



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of the Maltese Diaspora
Connecting expatriates and communities



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Operation Pedestal

"Il-convoy ta' Santa Marija"

"Thus in the end five gallant merchant ships out of fourteen got through with their precious cargoes. The loss of three hundred and fifty officers and men and of so many of the finest ships in the Merchant Navy and in the escorting fleet of the Royal Navy was grievous. The reward justified the price exacted.

Revictualled and replenished with ammunition and vital stores, the strength of Malta revived."

Winston Churchill

Describing Operation Pedestal.



**MALTA
AT WAR
The
Convoy
that
Saved
Malta
from
Surrender**

15 August 1942



Photo: Courtesy of Patrick Bartolo

**Maltese in
Australia
celebrating
Santa Maria
Festa**

IN THIS ISSUE

Maltese in
Canada - Brazil
Michigan

Santa Marjia
Convoy

Crime: Jealousy

Filigree in Malra

Water Resources

Recipe: Decadent
Chocolate Banana
Bread
and more

Our readers come from all over the world

OPERATION PEDESTAL – SANTA MARIJA CONVOY



Operation Pedestal (referenced in Italian sources as the Battaglia di Mezzo Agosto) was a British operation to get desperately needed supplies to the island of Malta in August 1942, during the Second World War.

Malta was the base from which surface ships, submarines and aircraft attacked Axis convoys carrying supplies to the Italian and German armies in North Africa. From 1940 to 1942, Malta was under siege, blockaded by Axis air and naval forces.

To sustain Malta, the United Kingdom had to get convoys through at all costs. Despite serious losses, just enough supplies were delivered for Malta to continue resistance, although it ceased to be an effective offensive base for much of 1942. The most crucial supply was fuel delivered by the SS Ohio, an American-built tanker with a British crew.

The operation officially started on 3 August 1942 and the convoy sailed through the Strait of Gibraltar on the night of 9/10 August. The convoy is also known as the Battle of Mid-August in Italy and as the Konvoj ta' Santa Marija in Malta; the arrival of the last ships of the convoy on 15 August 1942, coincided with the Feast of the Assumption (Santa Marija).

The name Santa Marija Convoy or Sta Marija Convoy is still used and the day's public holiday and celebrations, in part, honour the arrival of the convoy. The attempt to run fifty ships past bombers, E-boats, minefields and submarines has gone down in military history as one of the most important British strategic victories of the Second World War.

More than 500 Merchant and Royal Navy sailors and airmen were killed and only five of the 14 merchant ships reached Grand Harbour. The arrival of the remains of the convoy did not break the siege, which continued until the Allied reconquest of Egypt and Libya. The Second Battle of El Alamein (23 October – 11 November) and Operation Torch (8–16 November) in the western Mediterranean, transformed the strategic situation and enabled land-based aircraft to escort merchant ships to the island.



NEWS FROM THE MALTESE-COMMUNITY OF CANADA

Dr. Raymond Xerri - Consul-General of Malta in the Commonwealth of Canada



CG and Joe Sherri



CG with Carmen Galea



CG and Sue Schembri



CG with Richard Cumbo

JOE SHERRI is on the forefront and leading the Maltese Community in Canada. I have known Joe over the past six years, when I served as Director of the Directorate for Maltese Living Abroad at Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion when along with another great Maltese Community leader and teacher of the Maltese Language in Canada for years, **Carmen Galea**, both represented the interests of the Maltese in Canada and served as Councillor in the Council for Maltese Living Abroad between 2011 and 2017. We met and discussed many community issues and about the Maltese-Canadian Federation of which he is the President.

A courtesy visit by another great Maltese Community leader, **CARMEN GALEA**, who represented all Maltese/Canadians along with Joe Sherri between 2012 and 2017 as Councillor on the Council of Maltese Living

Abroad which is an autonomous body established by Act XX of 2011 of Laws of Malta. She is most known in the Maltese Community for the many many years, teaching the Maltese Language in Canada with great dedication and commitment, read the Maltese News on Lehen Malti (Maltese TV on Omni channel) and managing the Maltese Heritage Program. We met and discussed many Maltese Community issues and about the situation of the Maltese Language in Canada. Looking forward to work closely with in the future on a number of issues.

Visiting over from Vancouver, British Colombia, **SUE SCHEMBRI** visited the Consulate General's Office. Sue along with Brandon Azzopardi, from Mississauga, Ontario are the two Councillors appointed by the Maltese Government to represent all Maltese-Canadians living in Canada on the Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA). Sue discussed with Consul General the problems being faced by Maltese-Canadians here in Canada and when they visit Malta for holidays or to live permanently.

RICHARD S CUMBO, a leading Maltese Canadian researcher, historian and freelance journalist paid a courtesy visit the Consulate General of Malta in Canada earlier this week. We discussed the various challenges the Maltese Community in #Canada is facing. The future of the Maltese Migration Museum at the St Paul The Apostle Church discussed in some detail. Looking forward to work with you Richard.



Mass at St Paul The Apostle, Maltese-Canadian Church on Dundas in *Little Malta* was a great experience on Sunday. Right after the mass on a welcome reception was organised by the parish priest **Fr Mario Micallef** at the St Paul Church for my family and I. Fr Ivano, the new Assistant Pastor was also welcomed to this Maltese-Canadian Catholic Community. It was a fantastic experience meeting so many Maltese people, old and young, Maltese citizens and persons of Maltese ancestry and a few who came from hundreds of miles away other provinces to greet me and my family (Photographer: Peter Muscat).

Miktub minn Greg Caruana NSW

Kien fill-hmistax t'Awwissu 1942 li ntlema il-bastiment American SS Ohio diehel irmukat fil-port il-kbir. L-ahhar minn total ta' hames bastimenti li l-wasla taghhom ghenet biex ttaffi l-ghaks li kien qed jahkem il-poplu Malti tul it-tieni gwerra Dinjija. Hafna jirreferu ghal din il-grajja bhala "IL-KONVOJ ta' SANTA MARIJA".wara hafna Maltin qattghu jiem u l-jieli shah jitolbu sabiex il-Vergni Mbierka tehlisom u ssalvahom mill-guh u l-mizerja li Malta kienet ghaddejja minna f'dan iz-zmien tant diffiili.

Fix-xhur ta qabel Awwissu 1942 Malta kienet ibbumbardjata lejl u nhar ,tista tghid bla waqfien ghaliex Il-posizzjoni stragetika taghha , kienet ta xkiel ghall Germanizi u t-Taljani fi triqithom ghar-rebh fl-Afrika ta fuq; allura l-qawwiet tal-ghadu riedu b'xi mod idajfu jew igibu fix-xejn lil Malta, biex b'hekk jkollha c-vedi, is-Sitwazzjoni f'Malta tant kienet gravi li l-ikel u l-armi kienu kwazi spickaw ghal kollox ! Din l-imbierka "Operation PEDESTAL" kienet kwazi falliet ,mill-bidunet, hekk kif il-konvoj kien diehel mill-istrett ta' Gibraltar,,sab ruhu wicc imb wicc ma'opri tal-ajru u tal-bahar tal-ghadu. B'rizultat ta' dan minn sebgħin bastiment waslu biss hamsa Malta. li kienu qedin igorru ikel u petrol lejn Malta. .Dan ghaliex il-qawwa ta l-ajru germaniza mewga wara mewga kienu jattakkaw lil dan il-konvoj biex hadd minnhom ma jasal Malta, b'hekk Malta jkollha cvedi għall-ghadu taghha...Dan il-konvoj kien jikkonsisti f'14 il-tanker li kienu qed igorru l-markanzija u fil-waqt li l-ohrajn kienu qed iservu ta' skorta biex ikun zgurati li din il-merkanzija tant importanti tasal MALTA....Fit-13 ta' Awwissu 3 vapuri rnexxielhom jaslu fil-port il-kbir. .Dawn kienu **Port Chalmers, Melbourne Star, u Rochester castle**fid-disa' u nofs ta fil-ghodu tal-15 ta Awwissu f'jum Santa Marija waslu bil-mod fil-port il-Kbir it-tankers **Brisbane Star u l-iktar tanker important l-Ohio.**

Dan ta' l-ahhar kien milqut sew bill-bombi tal-ghadu li matul l-vjagg kemm il darba kien se jkun abbandunat. L-Ohio kien marbut bic-cimi minn naha għal-ohra ma zewg destroyers HMS **LED BURY u HMS PEN** ,lejn l-ahhar tal-vjagg **HMS BRAMHAM**



kellu jibdel lil **HMS PEN** . Ghalkemm ic-cimi li magghom kien marbut kemm il-darba jnqatghu xorta rnexxielu jidhol fil-port mghejun minn dawn iz-zewg destroyers u jgib l-ikel ,munizzjon u l-petrol li tant kien mehtieg għall-Maltin. Fost ic-capcip u l-ghajjat ta ferh tal-Maltin li jgabu fuq is-swar fost il-kant ta' "**RULE BRITANNIA** ".Permazz ta' dan il-konvoj il-Maltin rnexxielhom izommu u ma jcedux għal għadu. Hawn ma nistghux ninsew l-eroissmu tal-Maltin ,li hadmu bla heda biex ibattlu dan l-imbierka tanker miz-zejt u l-affarijiet ohra essenjali fost ix-xita ta' balal nizlin ,biex wara li battlu harguh barra il-port in-naha ta Rikazoli u hallieh jghereq u jistrieħ f'għieh il-bahar... fl-ahhar irridu nsemmu eroizmu iehor ta' Wenzu Attard l-pilota li dahhal l-**OHIO** fill-Port il-Kbir. Kunbinazzjoni dan Wenzu Attard kien mill-Birgu refugjat il-Mosta ,fejn fill-fatt miet. għadni nisimghu jghid li l-kaptan taghhom peress li kien jaf li din kienet bicca xogħol perikoluza staqsihom minn minhom jixtieq ikun volutier.

U Wenzu Attard kien pront qallu ; "hekk jew hekk jekk me mmutux bit-tanker se mmutu bill-guh ! mela ha nagħmel volutier jien u Alla jbierek irniexielu jdahhal li dan l-imbierka tanker **OHIO** għall kemm kwazi mgharraq fill-prt il-kbir" Kien għall hekk li biex tibqa tigi jmfakkra din il-gurnata ghaziza l-awtoritajiet civili ddecidew li din il-gurnata tkun btala publika.

A MIGRANT STORY: XUEREB FAMILY IN THE UNITED STATES



Michigan – This city is home to the largest number of Maltese-Americans in the US

By Matthew Baldacchino

We may not be able to name all 50 states in the US, but from today onwards the Maltese are unlikely to forget Michigan. Why? Well, for starters it's home to the first Maltese-American *state representative*.

Darrin Camilleri, a Democrat, has recently felt a greater connection to his homeland, as he worked towards a resolution that decreed the 21st of September as the Maltese-American Heritage Day; the date coinciding with Malta's own independence celebrations earlier last week. But how did this come about? Well, Michigan *is* home to the largest Maltese-American community in the states.



The Xuereb family's first portrait in the United States taken in 1953.

Addressing a group of Maltese-Americans, State Rep. Camilleri explained how the locale of Metro Detroit (a major metropolitan area in Michigan) is home to around 13,000 citizens claiming Maltese descent, making it the largest such area in the United States.

"Maltese-Americans have enhanced our culture, quality of life and economic vitality through their leadership, commitment to work and study, and dedication to their communities," added Camilleri.

Special tributes were also presented by State Rep. Camilleri to the Maltese-American Community Club of Dearborn and the Maltese-American Benevolent Society of Detroit, with Camilleri highlighting the need to celebrate the contribution of the organisations.

"[They] have been committed to the advancement of Maltese culture and Maltese-American people for generations. We come together today to celebrate these contributions, and the contributions of Maltese-Americans from across Michigan."



ONTARIO OMNI TV

In Southern Ontario on OMNI TV Maltese-Canadians can watch Maltese language television programs carrying news from Malta, Maltese Community events and educational segments, called LEHEN MALTI at the following days and times for a duration of half an hour each time:-

Saturdays 08.30pm (First viewing)

Tuesdays 03.30am & 11.30am (Repeat)

Wednesdays 11.00pm (Repeat)

Thursdays 08.30am (Repeat)

Watch LEHEN MALTI to just listen to #Maltese, to learn #Maltese and its [#culture](#) or to just try to figure out what your #Maltese relative is trying to say! Enjoy the programmes.

Abstracts from THE MALTESE MISSIONARY EXPERIENCE

By Fr John Caruana

GUATEMALA

Fr Joseph Camilleri of Gozo started his mission with Bishop Fiordeli of Prato, then, after two years he moved on to New York where he worked with Maltese and Italian emigrants. After these 22 years he made a radical change in his life by moving to Guatemala, leaving all the American luxury and started off in a parish which had 35 villages. While in Guatemala, he embarked on two projects: Project Gozo which dealt in agriculture and Project Hospital Juan Batista mainly sponsored by the Knights of Malta. Doctors from the USA, Canada and Cuba offered their services, providing surgery to the poor.



Fr Anton Grech

Fr Anton Grech also of Gozo, worked in the municipality of Chaparron in Guatemala, bordering with El Salvador. Fr Anton worked hard to build and open the Colegio Madre Teresa offering quality education to hundreds of village children most of who had never before stepped in a school. This was possible due to the generosity of Gozitan and Maltese benefactors. A fish farm was also installed. In all these projects, Fr Grech had the support of Maltese specialists in various fields like Carmelo Agius, Alex Scicluna, Charles Decelis and the Mission Fund, amongst many other benefactors.

HONDURAS

In the Diocese of Juticalpa where Mgr Joseph Bonello is bishop, **Fr Albert Gauci** was

responsible for social projects like Santa Gertrudis and Santa Maria de los Angeles which was founded in 2002 in response to the urgent need of children who live in an area of high risk. A Kindergarten Centre dedicated to St Francis of Assisi was opened to help poor families and unmarried mothers in the education of their children. A small bakery was also opened to help support all these initiatives. Fr Albert was responsible for prisoners in five prisons. He used to visit every Saturday with a group of youths distributing food, cigarettes, sweets and clothes. The conditions in the prisons were deplorable. With the help of his friends, he built a Rehabilitation Centre for 800 people. The plan for Olancho to have a respectable prison came true.

Fr Angelo Falzon was sent to Honduras in 1985. His pastoral work started by rebuilding six big churches that were crumbling. A Retreat Centre was built for weekend retreats and seminars. In time, 40 chapels were built in forty different villages. Apart from these buildings, they also constructed a Centre for Youth and a workshop to teach sewing, carpentry and other trades. Clothes were distributed annually and non-perishable food was handed out every month. Medicines were dispensed as the need arose.

The late **Fr Peter Paul Mejlak** OFM was born in Nadur in 1922. On his first mission he accompanied several groups to Adelaide, Australia. In 1985, he asked to join the Franciscan Mission in Central America. He returned to Malta at the venerable age of 85 years. In Honduras he helped in the building of fourteen chapels, a clinic and a convent for nuns. Fr Peter Paul always sought the protection of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu not only to help him in his pastoral activities, but also because politically Central America was in turmoil culminating in the death of Oscar Romero and six Jesuit Priests.



50 years a sculptor

Ġanni Pace recalls how his career kicked off Events

Alfred Busuttill

Ġanni Pace being presented with the Medallion of Merit by former President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca. Photo: DOI

Sculptor Ġanni Pace is celebrating 50 years devoted to the creation of sculpture.



Fantasy Dreams

Describing his initial encounter with what has defined most of his life, Pace, born in Valletta in 1946, says art found him while he was still a very young boy. Out with his father and brother near the limits of Mdina, Pace remembers picking up a piece of clay and upon impressing a leaf to it, was awed at its simple beauty.

Supportive of his son's love for art, Pace's father, a man who could barely write his name, introduced him to the old masters of art: Donatello, Michelangelo and Rubens through magazines he would obtain from Sunday markets in Valletta.

Pace first delved into professional art when still at primary school. He spent the first two years learning design at the school of art at the Auberge d'Italie in Valletta, followed by drawing lessons with George Borg at Pietà primary school. He continued his studies at Paola Technical Institute under Vincent Apap and furthered his studies at the Government School of Art in 1960.

Village Festa

Pace, who used to work with Bank of Valletta, says Fr Marius Zerafa, OP, taught him history of art, Borg introduced him to modelling, while Anton Agius was his casting tutor.

Pace's inspiration comes from natural elements. His work is also imbued with very strong spiritual nuances.

Being an active member of the Legion of Mary for 42 years, Pace says: "In nature I see creation. I see God and all that is bigger than myself. That is where I drive inspiration from."

The works displayed during his 11 solo exhibitions so far are sculptures in terracotta, Maltese stone, stucco and wood. Pace's art is romantic; one of fantasy and imagination. He is an expressionist who loves a rough texture and eroded forms. One of his latest works is a monument dedicated to Maltese and Gozitan grandparents

Grech wins silver in World Police and Fire Games

Valhmoor Camilleri



Andrew Grech bites his silver medal in Chengdu on Friday.

Malta's Andrew Grech won a silver medal at the World Police and Fire Games that are currently being held in Chengdu, China.

The long-distance runner placed second in the Half Marathon Over 40 age group category when completing the distance in one hour 13 minutes and 46 seconds.

Russia's Sergei Emelianov took the gold medal when he topped the race in a time of one hour 12 minutes and 59 seconds while Andrzej

Szpunar, of Poland completed the podium when clocking a time of one hour 13 minutes and 56 seconds. In his first comments Grech said: "Very hot and humid weather as well as some hills made the race a hard one to conquer so I must be happy with my time of one hour 13 minutes and 46 seconds."

"Special thanks goes to the President of the Malta China Friendship Society Reno Calleja for making this possible, my family, my coach Hasa Kesra, Police Commissioner Lawrence Cutajar and SportMalta."

Although living in Malta I'm an ardent follower of your excellent journal. It's strange but I learned so much about Malta from it. I always look forward for the next e-newsletter and distribute it to my friends here and abroad. I have penned this article about my unforgettable experience during the last war. I was only 5 to 7 years old then.



World War 2 experience of a Maltese boy

Joe Lanzon (Malta)

Malta was not directly affected when war broke out on 3 September 1939. But on Monday 10 June 1940, pompous Italian dictator Benito Mussolini addressed a massive crowd in Rome's main square where he declared his country's entry into the war on the side of Germany. I was then just five years old. The Italian radio and newspapers had for long been saying that the little island of Malta should be part of Italy.

Malta is just 60 miles away, 20 minutes flying time from Sicily. The Maltese braced themselves for a hard time. It did not take long to come. At 7 o'clock on the morning of 11 June 1940, just seven hours from Mussolini's declaration of war, the first wave of bombers and fighters of the Regia Aeronautica appeared on Malta's skies raining tons of bombs on the dockyard and grand harbour areas. My own town of Bormla was devastated after they left. Several people were killed and many houses destroyed. Malta's defense consisted only of Bofor guns on the ground and three antiquated 'Gladiator' planes named 'Faith', 'Hope' and 'Charity'.

That month there were thirty more attacks during the day and during the night. My father decided that our town, so close to the target areas, was no place to stay. He hired a car and with just our necessities evacuated to the northern town of Rabat. I remember clutching my toy wooden truck and crying in the confusion. There was chaos along the way. Long lines of people, burdened with their possessions in prams and carts, were walking towards north but not knowing where they would be spending the night. I was a child but this memory is still vivid in my mind.

The Italian bombers used to go up high and drop their bombs from there. Sometimes they did not hit Malta but dropped them lamely in the sea. The Germans however used to dive low to hit the target while making frightening sounds. It was deafening and I would cry with fear.

I used to sleep in my day clothes so that when the air-raid siren sounded, I would run to the shelter across the road. The scenes I witnessed at the shelter are indelible in my mind. All kinds of emotions were visible here. How can I forget the bedlam and confusion that reigned here? There were shouting and singing, weeping and laughing, praying and blaspheming. Women were reciting the Holy Rosary in loud voices to be heard from one end to the other. Children were playing games or fighting each other. Several holy pictures were plastered on the walls. It was a world of make believe. I was amazed. I very well remember that during the air raids my father used to read to me and my brother John stories of Ali Baba, Jack and the Beanstalk, Rapunzel, Cinderella and others. While in the safety of the shelter my brother and I used to play games – guessing whether the planes above us were British, Italian or German. We both were war-wise enough to distinguish them from the drone of their engines.

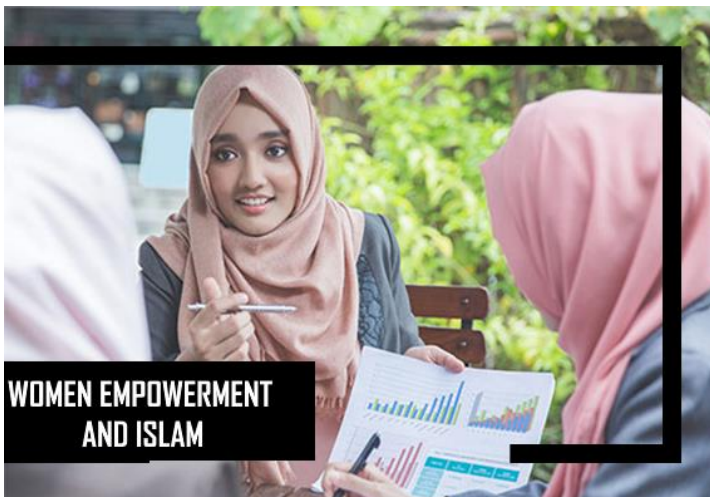
Another memory which, even with the passing of many years I cannot forget, is the long queues of people waiting to be given a free plate of soup or pasta from the Victory Kitchens set up in the open air. The servers were matronly British women volunteers who were the subject of a humorous ditty sung by servicemen and Maltese.

*"Baked pasta in a tray,
queues of people in disarray,
at the Victory Kitchen.
Minestra or sardines,
pasta with beans,
at the Victory Kitchen.
Their legs were so fat,
they eat so much grub,
the girls at the Victory Kitchen.
Their hair set all wavy,
To flirt with the Navy
The girls at the Victory Kitchen".*



I also recall the joy and relief of the population, including that of my family, following the arrival in Grand Harbour of 5 merchant ships, the survivors from a large last-ditch convoy from England to relieve Malta. It consisted of 14 merchant ships, cargo ships and tankers with a formidable escort of 47 warships – 4 aircraft carriers, 2 battle ships, 7 cruisers and 24 destroyers. It was a 'do or die' operation. Britain was determined to get the needed supplies to Malta while the enemy was equally determined to stop the convoy from reaching Malta at all costs. 5 warships, including the aircraft carrier 'Eagle' were sunk. It was a last attempt to save Malta. The Military authorities secretly had earmarked the beginning of September when the Island would have to surrender because, besieged by the enemy, it now lacked fuel, ammunition and food. When the population heard that some ships, damaged and leaking badly, were heading towards the harbour, they manned the bastions and cheered loudly as they came limping in. This momentous convoy is referred to this day as the 'Convoy of Santa Maria' because the ships' entry was on the 15 August 1942, the feast of Our Lady.

If, by any chance, I may forget any of the above experiences, I would certainly not forget the harrowing incident that happened to me on that Sunday at the end of June 1942 when I had just turned six years. We were in the shelter across the street. After the 'All Clear' had sounded, I was holding tightly to my mother's hand while returning back to our house after a four hour ordeal underground. Suddenly, a lone German fighter plane, struggling well behind his colleagues returning to their bases, dived on us and started machine-gunning us. My mother, with me holding even tightly to her hand, turned back running towards the shelter. I have never felt, before or after, so much fear. When everything passed and we returned to the street, we saw a long bullet-riddled line on the tarmac, bullets which were meant for us. My life would have been so short.



The Honourable Zuraida Binti Kamaruddin

The Honourable Zuraida Binti Kamaruddin is the Minister of the Housing and Local Government, Ministry of Malaysia and also a Member of Parliament of the Ampang constituency in the Malaysian state of Selangor.

Having risen through the ranks of the male-dominated Malaysian political scene, Zuraida has seen her share of the struggle for the recognition of women in Malaysia to be seen as an equally important voice and source of strength and new ideas.

She is a proponent of increasing the participation

of women of all ages in all fields, particularly leadership positions, politics and industry and has created various initiatives to develop leadership skills in young women.

In this lecture, Zuraida will share her personal experience and views as a woman minister, politician, wife and mother and on how the teachings of Islam guide her efforts in empowering women in Malaysia.



The 77th anniversary of the Santa Marija Convoy

Report: Tony Dimech

The Royal Naval Association Malta and the Commission for Emigrants commemorated the 77th anniversary of Operation Pedestal, also known as the Santa Marija Convoy that entered the Grand Harbour in mid-August

in 1942, bringing in much needed provisions to the population of the Maltese Islands in the virtual grip of starvation.

The ceremony was attended by relatives of victims and a number of dignitaries, including the British High Commissioner. President George Vella said that Malta was probably the most bombarded place during World War II and this showed the resilience of the Maltese in the face of enormous adversity which strengthened their resolve and is today reflected in a peaceful country.

Following the broadcasting of the siren and the traditional salute, the ceremony continued with the playing of the Last Post, a minute's silence and then the playing of the Reveille.

With the help of Malta's Armed Forces, the remembrance included the laying of wreaths and flowers at sea as a tribute to those that perished during the Santa Marija Convoy.



Various historic buildings safeguarded against development

Report: Maria Muscat tvm.com.mt

Various buildings of historic value, including the house of a former Prime Minister in Valletta and the Bishop's palace in Vittoriosa are being safeguarded from development after they were scheduled

by the Planning Authority. The residences are in various localities, including Valletta, Hal Lija, Hal Balzan, Cospicua and Vittoriosa. Wirt Artna Foundation chief executive welcomed the announcement, saying however that these historic places now need restoration and where possible are opened to the public.

The Planning Authority has scheduled 10 buildings including the home of former Prime Minister Nerik Mizzi in Valletta. The 17th Century house is in Triq San Ġwann, where the only son of Nerik Mizzi, Mgr Fortunato Mizzi also lived. Mgr Mizzi also wished that the house is turned into a museum with archives left by his father who lived in a turmoil period during the Maltese political history and was a protagonist in the language issue and a victim of internment during the war when he was sent to Uganda, together with other Maltese, due to his Italian sympathies.

Nerik Mizzi had led a government for three months in 1950 and died three months after he was sworn-in as Prime Minister. Mario Farrugia, chief executive of Wirt Artna Foundation, appealed for the historic buildings' restoration.

Apart from Mizzi's house, the Planning Authority scheduled an 18th Century palace at Qrendi which was luxuriously decorated with wall frescos. Other scheduled buildings include an old baroque house in Cospicua and two houses in Vittoriosa, possibly built in the 16th Century.

The Vittoriosa building was the Bishop's palace of the year 1542 with Knights era architecture. The Planning Authority also provided protection to an 18th Century house in Balzan which belonged to a Spanish knight Fra Giacomo Rodrigues.

ALL THE THINGS OUR MALTESE MOTHER SCARED US WITH TO OBEY WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER

THEA FORMOSA

We grew up in a different time than kids are growing up nowadays. One word from our mother would shut us up for hours... It took some creative thinking from her side, but one way or another, her words always got the job done. Here are the things our mother used to scare us with to make us obey when we were younger.

JEKK TONFOHLI F'GHAJNEJJA, JIBQGHU MIFTUHN

"If you blow in my eyes, they'll stay open forever"

JEKK TIRREMETTI, TIEKLU BL-IMGHARFA

"If you throw up, you'll have to eat it with a spoon" ... mama's nasty with this one.

JEKK TAQA' NKOMPLI NTIK

"If you fall, I'll keep hitting you". The Maltese classic that has made all of us tremble in our pants at one point or another.

X'HA JAGHMILLEK MISSIEREK XHIN NGHIDLU

"Your dad is going to be very angry when I tell him." Just in case you weren't scared of her ... she tricked you into being scared of your dad.

GEJJA S-SORU GHALIK BIL-VANN U TIEHDOK L-ISTITUT

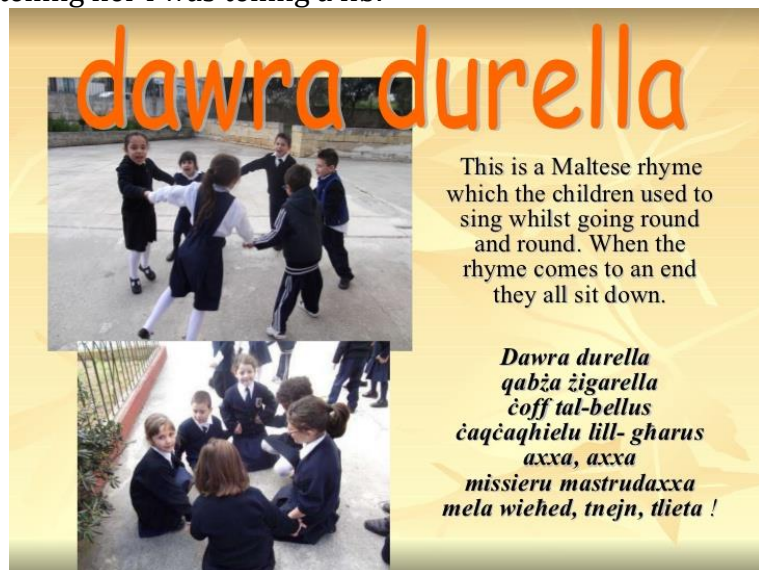
"The nun is coming for you and taking you to the children's home." And if she wanted to step it up a notch, she'd actually drive you to the nearest children's home just to show you that you won't mess with her.

IMMUR INGIB IC-CINTURIN?

"Should I go get the belt?" Not that she'd actually ever use it on us, but just imagining how it would feel would shut us up for hours.

JEKK TIGDEB JIDHIRLEK SALIB AHMAR FUQ MOHHOK

"If you lie, a red cross will show up on your head." Now my mother was particularly fond of this one, always catching me telling little lies, so this was just the perfect way to trick me into indirectly telling her I was telling a fib.



JEKK TKOMPLI TWERZAQ JIGI L-BABAW U JIKOLLOK ILSIENEK

"If you keep on screaming, the monster will come and eat your tongue." Way to scare the screaming away.

GEJ IR-RAGEL BL-IXKORA JIGBOR IT-TFAL IMQARBIN

"A man with a sack will come and collect the naughty children." Meaning that whenever we saw a man with a sack, we instantly thought he was coming for us. Can't believe we fell for this stuff.

NO WORDS ... JUST A LOOK

And then there were the mothers who didn't need to say a word. One look would send shivers down our spines and make us behave for the unforeseeable future.

would send shivers down our spines and make us behave for the unforeseeable future.
<https://bay.com.mt/>

CRIME IN MALTA: COUSIN'S JEALOUSY - 1908



Denise Formosa

The following murder we are about to witness shows the brutal death of a young ten-year-old boy who lived in the village of Żabbar. Joseph Deguara was assassinated on the 12th of April 1908 by his cousin Francis. Like the biblical story of Cain and Abel, this account shows that jealousy makes humans act in irrational ways.

Joseph was a very obedient and innocent child. He never complained when he was asked to do something for his uncle, whom he used to help around the farm. His doting parents loved him very dearly. One day, after having finished from his duties as an altar boy, he quickly rushed home to have some breakfast, and went to meet his cousin Francis as he had told him, he had a surprise in store for him.

Before he left the house, he asked his mother to bless him and made the terrible mistake of not informing her where he was off to. That was the last time that she heard his voice as Joseph was never to be seen alive again!

Joseph's uncle John, loved him to bits and he looked forward to the days Joseph would visit his farm to help with the animals. However, not everyone was of the same opinion as John...

Francis Farrugia who was Joseph's cousin was in his teens, and could visibly notice that their uncle preferred Joseph. Uncle John loved Joseph so much, that he left him as his heir in his will. Francis was not at all happy with the situation, so he made a plan to kill Joseph.

One day, he promised Joseph that he would show him something that he had never seen before – a dark cave amidst the wilderness. He walked into the cave while Joseph followed. As soon as he found an ideal spot, he cornered Joseph and beat him as much as he could. Since Joseph was still a young boy, he was severely bruised and bled heavily during the night. Francis, on having arrived home, decided that the following morning, he would go and check on his cousin to see whether he had died or not. Although Joseph was still alive, he was very weak and was breathing his last breaths. He begged Francis to take him home to his mother as he was in pain, and felt very cold. On having seen this, Francis felt no pity towards his cousin, and started to jump on his rib cage, until the poor young boy died on the spot!

Joseph's parents had by now informed the police that their son was missing. They sought far and wide for their boy, however neither the police, nor they themselves could find a trace of the boy. The Maltese locals had heard of the absence of this young boy, and some of them claimed that he was seen in certain villages and there were others who said that he had been also seen in Egypt.

With the passing of time, Joseph's father died with grief, and his mother was sent into an asylum for mentally ill people, as she had been imagining both the presence of her husband and her beloved son, who till now had still not been found.

When the police got to know the whereabouts of Joseph's lifeless body, it was already reduced to bones. It was Francis himself who went to the magistrate and related the whole events of the assassination. As soon as the police saw Joseph's bones scattered in the dark cave, they had realized that the poor boy's body had been eaten by rats!

Francis was sent to a mental institution and only came out in a coffin in 1980. This story truly shows that the sins we commit in our lives, are never buried under the earth, as in some way or another, they emerge in broad daylight.



Fr Marcellinus administered at Lockleys in South Australia



17 August 2017 for Father Marcellinus Meilak OFM, the 50th anniversary of entry into the priesthood passed like any other day, with a Mass in his residential chapel and a low-key celebration at the Maltese Club in Bassendean, surrounded by friends and parishioners he has known in his 24 years in Perth. Photo: Caroline Smith.

By Caroline Smith

For Father Marcellinus Meilak, the 50th anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood in March this year passed like any other day – with a Mass in his

residential Chapel and a low-key celebration at the Maltese Club in Bassendean, surrounded by friends and parishioners whom he has known during his 24 years in Perth.

The 76-year-old Franciscan of the Order of the Friars Minor (OFM) was ordained in Valetta, Malta, in 1967. Later that year, he arrived in Adelaide to begin what was to be decades of service in parishes across Australia. Reflecting on his decision to join the Franciscans, he said it was largely influenced by his childhood in Libya in the years during, and following World War II, when priests from the Franciscan Order helped to rebuild the country and re-establish its inhabitants, many of whom were returning to Libya after being taken prisoner of war, with Fr Meilak and his family among them.

“We were in a Franciscan parish in Tripoli and the Franciscans helped us, they helped everyone, so their example was terrific, and I could see that St Francis was there, working in them....inspiring them.

“We were so grateful for their help because we had nothing after the war – everything was gone. Our home was gone, the family bakery was gone. We only had the clothes we were wearing.

“Sometimes, we slept on the floor of the Church,” he said.

“I thought to myself, ‘That’s what I want to do, I want to help other people. I want to be like them’.”

Upon arrival in Australia, Fr Meilak was appointed to the Parish of Lockleys in South Australia and soon made use of his language skills, acting as Chaplain to various communities, including the Italian and Maltese communities in Adelaide, Victoria and later, the Parish of Midland in the Archdiocese of Perth.

“In South Australia, the Italian and Maltese communities didn’t have anyone to say Mass for them, so we started that, and we had dances and other social events,” he said.

“At that time, as migrants, many were learning English...some had no English skills at all, so to hear Mass in their native languages was of great comfort to them.

“I would say, today, that this is still the case. I find that the young populations I first ministered to all those years ago are now grandparents.

“I find that some lapse back into the mother-tongue, so to communicate with parishioners in their language is still as relevant today, as it ever was.”

“From Lockleys in South Australia, I was appointed to Box Hill in Victoria.



Refugee who lived in Malta gunned down in US mass shooting

Saeed Saleh worked in Rabat restaurant before moving to Dayton, Ohio



Diana Cacciottolo

Dayton, Ohio mass shooting victim Saeed Saleh had lived in Malta.

Photo: Washington Post

An Eritrean refugee, who was one of the victims of a mass shooting in Dayton, Ohio worked around the clock in Malta so that his family could have a better life in the US.

Father-of-three Saeed Saleh lived in Malta for around five years before being relocated to North America after gaining refugee status.

He was **killed on Sunday** along with eight others when a gunman opened fire in the second mass shooting in the US in 24 hours. A former colleague, who worked with him in a Rabat restaurant in 2016, told *Times of Malta* how he held down multiple jobs to secure a dream life abroad. Paula Bradley described the 38-year-old as a "real family guy".

"He was a good guy. I don't know how to describe it: he really worked hard to get the refugee card to go to America," she said.

"I was so sad when I heard about the Dayton shooting. It's just so sad."

Mr Saleh told friends in Malta that he had been working outside Eritrea when war broke out, leaving him unable to re-enter the country.

He then moved to Libya and travelled to Malta, where he lived with his wife Zaid and five-year-old daughter Randa before they gained refugee status and moved to North America. He had two other children who lived in Eritrea. As well as working in the kitchen at Umami restaurant, Ms Bradley said he worked "multiple jobs to support his family here and abroad".

"When I heard about the shooting, I thought Saeed Saleh is not very common and about two days later I saw the picture and it was him."

Spark 15, a local NGO, confirmed Mr Saleh spent around five years in Malta before moving to North America. The NGO said he had first moved to Canada.

A friend of Mr Saleh told The Washington Post that he was "a very humble man" who was incredibly hard-working.

Tekeste Abraham, a fellow Eritrean, described how he used to work seven days a week, often 12 to 16 hours at a time, to support his family. "This was the one day he took off," Mr Abraham said, "and this happened." The shooting happened in the popular bar and nightlife Oregon district of the city.



**Fr. Gabriel Micallef
OFM**

the chaplain for the Maltese community in Adelaide, South Australia is retiring and returning to

Gozo, Malta in October after 23 years at Lockleys Parish SA. We intend to dedicate a special edition of the journal in his honour.

Fr. Gabriel is dearly loved and respected by all the Maltese in South Australia and he is going to be missed. I invite you to send me a farewell message to be included in the special issue

Send your emails: maltesejournal@gmail.com

Book about the culture and history of Gozo



Gozo Minister Justyne Caruana has launched the book, *Gozo, an island of beauty, history, and culture*. The book, with a narrative by the historian Joseph Bezzina, and excellent photos by photographer Daniel Cilia, was published on the initiative of the Gozitan Ministry. Minister Caruana said she has promoted this publication to serve as a showcase for Gozo, as a gift to all the distinguished guests who visit Gozo.

The author, Rev. Dr Joseph Bezzina, explained how the book is divided into seven chapters: general information about Gozo and Comino, a look through seven thousand years of history, language and Gozo's preferred cuisine, ten legends from Gozo, some information about the Cittadella, Rabat, the villages the events of the island, patron feasts, and finally, the celebrations which the Gozitan Ministry is organising on a regional scale. Dr Bezzina explained that although references are not included in a book such as this, all that is written is based on documents which he pored through at the National Archives which he manages, and at other archives. Even the part about the food which is unique to Gozo is based on archival research.



He added that the archives are a major treasure for Gozo because through research one can better learn about our history and identity.

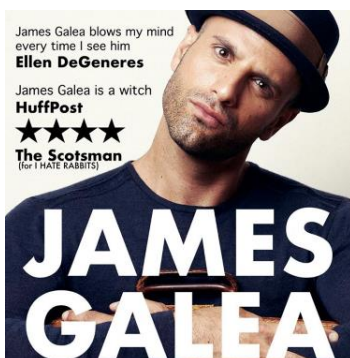
Photographer Daniel Cilia said that although he loves the island of Gozo and although he has documented the subjects of this book several times, he has still found enough original subjects in order to create a new book like this.

Minister Caruana stressed how important Gozo's history and culture are, both as a tourist product and even more for our identity and national patrimony. She announced that the Ministry has taken the initiative to publish this book specifically for children so that from when they are young they can become aware of Gozo's patrimony and create in them a sense of appreciation for our island's entire cultural and historical heritage. *Gozo, an island of beauty, history, and culture* is on sale at all major book shops.

If you have a story to tell give it a voice

Send it to us

maltesejournal@gmail.com



sunshine (and rainbows).

James Galea is Australia's number one magician. Constant television appearances (including *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, *TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks*, *TODAY*, *Morning's with Kerri-Anne*, *Good Day LA*, *The Footy Show*), his own series *Urban Magic* and his recent role starring in the Discovery Channel series *Breaking Magic* have seen James in constant demand in his home country and internationally both in the corporate arena and touring as a headliner world-wide (including the *Edinburgh Fringe Festival*, *The World Famous Hollywood Magic Castle* & *The Melbourne International Comedy Festival*)

James is an award-winning magician, writer, songwriter, director and producer. He resides in both Los Angeles and Sydney where he chases the



PRECA COMMUNITY ADELAIDE

GAETAN CALLUS

Organisations across Australia have been celebrating National Volunteers Week. At Nazareth, we are privileged to have over 700 registered volunteers, from the ECC through to the Wise Owls, who support the many operations that occur across our community! From sports coaches to academic

tutors, café workers to parent readers, our volunteers are the backbone of our work, and we simply couldn't do it without them.

We value and appreciate all of our volunteers, but today we profile Gaetan Callus who has been 'Making a World of Difference' at Nazareth for over 12 years! An active member of the Preca Community and a retired fitter and turner, Gaetan was captivated by an advert in the Findon/Hindmarsh Parish Bulletin advertising for an assistant to establish Nazareth's construction technology department at the newly built Flinders Park campus in 2007.

Since then, Gaetan has been a dedicated volunteer, continuing to offer his assistance to the Design and Technology staff and students for at least 3 hours every Tuesday and Thursday – maintaining machines, fixing and making tools, and offering advice and encouragement to our students with their woodwork and metalwork projects. "I enjoy my time at Nazareth," said Gaetan. "I meet terrific people, socialise and make friends, and I feel welcomed and appreciated. Our Preca Community Come & See Youth Group also meet on Friday nights at Nazareth. I'm lucky to have the connection". We think we are lucky to have you Gaetan! Thanks to you, and all Nazareth volunteers for your compassion and commitment to supporting and building our community.



NAZARETH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Address: 176 Crittenden Rd, Findon SA 5023

Phone: (08) 8406 5000

FLINDERS PARK CAMPUS

Address: 1 Hartley Rd, Flinders Park SA 5025

Phone: (08) 8406 5000

Sharpen your pencils and get ready to pop some tags... Nazareth Outreach Work presents the Op Shop Quiz Night - Friday 20 September! All proceeds support Nazareth Outreach Work projects in Bathurst Island and Timor-Leste.



The Maltese Festa Series III

This collection, a continuation of our series, features processional statues from various churches around Malta and Gozo.

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www.facebook.com/precacommunity/

Come and See is a Preca Youth Group which is at the heart of the Preca Community in Adelaide. The Group meets on Friday nights from 7-9:30pm at Nazareth Senior Campus, 1 Hartley Road Flinders Park SA. www.precacommunity.org



Do you remember Sanga or Soldini? You probably bought them from 'Ta' Mosè' which will close when its owner is gone

: Keith Demicoli

Business evolves over time and who knows how many shops have opened and closed over the years. Others seem to never change like this shoe shop in Paola which dates back more than 100 years. Its owner, Joseph Tabone, is 85 years old and believes that the shop will disappear once he is gone – in fact he almost died a year ago when he spent three days in agony on the ground without anyone realising it after he fell a height of one storey.

On the main road in Paola, this tiny shop on the corner stands out immediately in contrast to the large shops in the same commercial area which have taken the place of local shops such as the one, which are fast disappearing.

"It is sad but then you say, well it's time is up, like an old man who has nothing left to do in his life but retire." The shop 'Hollywood footwear' was opened by his father Mose Tabone shortly before WWI, more than 100 years ago.

"They used to make the shoes themselves and these boxes and imported shoes did not used to exist. The shoes used to be sewn rather than glued together and if you wanted a pair of shoes from them they would never wear out," he said.

Joseph Tabone, who has spent his whole life in this tiny shop describes the story behind the shop's name. "After the war they used to bring shoes which had the brand name 'Hollywood' especially for women, and my mother therefore decided to name the shop 'Hollywood footwear' – that is how the name came about."

This iconic shop, where time seems to have stood still, is almost like a shoe museum, and in fact on the dusty top shelves we spotted football boots which used to be made in Malta around 40 years ago, brand names which have been discontinued and others you rarely hear about.

"For example, we had the John White, see there at the front, which was very popular. All these boxes you see around you all had their own brand of shoes."

Joseph Tabone says that once he dies, the shop will probably die with him. Before we left, he reminded us that it is a miracle he is still alive because he almost died a year ago.

"I had fallen off the scaffolding in the garage which was around two metres high and I spent three days laying on the ground before the Police found me because my sister used to phone me and I was not at home. By the time they found me I had spent three days without food or water." Mr Tabone's shop is still authentic and full of history, including that of its owner who knows what solitude means especially after almost losing his life in the accident.





Filigree in Malta

Filigree is the art of creating intricate **jewellery** pieces using precious metal threads, such as **silver** and **gold**. The first pieces of Filigree were said to be found in the Egyptian Pyramids dating back to some 5000 years B.C.

Filigree making is distinct to the Mediterranean basin, and Malta due to both its geographical location and its history has a long tradition in this craft. Filigree making has been passed from father to son for generations providing an income to several village families over the years.

The **process of filigree** starts by melting silver or gold granules in a high temperature. Upon melting, the metal is poured in moulds which produce ingots after cooling. The ingots are then pressed and stretched for several times thus producing wires of different thicknesses. The thicker wires are used to shape the outer frame of the design being crafted. Filling the outer skeleton involves a very intricate procedure: Two very fine threads are wound together in a shape of a rope after which they are flattened and heated. These are then cut out into small pieces. The small pieces are then hand-wound to produce circular shapes which are later placed within the outer frame and soldered together.



The semi-finished product is then dipped in special chemicals to eliminate the black oxidation and eventually dried. The final stage is a polishing procedure. This is done by putting the objects into a rumbling machine in which they are left for several hours thus polishing the product. This **traditional craft** still survives today thanks to the tourist industry. In fact, today filigree is considered to be a work of art by many tourists who purchase a piece of filigree during their holiday in Malta. All finished products are **certified for authenticity** and **hallmarked** accordingly by the Government Consul.
https://www.maltaproducts.com/malta_filigree/



Species added to protection list as ERA gets new powers

Environment watchdog can issue protection orders for threatened sites or species

The swallowtail butterfly (Papilio machaon) has been added to the list of protected species. Photo: ERA.

Species of orchid, butterflies, coral, sharks and others have been added to the list of protected plants and animals under new environmental regulations.

Among these species is a recently-discovered endemic orchid, the Gozo Spider Orchid, which is only found in Gozo, as well as a number of endangered butterflies, and corals of international importance found in Maltese waters.

The species were added as part of new changes to the Regulations on the Protection of Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats, intended to give the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) new powers to protect threatened habitats and species. Under the new law, ERA can issue protection notices on species with an unfavourable or worsening conservation status and take steps to protect the species. The regulations also give ERA new means of removing and controlling invasive alien species. Specific sites can also be proposed for protection on the basis of ecological, geological and natural features, and additional penalties have been introduced for environmental crimes within protected sites. Michelle Piccinino, director of Environment and Resources, said the regulations were based on scientific research and strengthened the authority's regulatory function

Maltese Emigration to Brazil

Although reliable statistics are unavailable on the Maltese in Brazil, it seems that there were three differently aimed emigration instances of Maltese to Brazil. Research on this topic has been done only in Brazil. Difficulties, however, are great. Due to the fact that the Maltese had a British passport, the Brazilian authorities enlisted all Maltese coming to Brazil as British. There are even cases of some Maltese who changed their surnames giving them an "English" spelling.

When one looks at the São Paulo telephone directory one will find many "Maltese" surnames: Aquilina, Attard, Balzan, Bonello, Bonici, Calleja, Caruana, Cassar, Falzon, Fenech, Friggieri, Galea, Grech, Grima, Mallia, Meli, Muscat, Pirotta, Pisani, Said, Saliba, Sammut, Schembri, Spiteri, Tabone, Vassallo, Vella, Zahra, Zammit. Even if the spelling above has been taken *ipsis litteris*, one has to interpret the existence of these surnames with great caution since São Paulo is a melting-pot of Italian, Sicilian and Lebanese emigrants. Some contact has been tried with these families but was unfortunately discontinued.



The first Maltese emigration to Brazil occurred in the 1910s. In the wake of massive European migration to

South America in the last decades of the 19th Century and the first decades of the 20th, the Maltese Emigration Committee prepared to send some 30 families made up of field labourers to Brazil. On the 28th March 1912 a party of 73 emigrants made up of 13 families left Valletta on board the French steamer ss. Carthage for the port of Santos in Brazil. Father Pietro Paulo Charbon of Birkirkara accompanied the party. After changing over to the transatlantic steamer ss. Provence, they arrived in Santos on the 26th April, 1912. On the 18th April 1912 another group of 106 persons left Malta and arrived in Santos on the 19th May, 1912.

Maltese in Coffee Plantation

The first group was sent to work in the coffee plantation on the fazenda Santa Eulalia in the municipality of Brotas, state of São Paulo, about 183 km from the city of São Paulo. The second party was sent to do the same field work at the fazenda



São José de Fortaleza. However, homesickness, insufficient information, lack of preparation, incompatibility and a lack of clear emigration policy from the British government in Malta caused the failure of this emigration. By August 1913 emigration to Brazil came to an end. Many returned to Malta, others stayed and fended for themselves.

The second emigration of Maltese to Brazil occurred in the late 20s and it was somewhat linked to the British entrepreneurship of railway building and maintenance in the state of São Paulo. Practically all present Maltese in Brazil knew Mr Dominic Colier (or Coleiro) from Floriana. He had an administrative post in the railway company linking São Paulo to Santos and the state of Paraná. In the last years of his life he lived as a pensioner paid by the British government. (photo) Mr. Colier with Maltese priests and sisters. - [Dr. Thomas Bonnici](#)

The third one occurred in the 50s and it was totally different from the previous ones. In the 50s Dom Geraldo Sigaud, then Bishop of Jacarezinho at the far east of the north of the state of Paraná, invited the Maltese Franciscan Sisters to help him in the diocese which was developing into a great economical region.

In the 1920s the northern part of the state of Paraná consisted of dense forest and a huge jungle. The land was bought by the Sudan Cotton Plantations Syndicate led by Simon Joseph Fraser (Lord Lovat) who planned its development according to well established rules. Thousands of emigrants from Europe and from the neighbouring state of São Paulo, began buying lands and transformed them into coffee plantations, cities and towns. The area hitherto inhabited scantily by Kaingang Indians was teeming with thousands of people in the space of thirty years.

8 September
MALTA NATIONAL DAY

Malta's water technologies on the world stage



The import and export of innovative ideas and techniques within the water and wastewater industries are among the priorities of Malta's Water Services Corporation.

New technologies and fresh thinking are being poured into Malta's water management sector as population growth and uncertain weather patterns are placing increasing demands on the island's scarce freshwater resources. The semi-arid climate with minimal rainfall meant Malta had to invest early on in water infrastructure and solutions. Already in the 1600s, the Knights of Malta built aqueducts that transported water by gravity from one village to another. In more modern days, desalination plants became a key part of the puzzle, and the first reverse osmosis (RO) unit was established in 1983. The island is now incorporating solutions to recycle and reuse wastewater, and this is an area that could be expanded in the years ahead. Meanwhile, Malta has developed top-notch expertise in leakage detection and repair, and the island's engineers are regarded among the best in this field and are winning international contracts.

The Water Services Corporation

Malta's Water Services Corporation (WSC) was founded in 1992 and is responsible for the complete drinking and waste water cycle in Malta and Gozo. During the past decades, Malta has become increasingly dependent on desalination, and WSC operates three RO plants. They contribute some 60% to Malta's water supply, with groundwater sources accounting for 40%. Desalination is an energy-intensive and expensive

technology, and the country has recently invested in new membrane technology to make the process more energy-efficient and more cost-effective.

Additionally, Malta has started to use water reclamation to recycle water. Three Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) are currently operating on the Maltese islands, two of which are in Malta and another in Gozo. STP plants treat sewage water by removing solids and impurities and producing treated sewage effluent, which meets the requirements of the Urban Wastewater Directive and is therefore safe to dispose into the sea. While this water has traditionally been released into the Mediterranean, Malta is in the process of reaping the benefits of a €22 million investment in three polishing plants. These plants are treating wastewater to so-called 'NEW water' for agricultural and industrial purposes. However, this water can also be treated further and be used to replenish Malta's groundwater sources. It is estimated that more than seven million cubic metres of NEW water could be produced annually.

"We are really making a big push to introduce innovative solutions and sophisticated technology. We have made significant progress in recovering wastewater for agricultural purposes. This water was once considered permanently lost. We believe that collaboration and joint thinking can bring about further change."

- Mario Zammit, Chairman, Water Services Corporation

The love of language, history and culture resides in the heart and soul of a nation



Santa Maria...different strokes for different folks

Report: Antonia Micallef

Santa Maria week has begun – reputedly the hottest time of the year when the pace is somewhat slower than usual. Not for everyone, admittedly.

As of today traffic is smoother than usual because many workplaces shut down for summer holidays and workers began to enjoy some time off work.

For others, it's business as usual especially if they provide essential services or if they work in shops, where Summer and Winter are immaterial.

"We carry on working. The shop is not as busy as it is during the rest of the year because many people travel abroad and it's not really a time when people want to buy." Marisa Moore, sales assistant

Ms Moore added that unlike the shops in Malta, those in Gozo are very busy because many Maltese cross over to Gozo this week for the feast of Santa Maria.

"Where normally it is quiet, this week things pick up because many people are on holiday and have more time on their hands to shop and enjoy themselves. Those who work inside a shop do not look at this time of the year in the same way. This week we are more confined to base so you can't really spend time with other members of the family who themselves are on holiday." Rosalyn Zampa, Sales Assistant Ms Zampa went on to say that she is there to serve and that she opens her shop during this week and takes her holiday in the weeks following Santa Maria.

"Thank you for the kidney, papà"

report: Glen Falzon

A six-year old boy was born with kidney complications which led him to undergo thirteen operations.

His family celebrated during these days the second anniversary since their son was reborn after his father gave him a kidney and an opportunity to live without further suffering.

TVM met with Henry Mamo, a lively boy who hardly looks like having passed through thirteen operations due to a rare condition which affected various organs, including his kidneys.

His mother, Lorinda Mamo, recounted that he had hardly been born when one of his kidneys was not working well and at the age of 18 months, one was removed and the other deteriorated. "Initially they said that the remaining kidney was not working; he either goes for a dialysis or the transplant process starts". His father, Randolph didn't think twice and wanted to give one of his kidneys to his son. "You pray and hope everything goes well and it matches, so that the boy can have the kidney".

Following various tests, doctors decided to make the transplant as his father faced many thoughts. "You start thinking many things – if a kidney matches or not; what's the next step. If a dialysis can be carried out in Malta or not", Randolph said.

The transplant was successful and two years have already passed. "This summer was the first we spent in Malta. He doesn't know what a summer is".

TVM asked a joyful Henry what they did with his kidney. This was his reply: "They threw it out in the garbage, but I don't know how whether they have a garbage just for a kidney. That is super weird and crazy."





Recipe: Decadent Chocolate Banana Bread

Banana bread is too often seen as last-resort in a café or the only use for “that bunch of bananas buried in the cupboard”. But made with care, quality ingredients and a little

imagination, it can be a thing of beauty. It’s even better when lightly toasted and smothered with butter.

When cooking, it’s important to use seasonal, local ingredients wherever possible. Our farmers need all the support they can get, and we should never be scared to buy the imperfect fruit and veg supermarkets label as “ugly”. I always buy Carnarvon bananas, which tend to be smaller – nicely lunchbox sized – and sweeter.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup plain flour
- ½ cup Dutch cocoa
- 1 tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp sea salt
- 3 large brown bananas (1½ cups mashed)
- ¼ cup unsalted butter, melted and slightly cooled
- ¼ cup canola oil or melted coconut oil
- ¾ cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 large egg at room temperature
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 cup dark chocolate, chips or roughly-chopped

Method:

1. Pre-heat your oven to 180°C. Grease a 23x13cm (9x5 inch) loaf pan with cooking spray.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, and sea salt. Set aside.
3. In a large bowl, mash the bananas with a fork. Add the melted butter and oil and stir until combined. Stir in the brown sugar, egg, and vanilla extract. Stir until smooth.
4. Stir the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients, don’t overmix. Stir in ¾ of the chocolate (see handy hint below).
5. Pour batter into prepared pan. Sprinkle the remaining chocolate over the top of the bread. Bake for 50-65 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the bread comes out mostly clean. You might have some melted chocolate on the toothpick and that’s fine. You just don’t want a lot of gooey batter. Check at 50 minutes, just to be safe.
6. Remove the pan from the oven and set on a wire cooling rack. Let the bread cool in the pan for 15 minutes. Run a knife around the edges of the bread and carefully remove from the pan. Let the bread cool on the wire cooling rack until slightly warm. Cut into slices and serve.



Fig and walnut salad

Summer means delicious fruits like figs and there's no better way to eat them than in a salad full of flavour and texture, which makes use of the classic pairing: sweet figs and roasted walnuts

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp Modena balsamic vinegar
- 1 squeeze of lemon

Method

1. Roast the walnuts for 10 minutes in a preheated oven at 180 °C or simply roast them in a sandwich toaster!
2. Chop the cherry tomatoes and figs then crush the walnuts.
3. Mix all the ingredients in a bowl, add the dressing and you are good to go.

Ingredients For the salad

- 400g fresh figs
- 300g cherry tomatoes
- 300g Maltese rucola
- 100g walnuts

For the dressing

- 3 tbsp maple syrup

Spectacular concert to open Cittadella Arts Festival next Saturday **BY GOZO NEWS**



A spectacular concert at the Cittadella Ditch will open the Cittadella Arts Festival next Saturday, featuring two big bands – DCapitals Big Band and a guest band from the Czech Republic; Big'O'Band.

Beat it A Big Band Show – will also feature guest singer Chris Grech, together with DCapitals resident singers Francesca Sciberras, Jolene Samhan and Fabian Galea.

Launched back in April, this Festival of

Art, Music and Theatre opens next weekend and continues through September, organised by DCapitals Band, in collaboration with the Ministry for Gozo, Arts Council Malta (Gozo Cultural Support Programme) and Heritage Malta.

A press conference was held on Saturday with details of this year's programme, which was addressed by George Apap, the festival's artistic director, Dr Anton Refalo, Chairman of Heritage Malta, Konrad Mizzi, Minister for Tourism and Dr Justyne Caruana, Minister for Gozo.

The programme will be made up of various activities ranging from music concerts, educational activities, art exhibition, talks and other cultural activities.

Artistic Director of the Festival George Apap, explained that this festival is without doubt the largest project undertaken by the DCapitals Band in the five years since it started

Booking for next Saturday's 17th of August concert can be made on the ticket hotline – 79554694, for more information please email info@caf.mt

All the other events in the Cittadella Arts Festival are free of charge. To view the full programme [please click here](#). *Photograph: MGOZ/George Scerri*



Beachside bathing

Forget wonderfully soft sand or beautifully clear water, the real highlight of Melbourne's Brighton beach is its ever-popular row of colourful bath houses. Built well

over a century ago, the 82 wooden structures were originally created in response to the Victorian ideas of morality and seaside bathing. Now classed as a heritage site, the boxes have remained largely unchanged, sans the fact that no, you're not likely to see somebody having a post-swim scrub. Some owners have actually transformed their shacks into miniature accommodation, while others utilise it as a handy storage shed for their surf boards.

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