



# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

Building Bridges between individuals and communities



Editor : Frank L Scicluna

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Nicole Vella is Miss World-Malta 2019



'I wish you would listen'...  
Climate Change - Young Activists Protest in Malta



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**



*Building Bridges between us*





Mrs Libby Ellis OAM  
President of the Royal  
Commonwealth  
Society S.A. Branch



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY  
South Australia Branch

### The theme for 2019: 'A Connected Commonwealth'

The Royal Commonwealth Society was founded in 1868. It was given its present name in 1958 and is constituted as a charity. Over the years, the role of the Society has evolved to meet the changing nature of the Commonwealth and the needs of its Supporters. It is a network of individuals and organisations committed to improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens across the world. It is non-partisan, is independent of governments and is supported solely by public generosity.

Each year the Commonwealth Day Observance is based around an annual Commonwealth theme. In 2015, the international theme was 'A Young Commonwealth', underlining the fact that people aged twenty-five or under account for the majority of the Commonwealth's population, and recognising their capacity, contribution and potential.

Through its educational, youth and outreach programmes, the Royal Commonwealth Society seeks to encourage young people to develop their skills and, with an increased understanding of their role as global citizens, to engage with challenges facing the international community. It aims to bring alive the fundamental principles of the modern Commonwealth—tolerance, diversity, freedom, justice, democracy, human rights and sustainable development—to a generation living in an increasingly interconnected world. RCS projects seek to enable young people to engage with their counterparts across the Commonwealth in youth leadership programmes, creative writing such as the Commonwealth Essay Competition.

At the local level, the RCS (SA Branch) has commenced a photographic competition and an art competition. Each year a theme is chosen and entries are sorted into different age groups. In line with these youth objectives, the RCS (SA Branch) provides financial support for the Plain English Speaking youth public speaking competition, identified a need to foster young emerging musicians in South Australia and to provide opportunities to develop these artists by establishing the RCS Instrumental Ensemble to present a series of high quality chamber music concerts. Some of the diverse organisations The Royal Commonwealth Society in SA has supported are Co-Opera, Desalyne Dancers, Accompanists' Guild of South Australia., Recitals Australia and charities such as Legacy and Guide Dogs SA./NT.

Fifty-two countries are members of the Commonwealth. Our countries span Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Pacific and are diverse – they are amongst the world's largest, smallest, richest and poorest countries. Thirty-one of our members are classified as small states – countries with a population size of 1.5 million people or less and larger member states that share similar characteristics with them. All members subscribe to the Commonwealth's values and principles outlined in The Commonwealth Charter. Leaders of member countries shape Commonwealth policies and priorities. Every two years, they meet to discuss issues affecting the Commonwealth and the wider world at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).. All members have an equal say – regardless of size or economic stature. This ensures even the smallest member countries have a voice in shaping the Commonwealth





THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY  
South Australia Branch

11 June 2019

Frank L Scicluna OAM  
Hon Consul for Malta in South Australia

Dear Frank

It is with great pleasure that we have presented you with an Honourary Fellowship to our Branch. We are actively trying to engage with the diaspora of those Commonwealth Countries resident here in South Australia.

Our branch has several ongoing projects that your readers may be interested in, including support for the Queens Essay competition. A young South Australian won the major prize of this competition last year and her reward included a trip to London, dinner at Buckingham Palace and meetings with several prominent British authors.

Other international projects we support are the 'Queen's Commonwealth Canopy', and the CHOGM 'Blue Charter'.

We have our own very highly respected Instrumental Ensemble that often plays in smaller groups: *BronzeWing* is the string quartet and *WindSong* is the wind quintet.

We are also working with the Royal Society, South Australian Branch, to support a project in Fiji, and are looking at ways to support another project in Papua New Guinea.

Recently, our branch has been involved with events with both the Sri Lankan and Tanzanian communities, and we would welcome suggestions on ways we can interact with the Maltese community in this state.

Yours sincerely

Libby Ellis OAM - President



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[www.thercssa.com.au](http://www.thercssa.com.au)



**A Connected Commonwealth works together  
to protect our natural environment and the ocean  
that we share and cooperates  
on trade to encourage inclusive  
economic empowerment  
for all people - particularly women, youth  
and marginalised communities.**

## QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS 2019

The Order of Australia, Meritorious and Military awards



### Rear Admiral Gregory John SAMMUT

#### THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Rear Admiral Gregory John SAMMUT AM CSC RAN, NSW received the award for his distinguished service as the Head Future Submarine Program, and the General Manager Submarines.

Rear Admiral (RADM) Gregory John Sammut assumed duties as Head Future Submarine Program in September 2013.

RADM Sammut was born in Sydney in 1966. He fulfilled a long-held ambition to join the Royal Australian Navy from high school in 1984. Having completed an honours degree in electrical engineering in 1987, he subsequently conducted

seaman officer training before qualifying as a submariner in 1991 and then obtaining his submarine command qualification in 1996.

RADM Sammut served as a Commanding Officer of the Collins Class Submarine, HMAS Farncomb, and the Anzac class frigates HMAS *Ballarat* and HMAS *Toowoomba*. From June to November 2006, he was Commander Task Group 158.1, directly responsible to the Commander of Coalition Forces in the Northern Arabian Gulf. His most recent operational role was as Commander Combined Task Force 150 from October 2010 to April 2011, during which he commanded operations of the maritime counter-terrorism task force of the Combined Maritime Forces in the Middle East Area of Operations.

His shore duties have included Commander Submarine Sea Training, Chief Staff Officer-Operations in Fleet Command, Director Submarine and Specialist Ship Development within Capability Development Group, Chief of Staff to Chief of Navy, and Director General Submarine Capability within Navy Strategic Command.

A graduate of both the Royal Australian Navy Staff College and the Naval Command College in Rhode Island United States, RADM Sammut also holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration.



### Marguerite Virginia EVANS-GALEA VIC

received the award for her significant service to women in STEMM as an advocate and role model.

Dr Marguerite Evans-Galea is a scientist, executive and entrepreneur. Dr Evans-Galea is Executive Director of the Industry Mentoring Network in STEM with the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering, and co-founder and CEO of Women in STEMM Australia. With a PhD in molecular biology and almost 20 years experience leading international research programs in cell and gene therapy for genetic disease at world-leading organisations in the United States and Australia, Dr Evans-Galea has received numerous awards for her research and leadership. She currently serves on the ARC Centre for Nanoscale Biophotonics Advisory Board and Chairs the CNBP Nurturing Environment Committee. She is also the Australasian

Associate Editor on the Editorial Board with Gene Therapy-Springer Nature. An internationally recognised advocate for women in STEMM, Dr Evans-Galea co-chairs the Women in STEMM Australia Board and served on the Science in Australia Gender Equity Expert Advisory Group. She also serves on the inaugural Ministerial Council for Women's Equality in Victoria, and is an Ambassador for the Victorian Honour Roll of Women and Scienceworks Museum. Dr Evans-Galea has also represented Australia at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Women in STEMM meetings. A renowned advocate for STEMM research, education and innovation, Dr Evans-Galea has served with advisory groups in State and Federal government, and communicates on a range of science-related topics via social and mainstream media. An independent consultant, speaker, editor and peer reviewer, Dr Evans-Galea is actively engaged across multiple professional sectors in the broader STEMM ecosystem.





### Anthony Michael SCHEMBRI NSW

received the award for his significant service to hospital administration, and to medical research

A/Professor Anthony Schembri, BSW(Hons) GradDipPubAdmin, MPP (Merit) FCHSM, MAASW is the CEO of the St Vincent's Health Network Sydney. Anthony holds appointment as Board Director Central & Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network, Board Director for the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Board Director of the St Vincent's Curran Foundation, and Co Chair of Australian Catholic University/St Vincent's Nursing Research Institute. Anthony is an Adjunct Professor in Health Sciences at the Australian Catholic University and Associate Professor of the St

Vincent's Clinical School of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of New South Wales. Prior to this Anthony was employed in General Manager roles at Liverpool Hospital, Bankstown Lidcombe Hospital and Fairfield Hospital. Anthony has also held the role of Clinical Director for Allied Health and hospital social work roles.

## Gender imbalance in Parliament a democratic deficit - Speaker Anglu Farrugia



Addressing the crowd at the Sette Giugno event on Thursday, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Anglu Farrugia said that Parliament needs to achieve better gender balance. He noted that this is an issue which has not yet been adequately addressed.

Out of the 67 elected Members in the present Legislature, only ten MPs are female, amounting to 15%, Farrugia explained. Government has launched a public

consultation proposing to address this issue, he said, adding that this process closes on 8 June. "This means that at this stage, everyone still has the opportunity to make proposals with regards to this reform." Farrugia said that the reform needs to be implemented quickly and in a responsible manner so that Malta will have a mechanism that can address this discrepancy "which one may argue that it constitutes a democratic deficit in Parliament."

The lack of representation of women in Parliament is a phenomena that has been witnessed for a long time, Farrugia noted, saying that this is despite the fact that women have been granted the right to vote as well as the right to stand for elections since 1947.

Farrugia even pointed out that fact that this dearth is even more apparent when Malta is compared to other countries, not only in Europe, but also across the Commonwealth. He also highlighted the fact that even Cameroon has more women in Parliament, at 31%.

The EU average in this regard is 28.5 % as published in a recent report, Farrugia noted.

"Therefore, it is evident that the time has come for us to address this problem responsibly, by seeing that all the necessary measures are introduced so that more women are encouraged to stand for elections to represent the citizens in Parliament."

Farrugia also said the commemoration serves as an opportunity to consider what the Maltese achieved to date regarding parliamentary democracy.

His also pointed out that this year is more significant because these events are so closely connected to the history of the parliament of Malta.

Farrugia highlighted the events which led to the riots which broke out on 7 June 1919. "At the end of World War I our country faced huge problems, especially in agriculture and in the importation of wheat, on which the availability of food for the Maltese people depended." He said that it was not just a problem of high costs of food products but also the rising discontent and tension amongst the Maltese working class, especially those blue collar workers who assisted the British during World War I. He referred especially to those Dockyard workers who faced discrimination amongst their colleagues. **Photos Michael Camilleri**



## The Knights of Malta



The historic knights did not disappear. They are fighting the modern battles of poverty and solitude.

*Prince Augusto*

*Ruffo Di Calabria. Photo: Chris Sant Fournier*

The Sovereign Military Order of Malta is planning to set up a centre where migrants can be taught a variety of trades so they can find jobs, get on with their lives and regain their dignity.

The Order's Ambassador to Malta, Prince Augusto Ruffo Di Calabria, said the initiative was just one of many short-term projects being planned in line with the Order's Christian principles of assisting those most in need.

"We are keen to set up a place where migrants could learn. A sort of centre to teach them how to work so they can be free to find a job and make their own living or else go back to their country with something more in their hands. It is our moral responsibility," he said.

"They need to work and be able to make a living. We are here to help give them a future, give them hope and help them find a job, even for their own dignity."

The Knights of Malta are devoted to their humanitarian mission to help those in need, as inspired by their core values of humility, respect and generosity.

"What we do today is nothing when compared to what the Knights of Malta did in the past.

"We are here to give a voice to those who have none and assistance to those who have no one else to turn to," he said. "The Knights of Malta we see in history books did not disappear. We are not fighting battles as they did in the past but we are fighting the modern battles of poverty and solitude," the ambassador added.

The care provided by the Order ranges from assisting the poor to running hospitals, helping

refugees and migrants to helping children in their daily needs.

Founded in Jerusalem in the 11th century, the Order of Malta had a long history of service to the vulnerable and the sick. A lay religious order of the Catholic Church, the Sovereign Order of Malta enjoyed diplomatic relations with over 100 states and was active in 126 countries caring for people in need through its medical, social and humanitarian work. It had a broad spectrum of social projects providing support for forgotten or excluded members of society.

The Order, which has 20,000 knights spread across the world, is recognised by the Vatican and has its main seat in Rome and Malta, where there are 110 knights.

Prince Ruffo Di Calabria said the Order spent about €300 million a year in projects around the world. The money came from donations received from members who paid annual fees that went entirely towards humanitarian projects.

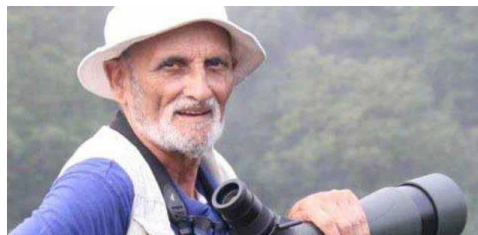
*We are here to give a voice to those who have none*  
In Italy, the Order manages a 240-bed San Giovanni Battista Hospital, in Rome which has a specialist neuro-rehabilitation unit for cerebral trauma patients and a specialised 'reawakening unit' for patients recovering from coma.

It employs more than 550 professionals and runs 13 health centres across Italy. The various branches of the Order of Malta around the world focus mainly on care for the sick and the elderly, on homelessness and support for the lonely.

The ambassador said the Order was particularly concerned about the confusion created by the various "fake orders" set up around the world, including in Malta. "Malta recognises only one Order and that is the Sovereign Order of Malta," he said. "There are several other orders that use our exact name and most of the time even our eight-pointed cross with very little variation and this creates lots of confusion.

"The other orders collect money too but they are not as transparent as us on how they spend the funds and which projects they undertake. People must be careful which orders they choose to join."

## A Journal for the whole family



## Joe Sultana - An Appreciation (11th Nov 1939 – 11th Sept 2018)

**Edwin Lanfranco**

My friend *New Guide to the Birds of Malta; L-Ghasafar ta' Malta*  
Joe Sultana (2001, with

has been a  
driving

force in the promotion of the conservation of wild birds in particular and the natural environment in general. Prior to 1962 when the Malta Ornithological Society (now BirdLife Malta) was set up, soon followed in the same year by the Natural History Society of Malta (now Nature Trust Malta), there was very little environmental awareness in Malta. These societies and, eventually, others started the ball rolling.

Joe immediately joined the MOS and from the 24th April 1962 he started to form part of the committee of its Gozo Branch. He started serving on the main committee as Honorary Secretary in 1967 until he was elected president in 1976, which post he held till 1987.

In 1957 Joe started his career as a teacher in Government schools. Later on, in this capacity, he was posted to Villa Psalgon in Dingli which, at the time, served as a field studies centre where schoolchildren, teachers, environmentalists participated in short field courses – often residential - with field work being carried out in areas such as Buskett and followed up by laboratory sessions and lectures. He held this posting until 1980 when moved to pastures new occupying the post of environment officer

for conservation in the ministry then responsible for the Environment. In 1993 he was appointed environment manager (reserves, sites and habitats) while in 1995 he was promoted to principal environment officer, retiring in 2000. Sultana also held numerous prestigious posts in international conservation organisations such as the International Council for Bird Preservation (now BirdLife International), MEDMARAVIS and others.

Joe has also been the recipient of numerous awards such as the Gouden Lepelaar (Golden Spoonbill) by BirdLife Netherlands; the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Medal and made a Member of Honour by BirdLife International. His latest award was the Premju Buonamico (together with David Dandria and myself) presented by the Environment and Resources Authority on the 20th April 2018.

Joe has authored, co-authored and edited numerous books and other publications. Among these one can mention: *A Guide to the Birds of Malta* (1975, with Charles Gauci and Mark Beaman); *L-Aghsafar* (1979, with Charles Gauci and colour plates by Rodney Ingram) of which an English language edition was published in 1982 as A

colour plates by Andrew Micallef); *Nature in Gozo* (2007, with John J. Borg and Edwin Lanfranco); *The Breeding Birds of Malta* (2011, with John J. Borg, Charles Gauci and Victor Falzon and, his last book, *Il-Wirt Naturali ta' Ghawdex* (2018) which is a compilation of articles written by him over the years.

In 1995 he was editor, and one of the authors of *Flora u Fawna ta' Malta* illustrated by Victor Falzon and Andrew Micallef; this is certainly one of the most important works on the natural history of Malta aimed at the general public. It was translated into English (by David Dandria) and published as *Wildlife of the Maltese Islands* (1996 and edited together with Victor Falzon), which was reprinted in 2002. Alas both Maltese and English edition have long been out of print and I feel that there is still a great need for this book and hope that an updated edition must, some day, see the light of day.

In my opinion his Magnum Opus is the detailed *History of Ornithology in Malta* (2016, with John J. Borg and design by Victor Falzon). In the same year he edited *A Man of Cultural Achievements*, a festschrift in honour of the Gozitan Scholar Joseph Attard Tabone. In addition he also published several scholarly papers on the ornithology of Malta and the Mediterranean area in several scholarly journals as well as many articles in popular media. I was very glad to have been invited by Joe to write studies for the various publications which he edited.

I first got to know Joe some time in the mid 1960s when I became involved with the natural environment and joined both the NHSM, in which I was most active, as well as the MOS. He invited me to collaborate in various of his projects – he was a veritable volcano of ideas, initiating projects and seeing them through. We also collaborated when he left the Education Ministry to join that responsible for the environment. Occasionally we did not see eye-to-eye on some matters but this never affected our friendship and mutual respect. Alas, over the past year his health rapidly began to wane and he passed away in Xaghra (Gozo) the town where he was born. He is survived by his wife Lucy (née Sammut), his daughter Ruth and his son Mark who, following in his father's steps, is now CEO of BirdLife Malta.





## MISS WORLD – MALTA 2019

*Nicole Vella, daughter of singer Debbie Scerri, crowned Miss Malta*

Nicole Vella from Rabat was crowned Miss World Malta 2019 during the finals held June 8 at the Royal Opera House, Valletta.

The 19-year-old psychology student bested 25 other candidates for the right to compete at the 2019 Miss World contest in December in Thailand. She also won Best Physique.

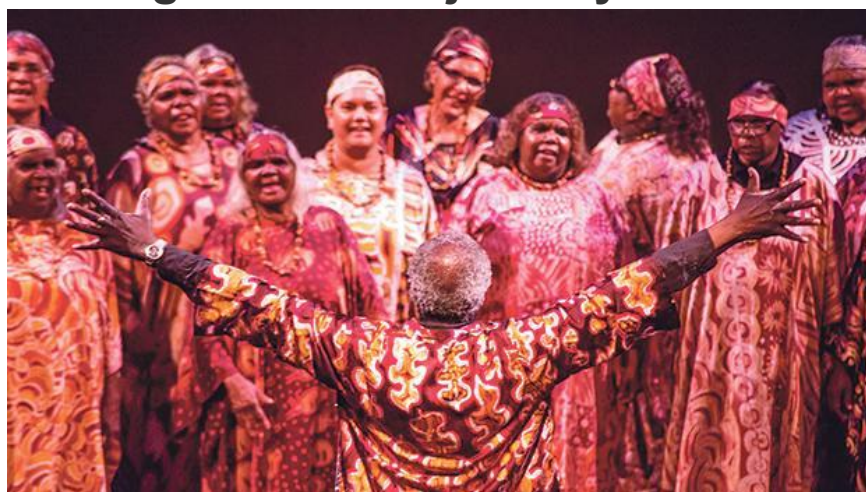
Natalya Galdes placed second and was named Miss Personality. NICOLE will now represent Malta in the Miss World contest in Thailand next December.

Nicole is practically a new face in fashion, however she is part of a family synonymous with entertainment. Her mother is one of the best singers in Malta **Debbie Scerri**, who represented Malta in the 1997 Eurovision Song Contest. Nicole is studying psychology at the University, sings and is ballet dancer.

26 beauty contestants participated in the final evening organised by Sue Rossi and Claudia Calleja. The beauty contestants were judged on modelling, personality and confidence, among others.

Natalya Galdes classified in second place and Lara Maria Camilleri was third. Last year's Miss World Malta winner was Maria Ellul. Other beauty titles were awarded during the final night. Lara Maria Camilleri won the Beauty with a Purpose award. Lara Maria was the main contributor of the sum of €4,000 that the contestants raised for Dr Klown.

## Aboriginal choir's journey



In the obscure churches of remote central Australia, a hidden musical legacy of ancient Aboriginal languages, sacred poetry and baroque music is being preserved by four generations of song women who make up the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir.

Against all odds and with the help of their charismatic conductor, the choir embarks on a historic tour of Germany to take back the hymns that were given to their great grandparents by German

missionaries, now sung in their own Aboriginal languages. Together they share their music and stories of cultural survival, identity and cross-cultural collaboration.

The screening of *The Song Keepers* tonight at 7pm is being organised by the Australian High Commission in relation to the exhibition *Yiwarra Kuju: The Canning Stock Route* as part of the Spazju Kreattiv Programme 2018/2019.

*Patrons are encouraged to book their free tickets today prior the event so as to avoid disappointment. For more information, call 2122 3200.*





## East meets West in Malta

### First ever Chinese Medicine and Western Medicine Forum in Malta

The Mediterranean Regional Centre for Traditional Chinese Medicine

The Mediterranean Regional Centre for Traditional Chinese Medicine (MRCTCM) was officially established in 1994 jointly by the Chinese Government and the Maltese Government. Jiangsu Commission of Health of China's Eastern Jiangsu Province is responsible

for dispatching medical teams to the Centre annually.

Excellent services, expert and effective treatment have helped the Centre earn a good reputation among the Maltese and people of other nationalities, and also greatly expanded the influence of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Malta and beyond.

So far, 14 medical teams have served in the MRCTCM over the past 26 years, receiving a total of nearly 210,000 patients including local Maltese people as well as foreign and Chinese communities residing in Malta. The Centre has also provided treatment to the highest officials in the country.

The doctors from the MRCTCM also work outside the Centre, running outpatient services at the two State hospitals respectively in Malta and Gozo. When opened in 2008, the Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic at Mater Dei Hospital was the first of its kind at a European public hospital.

The services we provide include acupuncture, massage, cupping, cervical and pelvic traction, ear press and other physical therapy. People suffering from diseases such as slip disc, cervical spondylosis, sciatica, acute or chronic sprain, frozen shoulder, soft tissue contusion, arthritis, fibromyalgia, headache, stomachache, constipation, poor digestion, sequelae of wind-stroke, insomnia, irregular menstruation, menopausal syndrome, urinary tract infection, depression, general weakness, stress and strains, eczema, allergic dermatitis, obesity, etc. can benefit from our services.

Apart from providing medical services, the MRCTCM is also tasked with important educational and training missions, such as holding lectures on Traditional Chinese Medicine and courses on Chinese self-massage. The MRCTCM has also become the teaching base for some Chinese medicine colleges in Europe.

The Mediterranean Regional Centre for Traditional Chinese Medicine in Malta

Address: Corradino, Paola, Malta Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MRCTCM](https://www.facebook.com/MRCTCM)

The academic forum aims to foster academic communication between Chinese and Western medicine in Malta, to further promote traditional Chinese medicine therapies, and to improve the level of understanding and academic exchanges between Chinese and Western medicine.

Time: Saturday, May 18, 2019 between 9:30am and 12:30pm

Venue: The Conference Room of Medical School, Block A, Level 0, Medical School, Mater Dei Hospital

Address: Triq Dun Karm, Msida, Malta

Sponsors: Jiangsu Commission of Health; The Mediterranean Regional Centre for Traditional Chinese Medicine

Chairpersons: Dr Shi Jiangfeng, the 14th China Medical Team in Malta and Dr Shelia Jin, St James Hospital.

Attendees: Doctors of Chinese Medicine, Doctors of Western Medicine, Therapists and Nurses. Open to the public



<https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/east-meets-west.709790>



## New film hopes to serve as promotion for Maltese islands

Report: Antonia Micallef tvn.com.mt

The film *Made in Malta* is now showing at local cinemas. This is the second film shot in Malta by Maltese-Australian director Julian Galea. It is a romantic story which has a Maltese setting.

After the success of his first film *Love to Paradise* which he shot in Malta three years ago

and which won him the honour of the best film at the Malta International Film Festival, Mr Galea has now completed his second film which was completely shot in the country where both his parents were born and raised.

*Made in Malta* tells the love story between an American film producer Vincent and his ex-Spanish girlfriend, Annalisa. Despite having doubts about her intentions, Vincent accepts to set aside the pressures of the film he is working on in order to explore Malta with her.

As they discover the beauty of the Maltese islands they also once again discover each other, however Annalisa has a secret and when it is revealed they are forced to confront the rest of their lives.

Julian Galea, is the son of Maltese emigrants who left for Australia in the 60s. He says that his parents always described Malta as the most beautiful country in the world and he feels that they were proved right when he visited Malta for the first time with his father many years ago. With beautiful cinematography of Malta serving as the backdrop to the love story between Vincent and Annalisa, Galea is hoping that this film will promote Malta as an ideal place to shoot films as well as a **tourist destination**.

## MALTA IS CHANGING RAPIDLY - Josanne Cassar

A recent news report tells us that there are almost 43,000 foreigners currently employed on the island. Within another five years it is being estimated that 30% of the workforce will be made up of non-Maltese nationals. So, despite the fact that moving and settling in here is not as straightforward as it could be, we are told that the country needs to "import" more and more workers, which is presumably why there is all this unfettered construction of towering blocks of apartments. According to a report on TVM, "There are sectors such as gaming, financial services, IT and pharmaceuticals for which we do not have enough Maltese workers, and no matter how many new people qualify in these fields there will still not be enough to keep up with the demand. On top of these, one needs to add those sectors which "are no longer attractive to Maltese workers".

To further compound all this we have a birth rate which is dropping. Statistics published by Eurostat show that two years ago, Malta classified among the top five countries which have the lowest birth rate. Demographic experts say that if this trend continues, the pressure will increase on the pensions system while also leading to a decline in the Maltese population in the long term. And unless Maltese people are prepared to start reproducing like rabbits from now on, this is not going to change, which means the next generation is going to be even more "mixed". Cultural diversity is here to stay.

So to sum up, we are already bursting at the seams as the population is swelled by those who are coming to live here in order to build the properties required.... for more people to live here. We have a self-deprecating saying in Maltese, "inhobbu naraw kbir" (too big for our boots) and it truly fits in this situation. Rather than accepting the limitations of our size, we are acting as if space (like money) is no problem. But the plain truth is that we are going to reach breaking point as the whole system is already groaning under a myriad of pressures because of a lack of foresight and planning. Rather than trying to force Malta to be something it is not, we just need to say stop.

**I seriously see no benefit in having money pouring out of our ears while everyone is fuming with rage on our gridlocked roads packed like sardines with too many cars**





#### GOZO THROUGH THE EYES OF FOREIGN RESIDENTS

Smells, sounds, the ferry, tunnel, keep out,  
birds in danger of extinction, steel jungle, festa,  
landscapes, churches, bells, pastizzi, hop on hop off,  
keys, home, beauty, anarchy, opera, culture,  
money under the mattress...

All this is what four foreign artists residents in Gozo see  
and experience in Gozo and are exhibiting in  
Ozog at Arthall in Victoria.

Tomas Hed from Sweden, Spyke von Stripe from Canada,  
Christian Mayer and Viktoria Marion from Hungary prepared  
this collective exhibition trying to catch the singularity of Gozo,  
which all the beauty and particularities. The artists prepared  
installations with stones, music, videos, sculptures and paintings.

Ozog runs at Arthall, 8, Triq Agius de Soldanis, Victoria  
until Sunday. It is open between Wednesday and Saturday  
from 10am to 1pm and from 4 to 6pm and on  
Sunday from 10am to noon.

Commemoration of the 136<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
The Blessed Virgin's Call to Karmni Grima  
Feast of Our Lady Ta' Pinu  
**Mary, Queen of the Family**

**Saturday**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> June 2019**  
Starts **2.00 p.m.**

**Holy Mass & Benediction**  
Led by H.E. Bishop Hilton Deakin,  
Mgr Benedict Camilleri, Rev C. Borg, Rev V.  
Maglica (Croatian) & other clergy members

**Rosary Procession**  
*Come with your children  
and receive Her blessings*

**Ta Pinu Shrine (Aust)**  
15 Flanagan's Drv, Bacchus Marsh 3340  
Tel: 03 53677006 [www.tapinu-australia.org](http://www.tapinu-australia.org)

## Diplomacy fund in three Australian states, straight from Malta!

The Star of Strait Street - On Tour musical production was sublimely performed at La Valette Social Centre in Blacktown, NSW; at the Maltese Community Council of Victoria in Parkville, VIC; and at the Maltese Guild of South Australia in Beverley, SA, in May 2018.

The performances were an astounding powerhouse of energy nuanced with nostalgia. The 750-800 people who attended the four performances in the three Australian states were impressed by the high quality

production and the grand story. Much gratitude goes out to the outstanding artists Larissa Bonaci, Polly March, Geoffrey Thomas and to support from Marcel Bonaci. Thanks also to the support from the local Maltese communities, with a special mention to Frank Scicluna, Sam Mifsud. Looking forward to having similar opportunities to bring artists from Malta to Australia in the near future.

Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion  
of the Republic of Malta

Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.

Maltese Guild of SA

#CulturalDiplomacyFund





## TA PINU SHRINE - BACCHUS MARSH - VICTORIA- AUSTRALIA

***Żjara f'Ta' Pinu***

Ġejt inżurek O Madonna  
Reġina tas-Sema w l-art  
f'das-Santwarju Nazzjonali  
imdawwar b'għonna u ward.

Perugino lilek pinga  
tielgħa s-sema kollok dija,  
qtajja' t'angli bik jifirħu  
ikantawlek għalenija.

Fit-tnejn u għoxrin ta' Gunju  
ta' kull sena nfakkru l-ġrajja  
ta' met'int kellimt lil Karmni  
kampanjola bint ir-ragħajja.

Lil Frangisk Portelli għidtlu  
B'ta' Gesu l-Pjaga l-Moħbija  
Li biha l-Mulej tant bata  
F'tal-Kalvarju l-moħdija!

Frenċ ta' l-Għarb għamel kemm felah  
biex inbnielek das-Santwarju  
Ċentru sar tal-pellegrini  
u għalihom relikwarju.

Papa Gwanni Pawlu t-tieni  
fid-disgħin għamillek żjara  
u lill-kwadru inkuruna --  
niesna griet hawnhekk bi ngarha.

U illum ġewwa l-Awstralja  
ħadna anke' x-xbieha tiegħek  
sabiex ħutna l-emigranti  
jgħammru dlonk għal kenn ta' driegħek.

Int tas-Sema s-Sultana  
Inti Omm Sid il-ħolqien  
lilek nissel mingħajr tebgħa  
sa mill-bidu ta' kull żmien.

Niesna tiġi minn kull naħa  
biex l-'ex voto' tmur iżżur  
'kamra' li l-fejqaq turina,  
bil-ferħ qalbna tkun trid tfur.

Għażiż'Ommna aħna uliedek  
Taf kemm aħna midinbin  
Bieb il-Genna fis berrħilna  
biex ingawdu lill-Bambin.

Thalliniex għal mument wieħed  
biex Sat'na ma jaħkimniex;  
aħna dgħajfa, ta' spiss nogħtru,  
waħidna, la titlaqniex!

Bierek lil dal-ġuvni twajjeb  
li jinsab magħdur, marid;  
b'ferħ il-Genna imla 'l qalbu,  
għinu jerfa' das-salib!

**Kav Joe M Attard**  
**Victoria Għawdex**

We congratulate Adele SALIBA from New South Wales who received the Order of Australia medal for her services to the community through charitable initiatives on the Queen's Birthday Honour's List 2019.





## FROM ALBANIA

I read every issue of your very interesting newsletter. Maltese who, like myself, are away from our homeland (I have been in Albania for the past 22 years) should feel very grateful to you for your patience to prepare this newsletter which serves as a link among Maltese living in so many different countries: Thanks very much.

### Bishop George Frendo OP

On the 7th April I celebrated the 50th anniversary of my priestly ordination. For that occasion my colleagues published a number of my lectures and articles in e book (in Albanian) entitled "Bisedoj me miqte e mi" (Speaking with my friends). I am enclosing photos of this occasion plus a translation in English of my homily on that day. My regards.

### 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF MY PRIESTHOOD (07/04/1969 – 07/04/2019)

Dear friends, I thank you for joining me today as I thank God for the 50 years I have served him as a priest. It was exactly fifty years ago: the 7<sup>th</sup> of April, 1969. It was Easter Monday, a day on which we sang with great joy and enthusiasm "Alleluia". Today we don't sing "Alleluia" since we are in the season of Lent, which prepares us spiritually for the joy of Easter!

Nevertheless this time of Lent also invites us to rejoice. The Gospel we just heard tells us why we should be joyful during this period. Look at the sinner woman before a holy Jesus: a woman who "was caught while committing the sin of adultery". The scribes and the Pharisees, who brought her before Jesus, kept hold of her, judged her, accused her and wanted to punish her. In their hands they were holding stones, ready to throw them on her. But Jesus? Did he have the right to throw a stone on her? Certainly, and not just one! Nevertheless Jesus soiled his hands through work, but not by throwing stones on a sinner. The word he directed to this woman was not a word of condemnation, on the contrary it was: "I don't condemn you, but go and don't sin anymore!" What sweet words, that Holy Jesus directs to a woman sinner! Whereas to those who were still holding stones in their hands, he said: "Who among you is without sin, let him throw the first stone on her." These are words that Jesus also directs to us, to me, who present myself to you today as an old priest: who am I to judge, to accuse, to condemn?

And today I thank God, because He made me participate in a special way in His mission. He made me His ambassador, who, like any ambassador who speaks on behalf of his leader, so do I ought to speak on behalf of the One who sent me, Jesus Christ. He made me His intermediary, like Abraham and Moses, who interceded for the people in difficult situations of their history. And He made of me a conciliator, in a way that man may be reconciled with God, and man may be reconciled with man. I want to confess that the occasions which provided me with great joy were those when I could reconcile two persons with one another, whereas the cases I regretted most were precisely those when I tried to reconcile two people and did not succeed.

When Msgr. Mirdita ordained me a Bishop, thirteen years ago, I quoted in my speech at the end of the Mass the words of King David: "Who am I Lord God, and what is my house, that you have led me as far as this?" Repeating these words today, I wish to quote also a word from the Prophet Isaiah. In his book Isaiah speaks about a mysterious person, whom he called "The Servant of the Most High" and which the Christian tradition has identified as Jesus. And about this Servant Isaiah says that he would not break the crushed reed and not quench the wavering flame". I feel like that crushed reed.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a famous Protestant theologian, who was killed at the age of 39 in a concentration camp by the Nazis, in the night of Christmas of 1943, wrote from his prison cell: "There's a darkness in me, whereas in you there is light. I am alone but you do not abandon me. I have no courage, but you help me. I am restless, but in you there is peace. In me there is bitterness, but in you there is patience. I don't understand your ways, but you know mine." Also I, like Bonhoeffer, sometimes feel to be in the dark, discouraged and restless. But even though I was perhaps not so faithful to the Lord as I should, the Lord has been always faithful to me. He has been my light in the darkness.

There's nothing the Lord cannot do without me. But there are a lot of things the Lord was pleased to do through me, as long as I accepted to be an instrument in His hands. The authentic physiognomy of a priest consists in his decisiveness to give himself fully to Christ, the great High Priest, in a manner we don't feel or wish to be different from Jesus Christ! Today I would like to repeat the words spoken at the beginning of the seventeenth century by the English writer John Donne: "O Lord, I want to be your music!" But at the same time I also want to repeat the words of Rabbi Elimelek: "I want the Lord to sing inside of me!"

Forgive me, perhaps I spoke too much about myself, but I just could not help it, I am swayed by the emotions of this day, I simply cannot hide what I am feeling within me.

Please allow me to end with two thoughts. The first one is from Father Gjergj Fishta:

*Christians and Muslims – they both inhabit Albania*

*And that's why we all will stay – we will stay, we will fight*

*Even if we have to end up like cut to pieces –priests, brothers and imams, for Albania!*

The second thought is one I have expressed just a few days ago, at the beginning of this Lenten season. "We are one people, we love our homeland. Our history proves that religion has never divided us, whether christianity or islam; nor did language, whether tosk or gege, divide us. Let us not allow to be divided by politics. Let us commit ourselves to a more righteous and more fraternal Albania. Together let us dream of an Albania more worthy of Albanians. And, yes, we can get there, with God's help.

## Silver coin and silver foil stamp issue marks centenary of Sette Giugno riots



BY GOZO NEWS · A silver coin to mark the centenary of the Sette Giugno riots has been issued today by the Central Bank of Malta.

The events of 7 June 1919 took place in a colonial setting against the background of economic hardship, massive unemployment and popular demand for self- government. Four demonstrators lost their lives and many were wounded.

The coin has a face value of €10. It is struck in proof quality in 0.925 silver, has a weight of 28.28 grams and a diameter of 38.61 mm. It was designed and engraved by Noel Galea Bason, and the mintage is limited to 1,500, including the coins in the joint product.

The Bank said that the coin, struck at the Royal Dutch Mint, shows the emblem of Malta and the year of issue, 2019, on the obverse. On the

reverse the coin carries a representation of a standoff between a crowd and a party of armed soldiers. The Central Bank of Malta and MaltaPost will also in the coming weeks be issuing a joint numismatic product including the silver coin and a silver foil stamp replica to commemorate this event.

The silver foil stamp replica and the coin will be available as a set in one presentation case. This joint product will be limited to 500 sets. The silver replica stamp was also produced for MaltaPost by the

Royal Dutch Mint and depicts the €5.59 Sette Giugno centenary postage stamp miniature sheet to be issued by MaltaPost on the 6th of June.

The coins may be purchased from the Malta Coin Centre (MCC) counter at the main building of the Central Bank of Malta, Castille Place, Valletta or the MCC e-shop

Pre-orders for the joint product can also be made. The price of the set is €105, whilst the price of the coin on its own is €60. Both prices are inclusive of VAT.



## MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of Maltese citizens who live in other parts of the world

We are still Maltese and we really love Malta

We are still very proud of our nationality and heritage







THE ST PAUL CHORAL SOCIETY - Malta

The St Paul Choral Society is one of Malta's leading polyphonic choirs; its repertoire ranges from the 16th century to the present day. Established in 1998, it has around sixty members who meet every Wednesday for practice at the Divine Mercy

Sanctuary in Naxxar. Since its inception it has been under the musical direction of Dr Hugo Agius Muscat.

In its early years the choir quickly gained a good reputation after successful concerts at St Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral, Mdina Cathedral and the President's Palace. It regularly performs at St John's Co-Cathedral, where it presented a concert of French sacred music (including Louis Vierne's Messe Solennelle) in 2000, a Christmas concert with the Cantores Sancti Juliani in 2001, the oratorio *The Crucifixion* by John Stainer in 2003, the oratorio *San Gregorio Magno* by Carmelo Scerri in 2004, a concert in aid of the Malta Hospice Movement in 2005, the Mozart in Salzburg concert in 2006, the *O Praise the Lord* concert in 2008, the *Dona eis Requiem* concert in 2010, a Christmas Concert in 2011, the Best of Karl Jenkins concert in 2012, a Gounod concert in 2014, a Mozart concert in 2016, and its 20th Anniversary concert in 2018. To date it has performed in over two hundred and fifty singing events in Malta and abroad. In Advent every year since its inception, the SPCS has led the singing in the traditional Anglican Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols held at St Paul's Cathedral and at Holy Trinity Church in Sliema.

#### SPCS COMMITTEE 2017-2019

**Chairman** Maurice Tabone **Secretary** Amanda Kaye **Treasurer** Ann Galea Testaferrata

**Members** Joseph Farrugia Josette Farrugia Chiara Felice Anna Stivala

**Music Director** Hugo Agius Muscat **Assistant Music Director** Cecilia Agius Muscat



**MUSIC DIRECTOR** Dr Hugo Agius Muscat is a consultant public health physician with a lifelong passion for music. He started studies in organ performing in 1977, and was awarded the Licentiate diploma of the Royal Schools of Music (LRSM) in organ performing in 1992 and the Colleague of the Royal College of Organists (CRCO) diploma in 2008. Since 1983 he has been titular organist at St Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral, Valletta. He has performed in major cathedrals and churches in cities across Europe, including Vienna, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Tallinn, London, Edinburgh, Rome and Paris. He has accompanied numerous soloists and choirs in Malta and abroad,

including the world-renowned tenor Joseph Calleja. In 1999 with Luciano Buono he edited the book *Old Organs in Malta and Gozo*. In 1998 he founded the St Paul Choral Society, and has been its Music Director since.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER AND AT THE  
MALTA MIGRATION MUSEUM - VALLETTA, GOZO NATIONAL LIBRARY  
MALTESE CANADIAN ARCHIVES - TORONTO AND WEBSITE [ozmalta.com](http://ozmalta.com)



## 7,000 Years of History in 100 Objects

Albert Fenech



The first evidence of human habitation in the Maltese Islands has been recorded at 5,200 BC, a hallmark of their [geographical](#) position almost dead centre of the Mediterranean Sea, also known as the Middle Sea. Over 7,000 years later this has produced a potpourri of every aspect of international culture that has lapped the shores and inter-mingled to combine the Stone and Iron Ages, ancient Greece and ancient Rome and the more contemporary inputs of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, the French and the British.

War and peace have also had a marked influence. One particular legend has it that the great military commander Hannibal of Carthage was actually born in Malta, later taking the elephant trek over the Alps to strike at the heart of Roman Civilisation.

Almost 1,800 years later, Giuseppe Garibaldi, the man who unified Italy spent some months in Malta hatching his plans for his armed assault of the nearby peninsula, sweeping away the old feudal [states](#) and forging the name Italia.

There was early recognition that the central geographical location made Malta a prize possession of western Empire builders. The early Phoenicians occupied Malta as an important trade route link to the European [continent](#) and are reputed to have even reached Britain in their travels. When the Roman Empire fell into decline, the North African Arab tribes moved into the vacuum as an important link in their quest of Spain.

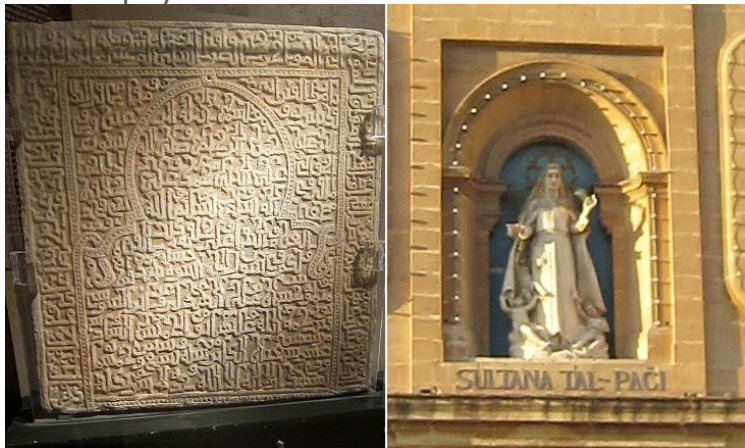
Later, the Ottoman Turks had imperial designs to dominate the whole of Europe but from the east only managed to progress as far as to what today are Hungary and Austria.

They assessed their best alternative route was to progress through the soft under-belly of Europe via Sicily and Italy and hence towards the European hinterland. However, they first had to have an important foothold in Malta and the Knights of the Order of St John were not seen as a serious threat to thwart this. Their first mistake was to launch their siege in early June and as with all important warfare, timing proved to be strategic. This was the start of the hot Mediterranean summer. Malaria and insect infestation took a terrible toll. They also underestimated the resistance of the Knights and the [Maltese](#) espousment of Christian roots and an intensive three-month siege collapsed in mayhem in early September and their renowned admiral Dragut succumbed to cannon-ball fire as the Ottomans retreated in hasty disarray. Napoleon Bonaparte and Admiral Lord Nelson earmarked Malta as being an essential cornerstone in the late 18th Century and since then Malta was actively involved in every cut and thrust that involved the central Mediterranean region, North Africa and beyond in the [Middle East](#) and Asia.

In recognition of the remarkable resistance shown to the British and allied cause during the two [world](#) wars but in particular during the Second World War, Malta was recognised by Britain in an unprecedented manner by being awarded the George Cross for bravery and hence Malta's official name today is Malta



GC although this is nowadays rarely used. In 1964, Malta gained Independence from Britain and the last British garrison left in 1979. In 2004 Malta joined the EU. This vast expanse of history and its effects on the people of Malta have been recognised by the Malta Heritage organisation celebrating the tenth year of its foundation with a remarkable exhibition that was officially launched in March of this year and will be on display for 12 months.



The organisation assembled 100 different artefact objects that have shaped Malta's history in a display mounted at the Malta National Archaeology Museum in Valletta and titled "The Great Story of a small Island-Nation through 100 Objects". Each object on display tells a unique story, but when combined, these objects narrate a glorious 7,000 year history of the island-nation which throughout all the inputs and inter-mingling managed to retain its unique customs and above all, its unique Semitic-based language. Besides various re-constructions of

Stone Age temples and Punic burial tombs, the entire exhibition is under-scored by explanatory video-audio presentations. It also includes the historic "Kantilena", a 15th Century Maltese language poem, a curious Arab-style window through which female house occupants could monitor all street movements from home without being seen externally and of course, the George Cross.

Four accompanying side exhibitions celebrate the anniversaries of four important events that fall in 2014, that is the 40th anniversary of Freedom Day when the last British troops left Malta on 31st March, the fifteenth anniversary of Malta joining the EU, the 55th year of Independence and the 45th anniversary of Malta becoming a Republic within the British Commonwealth.



## Event – MPO String Quartet at Tarxien Temples

### Hal Tarxien

Join us for a special evening at Tarxien Temples.

Heritage Malta is joining a number of museums and heritage sites across European cities as part of the European Archaeology Days taking place between the 14 and 16 June.

Tarxien Temples will be open on Saturday 15 June, after normal admission time. In collaboration with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, two performances will be taking place as the sun sets

down. Join us for a performance by a string quartet of members of the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra and enjoy a glass of wine in this unique setting.

**Tickets:** €15 per person / €10 HM members . Tickets are available from all Heritage Malta museums and sites, on first come, first served basis

**Time:** two performances, at 20.00hrs and 21.30hrs. Each performance lasts 40 minutes. Ticket holders are advised to be on site 15 minutes before the start of the performance.



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Newsletters  
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[www.ozmalta.com](http://www.ozmalta.com)



## Sette Giugno book by Maltese historians presented to President Vella

The presentation of the book 'Sette Giugno, Ċentinarju - L-Ewwel Pass Lejn Stat Sovran' (Sette Giugno, Centenary - The First Step towards a Sovereign State) to President George Vella was just one of a series of events linked to the

100th anniversary of Sette Giugno and organised by the National Celebrations Foundation.

A copy of the same book had earlier been presented to Prime Minister Joseph Muscat at Castille, and this was followed by a Symposium on Sette Giugno, also held at Castille.

The book is a collection of writings by leading authors and experts on the island's history, among them Mr Aleks Farrugia, Professor Dominic Fenech, Mr Frans Galea, Professor George Cassar, Professor Godfrey Pirota, Professor Kevin Aquilina, Rev. Dr. Mark Montebello, Mr Mark Camilleri, Professor Oliver Friggieri, Professor Paul Bartolo, Mr Peter Cassar Torreggiani, Professor Raymond Mangion, Dr Tonio Borg, and President Emeritus Ugo Mifsud Bonnici.

In his introduction to the book, editor Raymond Mangion observes that "Prime Minister Joseph Muscat says the importance of this book emerges from the fact that there are no survivors today who recall the events of Sette Giugno; events for which our forefathers paid with their lives. Every step, every advance and obstacle in our march towards the acquisition of Independence, Republic status and complete Freedom know their beginnings to the 7th and 8th of June of 1919."

The book will be available at all public libraries, schools and Local Councils from 14 June.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister paid tribute on social media this morning to the Maltese from all walks of life who, he wrote, joined forces 100 years ago today to pave the way for today's Parliamentary democracy in Malta.



Valletta

### Culhat al Belt: Sette Giugno 1919-2019

Parliament Building, City Gate, Valletta [www.heritagemalta.org](http://www.heritagemalta.org) EXHIBITION

On 7 June 1919 all Maltese joined forces and stood up for their social and political rights. Mass protests were held in Valletta while Maltese leaders in a National Assembly were discussing a new constitution for Malta. The angry crowds attacked the British flag and destroyed a number of properties. Four Maltese were killed by British soldiers.

An exhibition by Heritage Malta in

collaboration with the National Archives will investigate the circumstances which led to the Maltese uprising against the British colonial government, and its consequences.

Opening hours: Monday to Saturday between 09.00 & 18.30hrs, Sunday between 09.00 & 13.00hrs. FREE

ALL THE NEWSLETTERS ARE AT OUR WEBSITE [www.ozmalta.com](http://www.ozmalta.com)



TEATRU MALTA

100 ANNI SETTE GIUGNO

FCN

Xi ġralha Malta fis-VII Giugno?

VII sette

biljetti ta' €15 minn kultura.mt

7, 8, 9  
14, 15, 16  
ĠUNJU

FORTI SANT' IERMU

**'The story of my people' - Sette Giugno musical reminds people of historic events**

VII (Sette) is being staged on Friday, Saturday and on Sunday and on June 14, 15 and 16 June at Fort St Elmo's Piazza d'Armi in Valletta. Performances begin at 9pm and are suitable for audiences of all ages. For more information and tickets, visit [www.teatrumalta.org.mt](http://www.teatrumalta.org.mt) or call 2122 0255. The show is supported by Arts Council Malta under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice, Culture and Local Government, Camilleri Paris Mode, LESA, Heritage Malta and Festivals Malta

I would like to thank you once again for the continued valued information you somehow manage to collate and relate to us each week about Malta (past present and future) and the Maltese people all around the world who share their wonderful stories with us and their experiences over the years. This issue I was particularly interested in the article on the Commemorative stamps on page 21.(Journal No. 271) My late husband had a wonderful collection of these stamps as he became interested when we married in 1968. He was Australian but showed a great interest in the Maltese Culture and history. Unfortunately his collection is not complete as in 1992 he became ill and passed away at 49 years of age. I was wondering if perhaps someone out there reading this might be interested in seeing this collection. It is very beautiful collection. I will never sell the collection of course and it will be left for our children. I live in Five Dock N.S.W. and my mobile no. is: 0438 643 785. Again with heartfelt thanks for your

wonderful contribution of this journal to us. I remain, yours sincerely, **Vivienne Darwon (nee ATTARD)**

## LETTERS to the EDITOR

❖ Grazzi u Prosit tassew ghal "Maltese E-Newsletter" waqt li nifrahlek li ilek sitt snin tipproduciha. Zgur li tinvolvilek hafna xoghol imma fl-istess hin huwa zgur ukoll li taghti pjacir lil mijiet ta' qarrejja kemm Maltin u kemm ohrajn. Ghal darb'ohra GRAZZI u tislijiet. **LINA BROCKDORFF (Malta)**

- ❖ Thank you Frank for your newsletter I find it very interesting ...and I do pass it on to two of my friends. My father in the mid-fifties here in Melbourne used to publish a Maltese newspaper called The Fortress so I understand how much work goes into it. Keep it up **Doreen Lotter**.
- ❖ Wow..... thanks for the article about my brother Bernard. That was super quick! How have you managed to get that information so quickly. Again, thanks a lot and I really do appreciate your huge contribution to us, fellow Maltese Australians. Your contribution helps us keep in contact with our beloved MALTA.
- ❖ Regards **Daniel Mallia NSW**
- ❖ Thank God for this journal. It keeps us in touch with Malta and with our sisters and brothers in so many different parts of the world. While thanking you for your precious time to prepare this journal I pray that you never stop. I feel I am part of a big happy family. **George Schembri Victoria**



## Taste of Gozo

Three-course Lunch  
on the stunning roof-top of Il-Haġar Museum

Saturday 29 June 2019 | 13:00-16:00

### Menu

#### Mediterranean Antipasto

\*\*\*

Home-made Goat's Cheese Ravioli with Tomato and Basil Sauce  
or

Penne with Maltese Sausage, Sun-dried Tomatoes,  
Peppered Cheeselets and Curry Cream Sauce

\*\*\*

Chocolate Cake with Panna and Strawberry Sauce

€20 per person

Price includes a glass of wine and free-flowing water

Booking is not essential but recommended  
[events@heartofgozo.org.mt](mailto:events@heartofgozo.org.mt) / +35699021591

IL-HAĠAR  
MUSEUM OF GOZO

FONDAZZIONE  
BELT VICTORIA

PIZZETTA FOR GOZO

## Music and Food @ Il-Haġar

Il-Haġar museum (Piazza San Ġorġ, Victoria) will be hosting two music events in June within the Victoria International Arts Festival.

That on Sunday 30 June on its panoramic roof has become a welcome annual appointment: the **Royal Conservatoire Brass** from Scotland @ 8pm.

The previous day – the *Mnarja* public holiday – will see **Cordia Quartet** at noon. Immediately after, from 1 to 4pm, the roof will be open for a splendid three-course **Taste of Gozo** lunch – with live music by The Tramps.

A donation of €20 is requested for this last but all other items are free, as is entrance to the museum itself. The main temporary exhibition is **Nostalgia** (with Paul Haber's ceramics), inaugurated on 16 June @ 11.45.

Booking is recommended, on [events@heartofgozo.org.mt](mailto:events@heartofgozo.org.mt). (posted: Anthony Vassallo)

## Philatelic Postage Stamp Issue – Malta at War - 'The Map Plotters'



On the 10th of June 2019, MaltaPost issued a set of 3 stamps featuring photos of Map Plotters from the Second World War in Malta. In June

1942, over 50 female civilians worked as map plotters at the Lascaris War Rooms. These female plotters were responsible to track and identify aircraft movements within a particular sector. Once an enemy aircraft was identified, they would immediately alert any nearby fighter squadron.

The stamps were issued in a sheet of 10 stamps, with each stamp measuring 44mm x 31mm, with a comb perforation of 14.0 x 13.9 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets measure 185mm x 114mm and were produced by Printex Ltd in the offset process. The issue consists of 1,000,000 of the €0.28 stamp, 80,000 of the €0.48 stamp and 40,000 of the €2.28 stamp. The design was set by MaltaPost p.l.c.

This philatelic issue is available from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo as from Monday 10th June 2018. Orders may be placed online at [www.maltaphilately.com](http://www.maltaphilately.com) or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Qormi Road, Marsa, MTP 1001; Telephone: 2596 1740, e-mail: [info@maltaphilately.com](mailto:info@maltaphilately.com)



## Animal rights activist appeals for karozzin horses to be kept inside as heat spell expected



The mercury could rise to 35°C on Sunday, with animal rights activist Moira Delia saying horse-drawn carriage owners should leave their animals inside

by Massimo Costa [maltatoday.com.au](http://maltatoday.com.au)

As Malta gears itself up for this year's first heat spell, animal rights activist Moira Delia is appealing to owners of traditional horse-drawn carriages to put their animals' well-being first and keep their horses indoors.

Temperatures are expected to rise to 34°C on Saturday, while the mercury could hit 35°C on Sunday, MalteseIslandsWeather.com is predicting. The hot weather will continue till Monday, when temperatures should reach

34°C. The Malta International Airport's predictions are slightly more conservative, with the Luqa meteorological office predicting highs of 32°C and 34°C on Saturday and Sunday respectively.

By Tuesday, things should start cooling down slightly, however.

Taking to Facebook, Delia asked karozzin owners to think twice before taking their horses out to work in the weekend. "It's a heat wave for animals too! [...] Keep your animals safe and cool indoors," Delia said.

While karozzin rides remain relatively popular with tourists in localities such as Valletta and Mdina, animal rights activists have in the past frequently denounced the practice of keeping horses out in the sweltering heat of Malta's summers. There have been several reports, as recently as last summer, of horses collapsing and dying in the street from exhaustion.

## "I stopped a British soldier from shooting a Maltese" Enrico Dandria 1919



Report: Fiorella Pace

Much has been said and written about the Sette Giugno events on the occasion of its centenary but when a new, never seen before document emerges, interest intensifies. The family of

Monsignor Enrico Dandria recently passed on all his personal documents, amongst these an account containing new details about what took place on the streets of Valletta between 7 and 8 June 1919.

"With my right hand I grabbed the marine from his shoulder and with my left I raised his weapon". This is an excerpt from Monsignor Enrico Dandria's memoirs about what took place during Sette Giugno. The 20 page memoirs can be found in the National Archives in Rabat after being taken there by the Paris family. These documents throw light both on Monsignor Dandria and on Malta's social and political context at the beginning of the last century.

Enrico Dandria, who lived through turbulent times during the end of the First World War, the Sette Giugno the riots, and political events that followed, played an important role. In these personal documents Mgr Dandria tells of his experience at a meeting of the National Assembly and in the streets of Valletta. He claims to have stopped British soldiers from firing on Maltese and helped a British soldier who was beaten up; and talks about the developments that took place

after the murder of the four Sette Giugno victims. This is among new information about Sette Giugno events contained in the documentary *Culhat* for the Bel produced by PBS News Centre, the National Archives, Heritage Malta and the National Celebrations Foundation. The documentary shall be re-broadcast on Saturday and Sunday on TVM 2 at 20.45 and 17.30 hrs. The centenary of the Sette Giugno events has sparked further research including the book 'What exactly happened on Sette Giugno'. The author Paul Bartolo said that he managed to obtain authentic documents of what went down at the time between Maltese and Colonial leaders, from archives in Malta and England. "These documents are based on what was said at the time, not on what was said afterwards. There are obviously pictures and other documentation is reproduced – such as a list drawn up by the police of who was killed and who was injured and a list of those arrested and those subjected to a court-martial; even a list of how prices had increased at the time."

Of particular interest is the evidence of soldiers in a military inquiry following the bloodshed who admitted to firing on the crowd. The book contains Court-martial documents showing details of six people who were sent to jail on charges of sedition against the empire. 32 others were imprisoned after being arrested by marines during the city riots.

## Malta will miss 2020 climate protection targets without radical reforms, scientists warn

University of Malta academics and scientists say Malta must restructure its energy, food and mobility sectors to meet its climate protection targets

"Their concerns are supported by the best available science. As scientists and scholars who are familiar with scientific work and who are concerned about the current developments, we see it as our social responsibility to point out the consequences of inadequate action.

"The business as usual scenarios for climate, biodiversity, forest, marine, and soil protection are far from sufficient. Only if we act quickly and consistently can we limit global warming, halt the mass extinction of animal and plant species, preserve the natural basis for life and create a future worth living for present and future generations."



Photo by: Albert Camilleri



Hundreds of students took to the streets together as a united front in an effort to lobby for concrete action on climate change. KSU, Kunsill Studenti Universitarji said that it worked together with other local activists, youth organisations and student societies to participate in the international strike for Climate Change.

The march ended in front of the House of Representatives where the demonstrators in the march met another group that had already assembled there.

KSU stated that it hopes that these actions by a united student body "will not go unnoticed and this will be reflected sooner rather than later in the policy-making process."

The KSU President, Carla Galea when speaking to the crowd, stressed that, "we are polluting the air we breathe

in, we are building as if our land is infinite and we are consuming our natural resources in an unsustainable way."

She called out current world leaders on what she said is, "their duty and responsibility to safeguard a better world for future generation," the current situation is akin to "causing a problem and dumping its consequences on future generations, leaving its solution up to them," she added.

KSU remarked that that they were encouraged by the presence of the Education Minister Evarist Bartolo, who had officially endorsed this demonstration, among other politicians. They concluded by saying that "we hope that all politicians and political candidates present at the march put climate action at the forefront of their political agenda and work."





## Russian pianist visits Malta

Report: Melvic Zammit

A Russian teenager who was born blind has managed to overcome all obstacles and achieve his dream of becoming an international pianist and plays with the Philharmonic Orchestra of St. Petersburg. The blind

pianist as he is known in his country was recently in Malta and took part in a concert to raise funds for restoration work being done in the Chapel of St. Augustine in the Augustinian convent in Valletta.

The pianist, Anton Belusov was quoted as saying “it doesn’t matter if you’re blind or not. If you want to do something you want to overcome challenges. Of course the challenges would be very difficult but it doesn’t matter I think.” Despite his disability, Anton Belousov has succeeded in turning his musical ambitions into a success story and today is a well known musician in Russia who plays with the Philharmonic Orchestra of St. Petersburg.

He recalled how when at the age of seven he started learning how to play the piano it was not easy to find a teacher who would accept to teach him. He said his mother believed in him and helped him find a teacher whereupon he began to read music in Braille and learn it by heart.

“I recorded by special device the simple pieces and later I started to learn braille notation when I was in first class of special school – by means of dots, by means of dots combination.” Besides playing at concerts in Russia, Belusov has taken part in concerts in Germany and the Netherlands. He said that he had heard good things about Malta and the rich culture of this country, which is why he chose to visit Malta and perform as a concert soloist to raise funds for restoration works being done in the Chapel of St. Augustine. The 26 year old pianist also delighted senior citizens when he played at the Jasmine Nursing Home



## The Sapphires

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, 11 June 2019, 7pm

**Venue:** Spazju Kreattiv Cinema

**Free Entrance:** booking is required

Gail, Cynthia, Julie and Kay are sexy, black, young and talented – and they’ve never set foot outside Australia. Until, in the chaos of 1968, they’re plucked from the obscurity of a remote Aboriginal mission, branded as Australia’s answer to The Supremes, and – grasping the chance of a lifetime – dropped

into the jungles of Vietnam to entertain the troops. Inspired by the hit stage-play of the same name. The screening is being organised by the Australian High Commission in relation to the exhibition ‘Yiwarra Kujū: The Canning Stock Route’ as part of the Spazju Kreattiv Program 2018/2019. Patrons are encouraged to book their free tickets prior the event so as to avoid disappointment. Tickets can also be obtained from the Spazju Kreattiv Reception on the day, depending on availability. **Date:** 11 June **Time:** 7:00 pm **Venue:** Cinema St James Cavalier Castille Place, Valletta VLT1060 Malta



#### PASSPORT PHOTO - 1919 DESTINATION - PARIS

The National Archives of Malta Giuseppe Zammit was a Legal Procurator born in Valletta and sat on the Council of Government several times.

He defended the interests of the Maltese in the aftermath of the Sette Giugno events.

There were instances when Zammit was appointed as explosives' expert by the Courts and his reports demonstrate a good knowledge of the matter.



## NOSTALGIA

