



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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FLINDERS STREET STATION MELBOURNE



THE AUSTRALIA HALL SAGA



THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF ST. MARY

is celebrated
in 7 towns
and villages:
Ghaxaq,
Gudja,
H'Attard,
Mosta,
Mqabba
and Qrendi
in Malta,
and Victoria
in Gozo

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY IN NSW

My dear Maltese and Gozitan friends, it only seems like yesterday when I was starting my life with my wife and our young family almost forty years ago here in Sydney, a city where I felt welcomed thanks to the valuable help we received from family as well as groups like Melita who at the time were at their best, where we felt almost like we are in a Maltese festa, meeting friends we had previously known in Malta. I remember as we arrived in the summer months we used to the beach with the children or a barbeque in a park in the open spaces of this city, which was now our home. During the week my wife and I were engaged in working to help bringing up our children in this new lifestyle. It almost felt like we were on a working holiday.

But as it happened, soon enough June, July and August arrived, and the weather was becoming cooler. It was then that I started realising that we are no longer in Malta where we used to enjoy the beaches during these months. But the most thing that struck me like a thunderbolt was the loss of the Festi in Malta which were an outlet for us then, allowing us to enjoy these festivities with our family at this time.

Suddenly I started to feel the environment I was not accustomed to. I remember it was the fifteenth of August, a normal weekday here in Australia when of course I had to go to work. It was 7.00 am when it suddenly dawned on me that at that very time same time, Malta was celebrating with the ground fireworks (il-giggifogu). This triggered so much sadness for me that moment. I realised how what we took for granted Malta, we will now be missing deeply. On that day, had it not been for a radio in my workplace which was playing my favourite songs, I would have left the job and gone home.

Back home that evening, I played marches on a tape that I had. I remember while phoning our relatives in Malta we could hear the festa fireworks in the background. This brought me an immense feeling of nostalgia. To cut a long story short, the time pressed on and the children grew up. Each year on the feast of the Assumption we would organise a barbeque with some friends and meet at someone's place to see a video of the festa. And from these barbecues which as time went by became even more popular, we organised our very first Dinner Dance that was held at the Bowman Hall in Blacktown with 280 people attending. So, this is how the group Festa Santa Marija started here in Sydney.

We continued organising the annual Dinner Dance where with the cooperation of the Our Lady Queen of Peace Maltese Band, this occasion started becoming very popular. So much so that we ended up ordering the beautiful statue of Our Lady designed and created by Shawn Saliba, a young gentleman from Mosta. And this is the 16th year since we first started holding the Santa Marija festa at La Valette Social Centre. We remember and will keep in mind some of our friends who offered huge support; but today are no longer with us and are now enjoying eternal rest with the Blessed Virgin.

We are now in our twilight years and as grandparents we watch our family grow and increase. But after so many years, we still feel that nostalgia for the things we grew up with, because without knowing, this is still running in our veins and together with the fervour of voluntary work which we brought with us from that blessed land we came from.

We seek to build a small showcase of what makes us Maltese as after all, the feasts of our towns and villages Patron Saints are Maltese traditions that our ancestors left us a treasure to cherish, and which we as emigrants carried here with us. Although it involves a lot of work, and here I want to say thank you from my heart to the team of volunteers in our group, who although getting much older as I am, they still display the willingness which also gives me the courage to continue. Maybe somehow with the help of the Blessed Virgin we will manage to pass it on to our children. It is indeed my desire to always try to where possible, involve others from the next generation. So, I ask you to please encourage your children and grandchildren to be interested in this noble tradition.

Gregory Caruana

GROUP SANTA MARIJA SYDNEY 2018.

**We are celebrating the Solemnity of the Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary**

On Sunday 5th August 2018

At La Valette Social Centre in Blacktown

At 3.00 pm, Festa mass will be concelebrated by Fr Tarcisio
Micallef and Fr Noel Bianco mssp

Accompanied by the choir of the Maltese Cultural Association of NSW

After the mass, a procession will be held by the artistic statue of Santa Marija,
followed by the rosary and Marian hymns played by the
Our Lady Queen of Peace Band

Entertainment by Charlie Muscat & Wayne Place

Our special guest Natasha Tatarinof

Bring your family and friends, so that we can celebrate our Festa together
Remember, that the club will be open from 1.00 pm in the afternoon onwards, where
you can purchase Maltese traditional food



As Australia prepares to mark the centenary of the Gallipoli campaign, a chance encounter by AMA Vice President Dr Stephen Parnis has sparked efforts on the other side of the world to preserve the remnants of a little-known chapter in the ANZAC story.

Strategically positioned between the tip of Italy and the north coast of Africa, Malta is no stranger to conflict. At various times it has been fought over by the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Ottomans, French, Germans and British.

But AMA Vice President Dr Stephen Parnis was nevertheless surprised when he saw the Australian coat of arms engraved on the façade of an imposing sandstone building on the outskirts of Pembroke on the island's north coast during a visit in August last year.

“I was in the car heading to my cousin’s place when I saw it,” Dr Parnis told *Australian Medicine*. “I knew wounded Australian soldiers had been brought to the island for treatment, but I had never heard of the building.” The structure, called Australia Hall, was erected in November 1915 using donations from the Australian public.

It served as a much-needed centre for entertainment and recreation for convalescing troops who arrived on the island in their thousands as the deadly toll of the Dardanelles campaign and other conflicts in the eastern Mediterranean mounted.

In May 1915 alone, 4000 wounded ANZACs from Gallipoli were transported to Malta, and by the end of World War One 58,000 had crossed its shores – including around 200 who never left and are buried on Malta.

Remarkably, the two-storey Hall survived the Second World War unscathed despite the fact that during the conflict Malta was the target of a sustained German and Italian bombing campaign that made it one of the most heavily bombed places on earth.

But the ensuing decades were less kind, and the building now sits – roofless, gutted and unused - on prime land. His interest piqued by his chance discovery, Dr Parnis got in touch with former AMA President and Australian War Memorial Director Dr Brendan Nelson to see what might be done to preserve the building.

Within days he received a call from the Australian High Commissioner to Malta Jane Lambert, who has since become closely involved in efforts to protect Australia Hall, including regular contact with its private owner.

Given the building’s dilapidated state, any restoration work would not only require the co-operation of the current owner, but would likely cost several millions of dollars – money yet to be forthcoming from the Australian Government. But Dr Parnis praised the efforts of Ms Lambert and was hopeful that Australia Hall will be preserved and restored.

“The High Commissioner has been in constant contact with the person who owns it and brought to their attention the significance of this building to Australia, so that when restoration occurs it will be sensitive to Australian history and sensibilities,” he said.

Planning requirements and delays have meant there is unlikely to be an announcement about the Hall’s restoration on Anzac Day, but there are hopes plans will be completed in time to be revealed on the occasion of its anniversary in November this year.

For Dr Parnis, restoring the building to something approaching its former glory would be a way to ensure the bonds of care and support that developed between injured diggers and local Maltese in the early years of World War One are not neglected.

“It shows that the links between Australia and Malta are much closer than just the post-World War Two period of immigration,” he said. Adrian Rollins

This journal of the Maltese living abroad has received hundreds of letters, emails and comments regarding the destruction of the Australia Hall which strengthen the relationships between Australia and Malta. The history of Australia Hall forms an integral part of Malta’s significant role in ANZAC history. It is a fitting reminder of the valuable services provided by many volunteer Maltese nurses and medical practitioners to thousands of Australian and New Zealand servicemen. Their efforts earned Malta the title of “Nurse of the Mediterranean”. We ask the Maltese, Australian and New Zealand Governments to restore of Australia Hall to its former glory for the sake of the excellent longstanding relations between Malta, Australia and New Zealand.

Both parties to cut-price Australia Hall deal, fighting tax claims - malta.today.com.mt



In separate proceedings the against the Commissioner for Tax, the Labour Party is contesting an identical additional duty penalty

1 August 2018, by **Matthew Agius**

A.H. Development, the company which purchased Australia Hall in a deal with Labour, is fighting a demand by the taxman that it pay a €14,426 additional duty penalty, in a similar case to that filed by the Labour Party over the controversial sale.

The company, which is owned by shareholders in the Fino group had already paid some €72,130 in duty over the acquisition of the

six square kilometres of land which it purchased at a paltry €582,343 from the Labour Party in 2014.

In separate proceedings the against the Commissioner for Tax, the Labour Party is contesting an identical additional duty penalty.

In July 2014, the party transferred the land – over 6,100sq.m of developable land in Pembroke – to A.H. Development for just €582,343, and in a statement said the final price took into consideration unspecified outstanding debts with the buyers.

in December 2014, the Commissioner for Tax instructed architect Hector Zammit to carry out a valuation of the property sold.

Zammit tagged his valuation at €5.5 million, for which the Commissioner of Tax proceeded to issue a further charge of €49,176 to the Labour Party.

After both the Labour Party and A.H. Development objected to the valuation, a second architect was appointed by the court to value the property.

This time, the value of the property was slashed to €2,025,000, incurring an additional tax charge of €14,426.

In the second valuation, Architect Paul Micallef offered a more lenient appraisal of the land, pointing out that Australia Hall was scheduled and had to be restored under strict supervision of heritage authorities. “The market price of land in the same area is in the region of €1,000 to €1,200 per square metre. However, since the land cannot be fully developed and the existing premises was scheduled, in my opinion the value of the land is €400 per square metre taken as freehold.”

Micallef placed the market value at just over €2.4 million, but also deducted the capitalised ground rent (20 times €20,964), to get a value of €2,025,000. Consequently, a revised tax demand was issued for €87,096.98, which included an additional tax of €14,426. Despite the generous revaluation downwards, the parties still objected to the figure.

In a January 2015 letter from A.H. Development’s lawyer, Prof. Ian Refalo, objected to the tax and additional tax being claimed, saying the additional chargeable value was incorrect and that the valuation ignored the legal encumbrances of the land – an annual ground rent of €20,964.35 – and the “state of affairs” when the transfer was made.

He said A.H. Development had a right to purchase the land under a promise of sale agreement which was the subject of litigation. “This naturally limits the value which the property could fetch on the market and the valuation should have taken into account these legal encumbrances,” Refalo argued.

There was no other consideration for the property other than that stated in the deed, said the lawyer, arguing that the additional tax had been wrongly raised “as there was no element of wrongdoing.” The case continues in October.



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BRENT ATTARD

Swan Ridge Farm - Queensland

North Bundaberg grower Brent Attard and Lindsay Rural senior agronomist Neil Innes pictured investigating fruit setting in watermelons on the Attards' Swan Ridge Farms property.

GROWING cane and small crops in rotation over about 15 different soil types north of Bundaberg has seen the Attard family adopt a range of nutrient and ameliorant strategies to help meet target production

and quality levels.

Brent Attard and his father, Tony, grow cane for three years and then rockmelon and zucchini small crops before returning to cane, while they also plant some ground to watermelons and Jap pumpkins.

Their Swan Ridge Farms property consists of 120 hectares, with the land ranging from red scrub soil to white tea-tree sand. The land sets a challenge Brent said they had one approach for: "We just have to make it work".

He said soil testing was carried out prior to the rockmelon planting, and this always recommended a dolomite application at 2.5 tonnes/hectare, which they generally performed every year.

Sourcing most of their fertilisers through the local Lindsay Rural store, they have recently been applying a custom-made, base pre-plant fertiliser, which Brent said they were pleased with.

Then, from the first male flower, they start applying water-soluble fertilisers, including the Multi-K potassium nitrate product from Haifa, as well as calcium nitrate.

Sap testing is undertaken around first fruit set, and when the fruit is at about golf-ball size, the Attards start applying potassium sulphate.

Brent said the zucchini crop was planted into the old rockmelon plastic and benefited from the residual nutrition. "Once you start picking zucchinis, you can work out what you are doing. We do a lot of experimenting with the zucchinis," he said.

The Attard family grows the Regal Black winter zucchini variety and from flowering applies Haifa Poly-Feed 12 fertiliser formula, which contains 12 per cent nitrogen, 3pc phosphorus and 30pc potassium. It also contains 1.2pc magnesium and chelated micronutrients.

Poly-Feed, which is virtually free of chloride, sodium and other detrimental elements, provides complete plant nutrition throughout the growth cycle.

Brent Attard said the fertiliser was regularly applied through their 100-litre pressure differential irrigation units.

"We water every second day and fertigate every time. We water twice a week during winter and also fertigate each time" Brent is also taking an interest in new controlled-release fertilisers and may trial a two-month release product on the property.

Some of their zucchini crops are harvested at four weeks, with some at six weeks and even out to eight weeks. "We aim to always put good quality in the box," Brent said. • "We have traditionally been exporters of zucchini and so have picked them small, which affects yields." We would like to push zucchini yields a bit and we think this will be more of a varietal issue. The Attards target 2500 cartons/ha for zucchini, 2500 trays/ha for rockmelon and 50 tonnes/ha for watermelon.



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My Dear ones,

I've just received the good news and confirmation that the newly elected Bishop of Darwin, our most acknowledged and appreciated

FR CHARLES GAUCI

has accepted my invitation to celebrate for us the Mass of the Second Sunday in September, before he leaves for Darwin to take up his new mission in Darwin.

So with your help and assistance I'm hoping of giving him a Community Farewell on behalf the Maltese here in South Australia. This will happen with a Mass celebrated at

CHRIST THE KING PARISH CHURCH – HENLEY BEACH ROAD, LOCKLEYS

ON SEPTEMBER 9TH AT 3.00 P.M.

I propose to have a Farewell Party organized by all the Maltese Societies at the Lockleys Parish Church Hall after the Mass, where our Maltese Queen of Victories Band will be giving a musical entertainment.

I'll be requesting the Societies and individuals to come together and make a reasonable financial offering to offer him a remembrance from the Maltese Community in South Australia of which he was an active member and an officiating Priest. All this depends on your generosity and availability. I'll be issuing a receipt for any donation.

Hope to give him a memorable and hearty farewell. He is really an honour to our Maltese Community in South Australia and merits our recognition, appreciation, support and prayers.

May OUR LADY QUEEN OF VICTORIES assist him in his future Mission!

May God Bless you all,

Fr Gabriel S. Micallef O.F.M. Chaplain to the Maltese Community in South Australia.

Bermuda, Malta and Gibraltar



are among the small countries and territories jockeying for a big role in what could be the next business frontier:

welcoming cryptocurrency companies that are looking for shelter from regulatory uncertainty in the U.S. and Asia.

GHAQLI TLIFTU FUQ SBUHITEK!

Għal darb'oħra reġgħet waslet
L-egħżeż festa tal-Għawdxin
Illi tiġbed folol sewwa
Anke minn ħutna l-Maltin!

Illi jgawdu minn xi shut down
Biex hienja iqattgħuh magħna
Għax mal-wasla tal-Assunta
Togħgobhom dil-festa tagħna.

Minn kull rokna ta' gżiritna
In-nies timla l-Katidral
Għax dil-festa hekk għażiża
Issaħħar lill-kbar w iż-żgħar.

Seba' nħawi ġewwa Malta
U tnejn oħra ġo gżiritna
Tifhir jagħtu lill-Assunta
Li b'uliedha dlonk ħatritna.

Għal tant snin ġo Villa Rundle
B'rabta ma' Santa Marija
Niesna tmur iżżur il-Wirja -
Hawn tilmaħ frott il-ħamrija.

Żgur tiggosta ħmir u żwiemel,
Tjur, għasafar ta' kull lewn,
Insiġ, suf, arkett u għasel
Tadam, frawli, basaltejn.

Le ma tonqos it-Tiġrija
Ta' bġhula, ta' dwieb u bhejjem
Li għaliha n-nies tagħmel
U tiffolla sa minn dejjem.

U it-toroq tal-belt tagħna
Jiżżejnu bl-isbaħ armar;
Pilandri, statwi, mixegħla,
Arbli, bnadar fuq is-swar.

U fil-Knisja Katidrali
Damask, fided u kristal,
Ċapċip, ferħ u kwindiċina,
U ma' dawn il-għors tat-tfal.

Bla dubju fuq dawn tispikka
L-isbaħ ġawhra tal-ġawhriet
Li fethet dirgħajha beraħ
U mis-Sema nizlet, ġiet

Biex tħaddanna lkoll magħha
U terfagħna minn dal-Wied,
Hi li mxiet, sofriet ma' Binha –
Tagħna l-fidwa taf xi swiet.

Ma' dal-briju il-'Leone'
Iddoqq l-isbaħ marċijiet;
Fuq il-palk kunċerti varji –
Minn kull naħa n-nies ġiet!

Ma nistax ma nitlifix għaqli
Wara x-xbieha sbejha tiegħek,
Thallinix nogħtor Marija
'Mma għannaqni dejjem miegħek!

Bierek lil dan Għawdex tagħna
Li tant ħabbek tul is-snin;
Inti l-mimmi ta' għajnejna
Reġina tal-Qaddisin.

Minn ġos- swar tač-Ċittadella
Ja Omm tagħna titlaqniex;
Aħna fragli, bnedmin dgħajfa
Waħidna la tħalliniex!

Kun id-dawl illi jmexxina
Ma' dat-toroq imħarbtin
Taħt mantarek dlonk kennina
Sabiex ngħixu lkoll henjin.

Jekk hawnhekk int hekk sabiħa
Mela kif inti fil-Ġenna!
Daħħalna f'dik it-tgawdija -
Hemmhekk biss il-qalb tithenna!

Kav Joe M Attard
Victoria Għawdex
emarjos@hotmail.com

GOZONEWS.COM

The Siege of Gozo, 1551 – A Ballad, now translated into English^{BY}



This year marks the 467th anniversary of the siege of 1551, Gozo's greatest tragedy, when many men, women and children, a lot of them unnamed, died either during the attack, or when they were taken into slavery.

The Minister for Gozo Dr Justyne Caruana, welcomed to the Ministry, Josephine Bigeni from the Xaghra Association of New South Wales and Mr John Cremona, nephew of author, Ganninu Cremona who wrote the

book, 'The Siege of Gozo, 1551 – A Ballad.'

This book, which was presented to the Minister, has now been translated into English by Professor Geoffrey Hull who is also of Maltese descent (Maltese of Egypt) from his maternal side. The Minister congratulated the Association on the publication and said that the book will now be able to be enjoyed by a wider audience

In 1551 the Ottoman force attacked Gozo following an unsuccessful attempt to conquer Malta, resulting in around 5,000 people, who formed the majority of the population of Gozo, being taken into slavery. The siege ended in 1551 when the Gozitans had to capitulate and open the doors in the Citadel walls because they were no longer able to defend themselves and their families. To obtain a copy of this book please contact the Association.

Photograph: MGOZ/George Scerri



Traditional Horse Racing - Qala

Horse Races for the occasion of St. Joseph's Feast in collaboration with the Qala Local Council

Tigrijiet taz-Zwiemel fl-okkazjoni tal-festa ta' San Guzepp

b'kollaborazzjoni mal-Kunsill Lokali tal-Qala.

Everything You Need to Know About Lampuki Season in Malta



by Sabine

If you are coming on your holidays to Malta over the next few months, the chances are you will hear the word “lampuki” bandied about. But what on earth is a Lampuki, what do you do with it, and what do you need to know about it? Before you touch down on the beautiful island of Malta, make sure you get to grips with one of its finest delicacies!

What is lampuki? Lampuki is a type of fish that is typically found in and around the waters of Malta. It goes by various other names, depending on where you are from, such as the dorado, dolphinfish or the mahi-mahi. It migrates through

the Maltese waters between the end of August and the end of December and it is one of the most popular, traditional autumnal Maltese dishes. A white, meaty fish with a delicate flavour, it lends itself to a variety of sauces and accompaniments- making it one of the most versatile fish you can choose to eat.



How do they catch it? In a technique known as kannizzati, local fishermen cut down the lower fronds from palm trees which they then weave into large, flat rafts. These rafts are then put out to sea, usually accompanied by traditional fishing boats known as 'Luzzu', or more modern fuel powered crafts. As the sun reaches the highest point in the sky, the lampuki all clamber to seek shade under the rafts, the fishermen wait for a large number of fish to gather before casting a net over them. This is a technique that has not changed since the Roman times and even when the fish is used for commercial purposes, this old method is still used.

Where can I get it from? Well that totally depends on whether you want to try it out in a restaurant, or have a go at cooking it for yourself! Some of the best restaurants to try lampuki are situated in the south of Malta- e.g. Marsaskala, Birgu, and Marsaxlokk. Here, the fish you eat has often been caught that lunchtime and is as fresh as you can imagine. You also have the bonus of getting to enjoy your meal in a picturesque seaside village. Alternatively, you can pick some up from one of the fishmongers, or keep your ears out for the fish van that roams the streets every morning selling a range of fresh seafood- you can pick up quite a bargain here.


How should I eat it? This is a matter of great debate- some like their lampuki in a pie, some like it with a thick, garlic infused sauce, and some prefer it grilled in tinfoil with just a smattering of seasoning to taste. Alternatively, you can try it in a delicious fish stew called alijotta, all soaked up with some delicious, fresh, Maltese bread, or “hobz” as it is known locally.

One thing is for sure, if you are visiting Malta this Autumn- be sure not to miss out on sampling the delicious delights of the lampuki. In the next edition we will include a recipe of a Lampuki Pie.



SMART CITY MALTA is a joint project between the Maltese Government and smartcity which created investment, business and job opportunities in Malta.

SmartCity, a company owned by Sama Dubai and TECOM Investments, has already established a network of impressive state-of-the-art cities around the world. The biggest projects to date are those in Dubai and Kochi.



Solemn Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday 19th August 2018

Starts 2.00 p.m.

Rosary Procession, Holy Mass and Benediction
Presentation of Children to Our Lady

Eucharistic Celebration led by Most Rev Mgr. Greg Bennett MS STL VG
Vicar General for the Archdiocese of Melbourne

Music Ministry by Bernadette Dique & Friends (Oakleigh).

This Concelebrated Thanksgiving Mass will also mark the occasion of
the **Diamond Jubilee of the Ordination to the Priesthood** of
Mgr. Benedict Camilleri (made a servant of the Church by God on 13th Apr 1958)
current Director and founder of Our Lady Ta Pinu Shrine-Aust

So... Come and celebrate with us
Mary, our Heavenly Mother awaits your visit at our Marian Shrine ...

Our Lady Ta Pinu Shrine – All Nations Marian Centre
15 Flanagans Drive, Bacchus Marsh (Merrimu) 3340

For more info: Tel 03 5367 7006 Email: infotapinu@optusnet.com.au Web: www.tapinu-australia.org



VILLA MALTA ROME

This construction of Villa del Priorato di Malta on the Aventine Hill was built in 939 as a Benedictian monastery, it belonged to the monastery of the Chiesa dei SS. Bonifacio e Alessio from which was separated in 977. By the end of the 12th century the monastery became a property of the Templars, monks-warriors defenders of Christianity

against Muslims.

In 1312 the Order of Templars was suspended and the monastery was given to the Knights of Rhodes, the religious confraternity established in the Holy Land by a monk Gerard to give medical and boarding assistance to pilgrims. The Order was based on the island of Rhodes from 1312 till 1522, and then on Malta until 1798, when after Napoleon's domination it moved to Rome and limited its activity in the field of hospital assistance.

It changed its name in 1522 in Sovrano Ordine di Malta (Sovereign Order of Malta) and its Roman branch was named Gran Priorato di Roma dei Cavalieri di Malta with the seat in the same palace on Aventine Hill. In the meantime the latter changed its look; in 1765 the Grand Prior Giovan Battista Rezzonico, nephew of pope Clement XIII had a medieval church adjoining to the Villa completely reconstructed with the new name S. Maria del Priorato, as well as the palace itself and its gardens were radically modified by the project of Venetian architect G.B. Piranesi. What we can see now is the fruit of the changes made in the 18th century.

Gardens and fruit-yards surround a fountain and a well remained here from the times of monastery; there is also a coffee-house built by the order of Cardinal Benedetto Pamphili, who as a Great Prior of the Order for a long period of 52 years made the villa a center of magnificent receptions and cultural reunions. Imposing palm-trees were brought from the East and were planted here in the beginning of the 19th century by Louis I of Bavaria during his Roman residence.

Inside of the villa there is a gallery of portraits of the main personalities and Grand Masters of the Knights of Malta starting from Gerard till present. The palace is also a seat of the Order's embassies to Italy and the Vatican. Their headquarters are now in Rome in Via Condotti and the knights, who take vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, continue to carry out charitable work.

Villa Malta is most famous for its keyhole of the main entrance you would notice in a perfect perspective the dome of St Peter's Basilica, at the end of a very elegant garden. Near by the Villa Malta is a small park that has excellent views of the city of Rome. A real and nice surprise which is always delightful. After visiting the Villa Malta and the park, to the end of the Circus Maximus nearby is the church of Saint Marie in Cosmedin. In front of the church is the Mouth of Truth as seen in 'Roman Holiday'.

MODELLER BRILLIANTLY RECREATES VALLETTA'S 'LOST' GEM

JULY 28, 2018 BAY NEWS89.7 BAY, BAY RETRO, LOVEMALTA, MALTA, MODEL, REPLICA, ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, VALLETTA



With its stunning architecture, it was once one of the most beautiful buildings in Malta. Things changed in 1942, when the majestic Royal Opera House in Valletta was devastated during a wartime air raid.

But now a Maltese model maker has recreated the building's glory days in miniature. Robert Zammit from Senglea has spent several months working on his version of the opera house – and it's a brilliant work of art. Robert told 89.7 Bay: 'I've been working on this model for the past three years, although I started my first model around 30 years ago. 'I then left it half-finished on a shelf because I was too busy doing other things.'

The real Royal Opera House was originally built in Valletta in 1866 and then destroyed by fire in 1873. It was reconstructed in 1877 and hosted hundreds of concerts, plays and musicals until it was devastated by a German bomb in 1942.

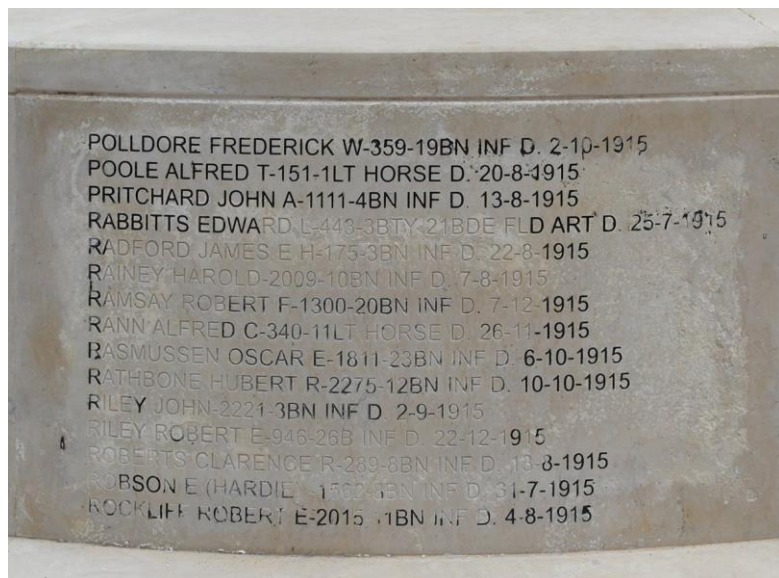
After that the site was eventually cleared and used as a car park until the 1990s. The surviving original structure now hosts an open air theatre which was designed by the world-renowned architect Renzo Piano.



H.E. Marie Louise
Coleiro Preca,
President of
Malta

admiring the
Royal Oper
House Model
created by
Robert Zammit
From Senglea

THE ANZAC MEMORIAL AT FLORIANA - COMMENTS



This is Joseph Briffa, Hon. Past President of the Maltese Guild of SA Inc, I like you to post this letter on your journal in regards the condition of the Anzac Monument at the Argotti Botanical Gardens, Floriana (See Maltese e-Newsletter 229). We all worked hard to raise funds for the memorial to be build, we collected over \$52,000 and after we paid the reception at the European Function Centre on Findon Road of \$20,000 we took to Malta the total of \$32,000 in cheque form. A reception was held and paid for by Chev. Charles Figallo OSJ. For the standard of the Maltese work, we gave them enough funds not only to build the monument but enough to have the names written on marble like most of Maltese monuments are in existence these last 50 years or so, and stuck to the limestone, writing anything on the Maltese limestone will not last more than 5 years or so. Regards Joseph Briffa Hon. Past President of the Maltese Guild of South Australia Inc.

Thank you so much Frank for pointing out the condition of the Anzac Monument in Malta. Thank goodness my father is not alive to see how it is now. He would be so disappointed after he worked very hard and long hours to get it up and running to the building stage. Hope something is done soon. Not long after the names went on the Monument, the letters started to peel off and promises to fix them seem to have gone to deaf ears. Sahha - Carmen Baxter (daughter)

I read with great interest the last Maltese e-Newsletter (229) in which you referred to the neglected situation of the beautiful monument dedicated to the ANZAC soldiers who are buried in Malta. It is a great shame that it has neglected, and the names of the Australian and New Zealand soldiers are disappearing. We, especially the Maltese-Australians, are very concerned and we pray that something will be done to maintain the beauty of this monument. I hope that this memorial and the Australia Hall (built for the ANZACS in 1915) will not finish up in ruins. They should be preserved for the sake of future generations. Charles Camilleri, Victoria

For history's sake, please, those who are responsible restore our monument. It is very shameful to see Australian and New Zealand tourists visiting this magnificent ANZAC monument to find in such a state. ANZAC monuments here in Australia are all well-kept and maintained because they represent all the service men and women who gave up their lives during WW1 to preserve our country, our liberty and democracy. Anna and John Busuttil, NSW

First motorbike sharing service launched, with plan to extend to Gozo



The first motorbike sharing service on the Maltese Islands – IOScoot, has been launched today, attended by Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects Ian Borg

40 initial electric motorcycles will initially be available in Valletta, Msida, Gzira, Sliema and St Julian's, with a plan of extending the service to other locations in Gozo and Malta across the span of four years, through a private investment of €1.5 million.

The Minister commended the investment which will be made by this company and said that this is a sustainable and environmentally friendly scheme, as the fleet will be entirely electric, as well as helping to reduce traffic and congestion.

He also had words of praise for the company which took this initiative and for Malta Public Transport for the tallinja card incentive. Chairman of Malta Public Transport Felipe Cosmen explained that this initiative has been already implemented in other countries for more than 5 years.

He explained that the scooters will be easily accessible through an app of IOScoot. Through this app, whoever would like to make use of the service and has the necessary license can find the nearest scooter and place a booking. People will only pay for the trip, leaving the e-moto available for the next user.

The company will also be providing the helmet. Jorge Magana, CEO of IOScoot, said that whoever is interested in using the service and is in possession of a license can do this free of charge during the trial period by registering on www.ioscoot.com.mt.

The trial period started on the 27th July until 12th August, Magana added that this is another important initiative where the Malta Public Transport is partnering so that people can make use of the tallinja card for intermodal services such as IOScoot and the ferry service.



Prime Minister
Turnbull



Bill
Shorten
Leader of the
Opposition

A meat pie faux pas?

Dinky die Aussie, head of a nation Malcolm Turnbull eating a pie with a knife and fork

In showbiz, they say never work with animals or children. In politics the equivalent rule should be never be photographed with food.

The adage can amply be demonstrated by

prime minister Malcolm Turnbull, who, according to the internet, has made the grievous tactical error of sharing the stage with a meat pie while on the byelection campaign trail.

On a stop in Ulverstone on Tasmania's north coast, Turnbull was pictured eating a pie at Olivers Bakery and Cafe, not with his hands, but with a knife and fork.

Despite praising the local business for "continuing to make excellent pies", the prime minister can be seen poised to cut it like a steak. The video, posted to Turnbull's Instagram account, also reveals the second sin of removing the pie's lid before eating, with the prime minister attempting to prise the top off his pie in a way that many on Twitter found distressing.

Angelo Azzopardi - Carlton's knight of Malta

Tony De Bolfo, AFL Carlton Media - Melbourne – Victoria - Australia



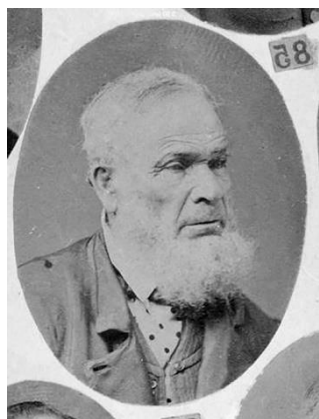
Former Carlton footballer Angelo Azzopardi, the son of Australia's first Maltese free settler in Australia. (Photo: Blueseum)

If multiculturalism means “the existence, acceptance, or promotion of multiple cultural traditions within a single jurisdiction” then Carlton Football Club can surely claim football’s multicultural dominion.

Amongst the club’s historic ranks is a solid collective born beyond Australian shores - from the Indian-born Fred Pringle through to the London-born Wayne Blackwell.

Then there are those boasting generational links with the old world – from Wally Koochew, whose father was Chinese and mother of Nordic extraction, through to Anthony Koutoufides, the son of a Greek Egyptian-born father and Italian-born mother.

Another such Carltonite was truly of another time. His name was Angelo Azzopardi, whom history records was the son of Australia’s first Maltese free settler, Antonio Azzopardi.



The much-resourced Carlton historic website www.blueseum.org, through its dedicated researcher Pete McLean, unearthed precious details of Australia’s first Azzopardi family.

Angelo’s father, the seaman Antonio Azzopardi, was born in Zejtun, a city in the south eastern region of Malta, in 1805. An image of him is included in the photographic montage published by Thomas Foster Chuck in 1872 entitled “The Explorers and Early Colonists of Victoria and he is listed as number 84, “A. Azzopardi”.

Antonio Azzopardi, Australia's first Maltese free settler.

Antonio disembarked the barque *Mary Hay* in Melbourne in 1839 - just four years after the city’s founding by John Batman. Antonio initially toiled as a mail contractor before turning his hand to the publishing game as a canvasser with

Melbourne’s *The Herald* newspaper. In time he acquired RM Abbott’s printing works and duly pursued a career in the printing profession.

Antonio’s son Angelo (later to represent the Carlton Football Club in its pre-VFA years), was born in this city on August 8, 1846 – one of four children (three brothers and a sister) raised by Antonio and his Scottish-born wife Margaret Hannah Sandeman, who had exchanged marital vows at the Congregational Church the previous October.

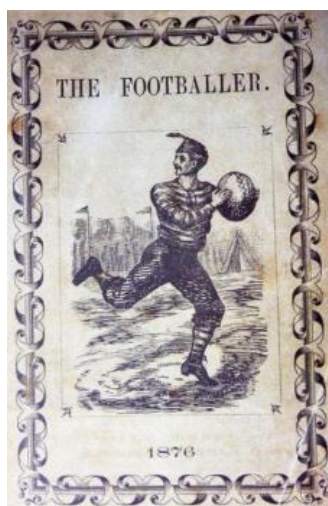
At one point, Angelo and his siblings followed their mother back to their homeland, and legend has it that on his return aboard the *SS Great Britain*, Angelo spoke with a Sean Connery-esque brogue.

Back in Melbourne, and according to The Dictionary of Australian Artists Online (DAAO), Angelo Azzopardi followed his father into the printing profession, and pursued a career as artist-engraver and publisher.

An early Azzopardi football engraving.

At some point in the 1870s, Angelo established an independent printing business headquartered in the Herald Passage - an old cobblestone lane tucked behind the city’s GPO Building. For a time he worked in partnership with Oliver Levey, a subsequent owner of *The Herald*, and later Hildreth & Co. Angelo’s presence obviously impacted on local planners, as a 1937 edition of Morgan’s Melbourne street directory lists the passageway as “Angelo Lane”.

That lane was later incorporated into the Myer complex.



*Angelo's engraving,
could this be a self
portrait?*

Angelo also gained local fame as a watercolour painter who exhibited his works at the 1866 Melbourne Intercolonial Exhibition. He also pursued an interest as an engraver and silversmith by way of the Eureka Electrotypes and Stereotype foundry out of 17-19 La Trobe Street, between Exhibition and Springs Streets at the top end of town.

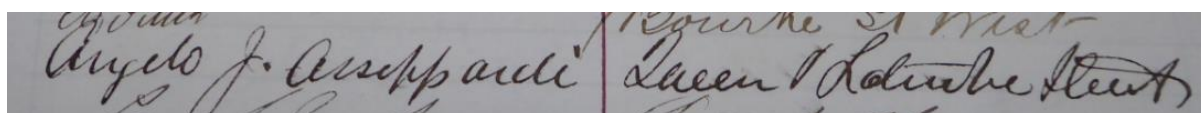
According to newspaper records, Angelo turned out for Carlton through two stints - 1868-1870 and 1875. He was named for the club in five matches in his maiden season, which took on rivals such as Geelong, South Yarra and Emerald Hill, but it remains unclear as to how many matches he actually participated in.

The 19th century publication, "The Footballer", carries on one of its front cover a sketch of what appears to be a Geelong footballer in full flight as he carries the ball. Beneath the figure's left heel in small print, appears the name Azzopardi. Could this be the footballer or the artist?

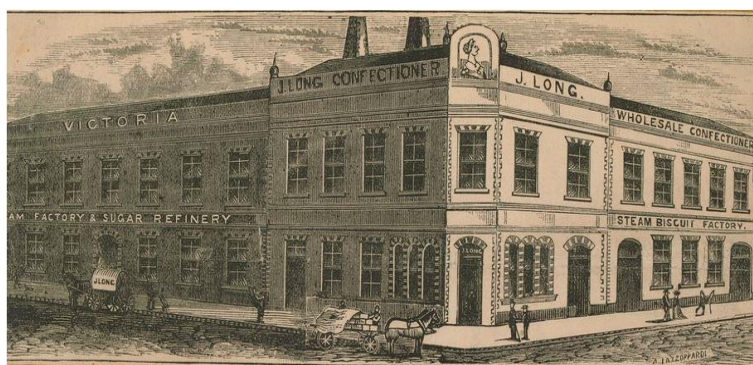
Angelo James Azzopardi was 49 when he died in neighbouring Brunswick on January 18, 1896 – a year before Carlton became a foundation member of the fledgling VFL.

A death notice acknowledged that Angelo died suddenly at his home, 74 Cassels Road, just off Moreland Road, and was survived by his dear wife Annie, who co-incidentally was also a Scot.

One hundred and twenty years after Angelo's untimely passing, the Azzopardi name remains inextricably linked to this football club's stirring multicultural story.



Above: In **1878** Angelo signed a petition which was presented to the Melbourne City Council calling on the council to provide a portion of Princes Park for the club to use as a football ground. Angelo's brother Valetta also signed. This document is now kept at the Victorian Public Records Office in North Melbourne. (PROV) **1888** The Herald March 22 (p3) had a report of land sales in Melbourne; "Land and a two story brick building at the corner of La Trobe street and Queens street, at one time known as Azzopardi's printing office, having 70 feet to Queen street, and 44 feet to Lonsdale street." The property was passed in."



Two engravings by Angelo Azzopardi. Note his name at the bottom of each picture

TIMES OF MALTA [Ivan Camilleri](#)

Malta faces competition as Montenegro enters the passport race

Photo: Schuttlestock



Sales of Maltese passports face more competition as Montenegro plans to launch a similar scheme in the coming weeks. A Montenegrin citizenship will be cheaper than a Maltese passport. Henley & Partners, one of the consultants of the Montenegrin

scheme and which also acts as advisers to the Maltese government, said a Montenegro passport could be obtained against a donation of €100,000. Applicants will also have to invest in property in the Balkan country, which is aspiring to join the European Union.

Montenegrin passport buyers have been given the option to either buy a property of a minimum value of €450,000 in the south of the country, considered to be more developed, or spend at least €250,000 in property located in the less-developed north.

In contrast, the donation to the Maltese government amounts to €650,000 and must be accompanied by a real estate acquisition costing at least €350,000.

Passport buyers can also opt for a lease of a minimum of €16,000 annually for five years.

Industry sources pointed out that though a Montenegrin passport was “much” cheaper, Maltese citizenship could give applicants more reach.

“Buying a Maltese passport is still more attractive if one wants to acquire rights as an EU citizen,” the sources noted.

They warned, however, that competition was increasing, pointing out that a Montenegrin passport could still offer a millionaire many additional rights, including visa-free travel to about 115 countries.

The sources commented on the role of Henley & Partners in so many passport sale schemes.

“The Maltese government’s consultants are now also devising and selling other similar schemes, not only in the Caribbean but even in Europe, which may be in direct competition to Malta’s scheme. The relationship between the Maltese government and Henley & Partners might have to be revisited in the coming months as it might not be any longer in Malta’s interest,” they remarked.

Malta’s scheme has been doing significantly well since its controversial introduction in 2013 when the government was forced by the European Commission to introduce stricter conditions on residency than the ones suggested by Henley & Partners.

Originally uncapped, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat had declared that the island agreed with Brussels not to sell more than 1,800 passports to main clients apart from their dependents.

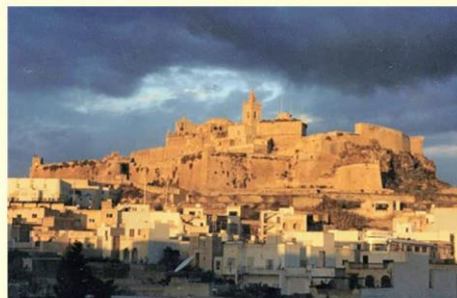
It is not yet known how many Maltese passports have been sold although Identity Malta sources said the half-way mark of the capped number had long been surpassed.

Henley & Partners have been lobbying the government to remove the capping. Montenegro has decided that its scheme will only be open to 2,000 applicants. Moldova introduced a similar scheme a few weeks ago.



From Wikipedia

Invasion of Gozo (1551)



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Citadella_Victoria_\(Gozo\).png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Citadella_Victoria_(Gozo).png)

The **Invasion of Gozo** took place in July 1551, and was accomplished by the Ottoman Empire against the island of Gozo, following an unsuccessful attempt to conquer nearby Malta on 18 July 1551. It was followed by a victorious campaign with the Siege of Tripoli.^[1]

Malta The Commander of the Ottoman fleet was Sinan Pasha, accompanied by Salah Rais and Dragut Reis. The Ottomans initially landed on Malta, at Marsamxett, and a force of 10,000 men marched upon Birgu and Fort St Angelo, but they realised that these were too well fortified to be conquered easily. Therefore, the Ottomans turned their attention to Mdina, looting and burning the villages on the way. Meanwhile, the Knights in Mdina, under the command of Fra Villeganion, asked the people living in the villages to seek refuge in the city and to help defend it. When the Ottomans arrived they discovered a large garrison defending the city so they decided against the plan of attacking the city since they did not want to fight a long siege. Meanwhile, a relief fleet attacked the Ottoman ships anchored at Marsamxett.

Gozo The Ottoman then decided to attack nearby Gozo, which was under the command of Governor Gelatian de Sessa. After a few days of bombardment, de Sessa attempted to negotiate with Sinan Pasha, however the latter rejected the terms. A few days later the Citadel capitulated. About 300 people escaped from the Citadel by climbing down its walls and hid from the Ottomans. The other 6,000 people, including Governor de Sessa and the Knights, were taken captive and ended up in slavery, being sailed to Tripoli on 30 July. The Ottomans only spared a monk and forty elderly Gozitans.

A street in the Citadel named after Bernardo Dupuo.



According to legend, one of the defenders named Bernardo Dupuo (also known as Bernardo da Fonte or de Opuo) fought bravely when Ottomans breached the city walls, and killed his own wife and two daughters preferring death over slavery before he himself was killed by the invading forces. A street in the Citadel is named after him, and outside his house lies a plaque commemorating his death.

Consequences Since few Christians remained on Gozo, families from Malta were encouraged by the Order of Saint John to repopulate the island. However, it took about 150 years for the population to reach pre-1551 levels. A few Gozitans managed to redeem themselves from slavery, such as the notable Reverend Lorenzo de Apapis, who returned to Gozo in 1554. Following the attack the Order set up a commission made up of Leone Strozzi and Pietro Pardo, who were engineers, to examine the Maltese Islands' fortifications and make suggestions for further improvements. The Grandmaster, Juan de Homedes, increased taxation and strengthened the coastal guards, the *Dejma*. Following Strozzi and Pardo's commission, Fort Saint Michael and Fort Saint Elmo were built to better defend the Grand Harbour. Bastions at Mdina and Birgu were strengthened, and the fortifications of Senglea were built. The failure to take all of the Maltese Islands was also one of the causes of the Great Siege of Malta in 1565. Two other unsuccessful attacks were made on Gozo in 1613 and 1709. During the sacking of Gozo, the archives of the Università were destroyed by the Ottomans. The only surviving pre-1551 records relating to Gozo are a few documents in the Notarial Archives as well as some records in the archives of Palermo, Sicily.



The Limestone Heritage is a multi-award winning cultural attraction. The stone quarry has been lovingly transformed into a tribute to Malta's main natural resource and one that has shaped the Maltese landscape. The animal park and gardens are a definite plus to it all!

The Limestone Heritage Park & Gardens is an innovative and award-winning attraction located in the traditional Maltese village of Siggiewi. Unique to the region, this gem celebrates the Maltese Islands' distinct stone, as well as its intricate history dating back over 22 million years.

As an agro-tourism attraction, a few hours spent here will thrill the whole family! In fact, the Limestone Heritage Park & Gardens offers immense insight into Malta's local history and culture through a multilingual audiovisual presentation and an engaging walkthrough available in 17 different languages.

And after that, you can choose to explore the onsite animal park or to join in with a live demonstration of lime stone sculpting. Before heading off, enjoy refreshments at the cafe overlooking the park and browse through the Boutique for genuine Maltese goods and exclusive stone souvenirs to take back home.

The Limestone Heritage has a unique landscape where every path and trail invites you to explore Malta's rich heritage in stone.

Another great and highly recommended attraction held at The Limestone Heritage is the Maltese Summer Folklore Nights, a celebration of culture, folklore and cuisine.

Free and ample parking spaces available and the attraction is easily accessible to persons with special needs. Unique in Europe... not to be missed!

Opening times Monday to Friday: 9.00hrs - 16.00hrs Saturday: 9.00hrs - 11.30hrs

Sunday: Closed



Valletta 2018's Original Large-scale Opera *Aħna Refuġjati*



press conference detailing this event

On the 31st of August and the 2nd of September, The Granaries in Floriana will see Valletta 2018's new, original, large-scale opera scripted and staged entirely in Maltese: *Aħna Refuġjati*. The opera, which is the first Maltese work of its kind, addresses timely concerns in the Euro-Mediterranean region, the human cost of large-scale immigration and the universal theme of loss as a result of political

convenience, racism and prejudice.

The stellar line-up includes highly-acclaimed local and international artists, with soprano Miriam Gauci, counter-tenor José Hernández Pastor, tenor Joseph Zammit and mezzo-sopranos Clare Ghigo and Federica Falzon in the leading roles. Gauci and Pastor will be in the roles of parents Shari and Eleja, while Zammit, Ghigo and Falzon will play Hamid, Saja and Darit, the couple's three children. The cast also includes tenor Nico Darmanin in the role of Karl, a young volunteer; sopranos Ruth Sammut Casingena and Nadia Vella, in the roles of Fatima and Diva, bass-baritone Louis Andrew Cassar in the role of Mirani, an activist, and baritone Joseph Lia in the role of an officer.

The opera, composed by Mario Sammut and Richard Merrill Brown, under the musical direction of Richard Merrill Brown and the direction of Mario Philip Azzopardi, is Sammut's first operatic venture after working on multiple international and local projects.

Aħna Refuġjati recounts the story of Eleja, his wife Shari, and their three children aged 20, 18 and 10, who flee from their war-torn village in Syria after witnessing atrocities during the civil war, in hopes of a better life in Europe. The opera follows the family's struggles with crossing borders, the lack of basic human rights, racism, separation and loss, on a journey motivated by hope.

Although the opera is entirely in Maltese, it includes surtitles in English as well as in Maltese. *Aħna Refuġjati* will be held on the 31st of August and on the 2nd of September at 21.00, at the Granaries in Floriana.

To book your tickets visit tickets.valletta2018.org. Tickets purchased before the 31st of July 2018 will enter the ticket holder into a draw to win an iPhone X, when using promo code VALIPHONEX at checkout. For more information visit valletta2018.org. Terms and conditions apply. *Aħna Refuġjati* is organised by the Valletta 2018 Foundation in collaboration with the Floriana Local Council, the Grand Harbour Regeneration Corporation, the Armed Forces of Malta, Transport Malta and Mad About Video. It is part of the Valletta 2018 Cultural Programme.



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Malta with fifth lowest EU unemployment rate

Malta had the fifth lowest unemployment rate in June, data published by Eurostat, the EU's statistical agency, shows.

The unemployment rate in Malta for the month of June stood at 3.9%, according to the figures.

The euro area (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.3% in June 2018, stable compared with May 2018 and down from 9.0% in June 2017. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the euro area since December 2008.

The EU28 unemployment rate was 6.9% in June 2018, also stable compared with May 2018 and down from 7.6% in June 2017. This is the lowest rate recorded in the EU28 since May 2008.

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in June 2018 were recorded in the Czech Republic (2.4%) and Germany (3.4%). The highest unemployment rates were observed in Greece (20.2% in April 2018) and Spain (15.2%).

Compared with a year ago, the unemployment rate fell in all Member States. The largest decreases were registered in Cyprus (from 11.0% to 8.2%), Portugal (from 9.1% to 6.7%), Croatia (from 11.1% to 9.2%), Estonia (from 6.8% to 4.9% between May 2017 and May 2018) and Spain (from 17.0% to 15.2%).

In June 2018, the unemployment rate in the United States was 4.0%, up from 3.8% in May 2018 and down from 4.3% in June 2017.

Eurostat estimates that 17.105 million men and women in the EU28, of whom 13.570 million in the euro area, were unemployed in June 2018. Compared with May 2018, the number of persons unemployed increased by 4,000 in the EU28 and by 14 000 in the euro area.

Compared with June 2017, unemployment fell by 1.657 million in the EU28 and by 1.146 million in the euro area.

Antonin Under the Stars back for a second year



The picturesque wine estate in the Ramla Valley, is once again the venue for a wine and cuisine event being organised by Marsovin.

Antonin Under The Stars – takes its name after the award winning wine Antonin Blanc, made from grapes grown from the very same estate.

In celebration of the grape harvest for vintage 2018, the weekend event will also be giving patrons the opportunity to

taste the wines produced from this Estate.

This Gozitan vineyard, is just a stone's throw away from Ramla Bay. For those who wish to have a closer look, a guided vineyard tour will be held at 7pm by Marsovin's wine specialists.

The aim of this event is to bring together Maltese culture, be it wines, food and music. The Travellers has been engaged for both nights. Mouthwatering food will be supplied by Orange Miles, "renowned as one of the tastiest food trucks on the island," Marsovin said..

Tickets are being sold at €20 per person, and will be available from Thursday, the 2nd of August. Please see [the facebook page](#) for details of how to purchase on the day. Ticket price includes; Entrance, Vineyard Tour between 7.00pm and 8.00pm, a wine glass to take home and flowing premium Marsovin wine throughout the evening. Wines served will include premium Antonin Blanc & Blanc de Cheval, both of which are made from grapes grown on the estate

Gianluca Bezzina's Family of Singers

The Star's Grandfather Was All the Rage Way Back In The 60s

Chiara Micallef



Malta's Eurovision sweetheart doctor Gianluca Bezzina found stardom back in 2013. The forever smiling singer represented Malta in the Eurovision song contest, winning the nation's hearts in the process.

The crooning doctor comes from a long line of singers in his family — and some of them are super great too. It turns out that Gianluca's grandfather, Gaetano Buttigieg was a pretty big deal back in the day.

Gianluca shares some of Gaetano's

memories with us, and we promise you that these anecdotes will warm your heart.

"My grandfather started challenging the idea that Maltese sounded too harsh when compared to the outpour of Italian and English songs coming through the Rediffusion sets at the time." Gianluca told us.

Buttigieg, known as Gaetano Kanta is considered one of Malta's pioneers in Music. He performed Italian songs regularly and even wrote his own material in Maltese.

Most of the lyrics Gaetano wrote were autobiographical and always had a positive message for the listeners.

My most vivid memories are the ones during Christmas, when every year he used to play his own programme of carols on a bulky tape recorder and we used to sing along to them.

"We have very fond memories of our grandfather, especially since during the early years of our childhood, we used to live with our grandparents before settling in our new home." Gianluca told Lovin Malta.

"He was always very calm and carried a cheerful disposition wherever he went. He also used to whistle perfectly pitched tunes with a most beautiful vibrato." He said.

"My most vivid memories are the ones during Christmas, when every year he used to play his own programme of carols on a bulky tape recorder and we used to sing along to them." Gianluca said.

His music was all the rage in the 60s. It was regularly heard on the rediffusion and people looked forward to hearing Gaetano sing. "We simply enjoyed singing them with him, enthralled by the enthusiasm in his voice and his joyful presence. Today we grew to love these songs even more, not only because they remind us of him, but because they remind us of his efforts to popularise Maltese lyrics" he said.

In 2001 Gaetano was handed the award of recognition for contribution to Maltese music at the Festival *L-Għanja tal-Poplu*. During the same year, he was awarded the *Gieħ il-Marsa* award.

"We grew up listening to his songs, perhaps at the time without really appreciating them for their real value within the local popular music scene." He told Lovin Malta.

"We have selected a few for our concert on Sunday 29th and Monday 30th July in collaboration with Teatru Manoel, Toi Toi Educational Programme, Valletta 2018 and St Vincent De Paul home for the elderly. The concert aims to revive the memories of a mature audience and take it back in time" Gianluca said.