>

Please note that Nominations close 15 May 2017

Sent to us by the



Hon Grace Portolesi MP

Grace Portolesi is the first woman to hold the position of Chair of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission assuming the role on 1 September 2014.

Grace served in the South Australian *Parliament* from 2006 – 2014 representing the electorate of Hartley in Adelaide Eastern suburbs.

In 2009, Grace was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General, Minister for Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

The following year she was appointed Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Multicultural Affairs, Youth and Volunteers.

She later held the Education and Childhood Development portfolio before moving on to be Minister for Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

Proudly sponsored by

LONGINES



Know a local legend?

The Queen's Baton Relay commences its Australian journey on 25 December 2017. We need legendary people to deliver Her Majesty's message to the Opening Ceremony of the Games.

Nominees must be:
an Australian Citizen or a lawful resident,
available 25 December 2017 – 4 April 2018, and
10 years old or older as at 25 December 2017.

Nominations close 15 May 2017

Nominate someone great today at
gc2018.com/qbr

