



# Maltese e-Newsletter

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



Editor: Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR JP

Email: [maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com)

Learn  
Maltese



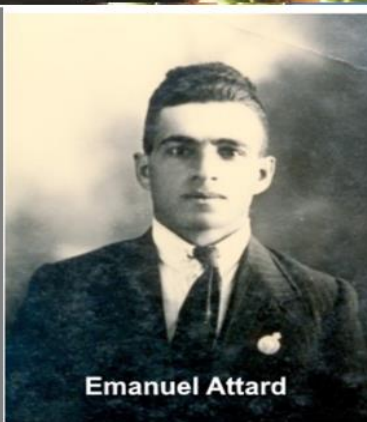
Destiny Chukunyere  
to represent Malta at the  
European Song Festival

Prime Minister  
Billy Hughes



THE  
CHILDREN  
OF  
BILLY  
HUGHES

1916



Emanuel Attard



POPE TO VISIT MALTA

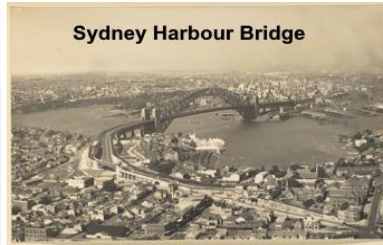
**MQVB**

Band players and committee  
with the late conductor  
Neil Edwards

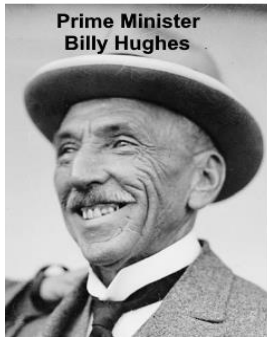




Photo - Heritage Malta.



Sydney Harbour Bridge

Prime Minister  
Billy Hughes

### THE CHILDREN OF BILLY HUGHES



Emanuel Attard

## Little-known WWI incident reveals tense experience for Maltese immigrants in Australia

*Emanuel Attard was one of about 300 others travelling Down Under in search of work*

*Caroline Curmi*

An excerpt from an ABC Lifeline interview dating back to 2003 has recently been posted online and it

reveals the difficulties one group of Maltese immigrants faced when attempting to build a new life abroad.

During the World War I years, the Maltese islands were referred to as the Nurse of the Mediterranean for the role they played in nursing the wounded back to health. Many Australian soldiers were treated in Malta, with one member of the Australian Imperial Force, a certain H. Wordly reported as saying: "We will carry back to Australia undying gratitude which time can never erase."

Having been in service himself during the War, Emanuel Attard could find no work in Malta upon his return to the island and decided to migrate to Australia, a place which he believed would promise better prospects: "People had mentioned Australia was a prosperous country, and I said to myself, I'll take my chance," he is quoted as saying in the clip. Naturally, Emanuel's mother did not take kindly to the news and his determination to see his decision through rendered him an orphan, a word which Emanuel uses to describe himself.

Back then, such long-distance travel was done by boat, and journeys were estimated to last between 30 to 45 days. Emanuel was one of about 300 other legal migrants (most of whom were Gallipoli veterans and deeply in debt for paying the full fare) to make the crossing, but their welcome was nothing like they could have expected. The men were split between two boats, with the first one carrying 97 Maltese immigrants sailing into Sydney harbour on October 28th, 1916.

At the time, Australia was in the middle of its own war, with the opposition bitterly opposing the government's plans to introduce conscriptions to send even more Australian troops to war. The Maltese on board are quickly branded as 'cheap labour' and the Unions enforce the narrative that they would steal jobs from locals who had been forced to go to war.



Prime Minister Billy Hughes did everything he could to delay the boat, the *Gaugas*, carrying the remaining Maltese men, even going so far as to contact the British Colonial office warning that if it were to dock, the referendum would be doomed and the whole affair would be “a national disaster.” Adamant not to let the Maltese disembark, he forced those on board to sit for a language test as dictated by the Immigration (restriction) Act. The test could be applied in any European language, but it was presented to the Maltese in Dutch. British citizens by birth, everyone failed the test, and the Maltese immigrants were sent on to New Caledonia, a collection of islands in the middle of the South Pacific, which had actually been the *Gaugas*’ final destination. They were kept in a City Hall at the Australian government’s expense for three months, despite the referendum being lost much earlier.

They were eventually transported back to Sydney where they were imprisoned on a ship, but thanks to a Maltese Catholic priest, Fr William Bonnet, the church led a public outcry calling for their liberation. “To exclude such men seems to be a most ungrateful return for the great love and kindness which was shown by the Maltese to our Australian sick and wounded men,” read one Sydney newspaper.

#### **COUNCIL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD**

**Regional Committees:** Regional Committees will be set up in accordance with Article 5(5) of Act XX of 2011. Such committees will be appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the capacity of Chairperson of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad. Functions of the Regional Committees will include helping the CMLA achieve its aim of protecting and promoting the rights and interests of Maltese living outside Malta, and to provide matters connected therewith. More details will follow on this subject in subsequent issues of this newsletter.



# POPE FRANCIS

IN MALTA

“They showed us unusual kindness” Acts 28,2

31 May 2020

#### **APOSTOLIC JOURNEY BY POPE FRANCIS TO MALTA**

**Welcoming the invitation of the President of the Republic of Malta, the Authorities and the Catholic Church of the Country, His Holiness Pope Francis will make an Apostolic Journey to Malta and Gozo on 31st May 2020.**

**The programme of the journey will be published at a later stage.**



## Neil Edwards

*We have lost our conductor, but more than that we have lost our very great friend*

***Esteemed Conductor of Maltese Queen of Victories Band of South Australia***  
**Ron Borg – Adelaide SA**

In the latter months of 2017, a tall gentleman with an eloquent handlebar moustache walked into our band rehearsal at Lockleys South Australia, on a Wednesday night and after being introduced to the bandsmen as Neil Edwards, sat at the rear of the band playing his Tuba very skilfully. He was a very friendly and sociable chap, and it was not long before our chats with him during our tea breaks while enjoying the Maltese *Pastizzi*, that Neil revealed that he had been associated with many South Australian



District Bands, including the; Woodville Concert Band, The Railways Band and Metro Band. Although never boastful, Neil told us that he had conducted several of these South Australian Bands, which he obviously enjoyed because music was his love. Unfortunately we found out that he had contracted the dreaded Cancer, although he never made a big issue of this situation, because he was such a positive individual!

At our first band rehearsal for the New Year in January 2018, Neil accepted the task of conducting our Band. It was a learning curve for him to adapt to our Maltese ways, however he took up the challenge and became "one of us" very quickly. He was very accepting and even respectful of our ways, for instance,

during our prayer at the beginning of every Band rehearsal, we would see him joining his hands and bowing in reverence even though he was not of our Catholic denomination! This attitude was also evident at the various religious functions that we performed at, be it the Maltese or the Italian feasts. We bandsmen laughed at his obvious enjoyment of Maltese foods at our various Maltese functions, he was even "blown away" by the revelry of the 'Brijju' at our *Festas*, even when he was completely showered in the shredded paper that was thrown around.



Neil was very musically apt, but also very able to teach and communicate with the bandsmen in such a way as never to make anyone feel belittled. He had the happy knack of listening as well as directing, and this was probably the magic formula he used to improve the musical quality of our band in leaps and bounds. Truly a good natured gentleman, who was never too proud to heed good advice and was always willing to be guided by the assistant conductor Joe Camilleri, and that gave him the best qualities that a good Band conductor could have, Musicianship and Communication skills.

He did not only blend in with us, but he actually bonded with us and enjoyed the spirit of the religious occasions that the Band participated in, so much so that he was actually moved to write this little poem about *"The Procession"*.



In the ensuing year of 2019 the band kept improving under Neil's direction and even the moral was high among the bandsmen. It was easy to be inspired and put in a 100% effort in performing our music when we saw that in spite of the fact that Neil's Cancer was deteriorating, he still managed to commit himself fully to our band as well as continue to be involved in other musical groups like his performances with "Oom Pah" Bands in the Barossa Valley. Music was certainly the love of his life!

As the year of 2019 wore on, Neil was continuing to feel the added aches and pains of his disease, but still he battled on, and attended all our rehearsals and performances as long as he could, and at the times when it was just too much, to the extent that it was hard for him to even lift his arm to conduct the band, his assistant, **Joe Camilleri** would step in to help.

When he could no longer attend band, many of us bandsmen made a point of visiting him at home and hospital, and despite his ailment, he never focused on himself but rather on music or things to do with the Band! What a selfless person!

**Maltese e-Newsletter**  
Journal of the Maltese Living Abroad

**Connecting Communities**  
Subscribe: [maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com)

Despite his absence among us, Neil has always been in our minds, besides being updated about his condition by those that have been in contact with him, we often dedicated our band rehearsal opening prayer or closing prayer on Neil's behalf. However, the inevitable news came on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 4:30pm.

*To our Dear Friend and Esteemed Conductor Neil*

*Edwards, may you rest in God's Peace.*





## Preca Community - Adelaide [ M.U.S.E.U.M]

The Preca ministry in Adelaide has evolved from the traditional youth ministry to a more inclusive approach where all are welcomed in a vibrant faith community. At the heart of the Preca Community are young people, youth and young families from all cultural backgrounds. As a community we strive to be holy so as to inspire others to be holy, to learn so as to make Jesus better known and loved and to be community builders so as to increase Preca.

Preca provides a weekly opportunity for all to come together on Friday nights at the Nazareth Senior Catholic College Campus between 7-10pm. It is a time to celebrate our faith and family life. There is time for a variety of activities: recreational sport, community prayer, learning groups, weekly birthday and anniversary celebrations and just hanging out with friends in a relaxed and safe atmosphere. Our style is simple, genuine and gentle.

Youth aged between 12 and 22 who are interested in nourishing and discovering more about their faith can join the Come & See Youth (CAS Youth) which also meets on Friday nights. There are several age specific groups and activities including monthly Sunday afternoon excursions and an annual three day camp. Youth take leadership roles to lead groups and larger activities. In 2018 CAS Youth presented an enactment of the Stations of the Cross to all the parish on Palm Sunday. A Parents' Night was also organised as a sign of gratitude towards parents and grandparents.

An emerging trend is parents are taking on leadership roles in the Preca Community. A case in point is the monthly Family and Youth Mass which evolved from the Third Sunday Mass which Preca pioneered in 2006 and now is run by parents with the support of the Preca Members. Parents also lead adoration on Wednesday night at Our Lady of the Manger Chapel, the Children's Choir and help organising the Winter and Summer Family Weekends.

Preca Ministry in Adelaide is focused in the inner western suburbs and its main Preca Centre is located in Brompton. Preca also has a centre at Elizabeth where a weekly faith journey and a monthly Taize' prayer meetings are held. At the Preca Centre in Brompton an organic garden known as 'Preca Community Garden' has been developed in the backyard with the support of the Charles Sturt Council. The garden provides neighbours with the opportunity to organically grow their own vegetables in raised wicking beds.

For more information about the garden see us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PrecaCommunityGardenAdelaide>

Front view of Preca Centre at Brompton: [https://www.google.com.au/maps/@-34.8982925,138.581205,3a,75y,313.28h,92.98t/data=!3m4!1e1!3m2!1sogY09dLTRfyIN\\_6PReYEUA!2e0](https://www.google.com.au/maps/@-34.8982925,138.581205,3a,75y,313.28h,92.98t/data=!3m4!1e1!3m2!1sogY09dLTRfyIN_6PReYEUA!2e0)



**FOUNDATION** Preca was founded in Adelaide by Horace Cassar and Harry Brincat (1935-2018) who both migrated from Malta to join their families in 1953. Eventually they rented a house at 95 East Street from the MSC community and started catechetical ministry at the parishes in Norwood and Hindmarsh. Ministry flourished so quickly that Horace and Harry made a request to the mother house in Malta for help. In reply two missionary Members, Emmanuel Mifsud and Charles Azzopardi arrived in 1957. After three years Charles headed for Peru as a missionary, was ordained a priest and eventually founded a Preca Community in Lima. In

Adelaide new members joined Preca and ministry was expanded to the parishes in Seaton, Evandale and later on in Elizabeth. (Photo) Emanuel Mifsud with early Adelaide group, early 1960s



## Destiny on the way to the Eurovision Song Contest in Rotterdam

**Report: Maria Muscat [www.tvn.com.mt/](http://www.tvn.com.mt/)** progress in her musical career, she feel highly satisfied after her X-Factor Malta success.

She said she feels happy that her daughter Destiny had accomplished her dream and that with the support of the public, this had come true. Destiny won

The winner of the second edition of X Factor Malta, Destiny, said she still cannot believe that come May he will be representing Malta in the Eurovision Song Contest to be held in Holland.

Yesterday, Destiny succeeded in winning the X Factor Malta competition final by gaining the largest number of public televotes with her excellent rendering of the song 'He Lives in You' from the musical 'The Lion King'. Visibly emotional, Destiny expressed her great gratitude to the Maltese and Gozitan public as well as her family which has always supported her singing and musical career ambitions from an early age.

Following a sleepless night, we located Destiny playing with her three-year-old sister Melody, surrounded by her family at their home in Birkirkara. Destiny told TVM she still cannot believe she has attained so much. She said this was her great dream and she can still not get to grips with it although she had worked hard for it with the help of her mother and the whole family.

Her mother, Alexia Chukunyere, said that after years of hard work helping her daughter to

X Factor after appearing in the final in African-style garb and with her strong voice gave an excellent interpretation of 'He lives in You'.

Her father Ndubisi Chukunyere, a former football player with a long career with Hibernians FC, expressed his gratitude to the public for their support as well as to the Nigerian community in Malta that gave Destiny great backing.

"The Nigerian community I don't know how to thank them and thank the Maltese people and Gozitan for their support," said Ndubisi. Destiny's brother Isaiah, although shy, could not hold back from expressing his joy at his sister's success. He said he wished to congratulate her because her hard work had paid off.

In the coming days, together with a PBS team, Destiny will begin preparations for the Eurovision Song Contest to be staged in Rotterdam in May.

Destiny said she is determined to work hard to achieve reality. Before we left, Destiny's sister Melody showed us she is following in her sister's footsteps and did her best to give us a song.

### NIGERIANS IN MALTA

Nigerians living in Malta formed an association in 2018.

The association estimates that there are as many as 2,000 people of Nigerian descent living in Malta. It was established in early September. With no embassy or consulate in the country, the association, which is led by president Patrick Umanah, serves as an official point of contact between Nigerians in Malta and Maltese authorities. The association also works to promote social and economic development and offer the government advice on its inclusion and integration policies. All Nigerian citizens, people of Nigerian descent and their family members are welcome to join the association.

# Why are Nigerians studying in Malta?

by Boun Akindele



There are a thousand and one reasons why Nigerians are coming to the Island of Malta but I can only speak from my very own personal experience — and for those still wondering where Malta is, it's a Mediterranean Island of about 490,000 thousand people right off the coast of Sicily, Italy.

Swiftly moving on — I came to Malta to undergo an MBA programme, and **London School Commerce Malta** ([www.lscmalta.edu.mt](http://www.lscmalta.edu.mt)) was the perfect

fit. On arrival, I stepped out of the Airport in hopes of beaming sun rays and the warm breeze of the Mediterranean. Instead, I was caught in a 'once-in-a-lifetime' rain storm that evening which coincidentally destroyed one of the national treasures of Malta — The Azure Window Rock Formation. You see the Island of Malta rarely (emphasis on rarely) experiences rain storms so you can understand how I assumed I must the Omen itself to have stepped out of the Airport and already destroyed a tourist attraction.

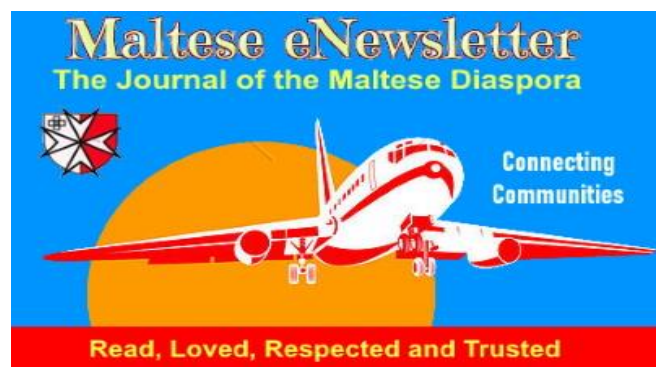
Least to say this did not deter me from the excitement of being in a new environment and exploring the rich history that I so often read online. As I mentioned, the purpose of coming to Malta was to pursue a globally recognised degree at LSCM, and one of the deciding factor was the tuition fee which was very affordable especially in

comparison to other Universities offering a similar product. However, on securing accommodation I discovered the cost of living was also quite low compared to other cities in Europe including the United Kingdom! In other words, I had some spare change to set aside for a rainy day. Happy days.

**Malta is an English-speaking country so it was fairly easy to navigate my way around and as an added bonus, the Maltese people are very friendly and were happy to help a confused individual in need.**

Another reason for choosing Malta was diversity. You see I wanted to expose myself to a variety of cultures as a learning experience and eventually build my network and Malta has not fallen short. Due to the job opportunities and educational reasons, Malta has opened its doors to foreigners from around the world. It shouldn't come as a surprise a few weeks later I secured a good job.

By the way, did I mention that with studying at LSC Malta, I was obviously on a Schengen Visa, but that gave me access to 28 other countries in Europe! You can call me the connoisseur in all things travel.





## The Buttigieg effect: 'Americans are finally pronouncing my name right'



### US children of Maltese immigrants savouring presidential candidate's rise

Vanessa Conneely

Joe Gauci: His pastizzi business is booming. Right: Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci: "Everyone I know asks if we're related."

Malta is receiving a lot more attention since Democrat candidate Pete Buttigieg launched his bid to become US president, Maltese people living in the US say.

The openly gay politician, whose late father was from Hamrun, surprisingly beat fellow Democrat Bernie Sanders in the first poll in Iowa this week in the race to contest Donald Trump on November 3.

"Everyone I know asks if we're related, because it's not a very common name here," says Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci, whose father emigrated from Paola with his family when he was two.

"I have to explain to them that Buttigieg is a very common surname in Malta and it's not likely that we are related. But you never know, right? We could be distant cousins!"

The Michigan resident says it has also helped people pronounce her name correctly for the first time in her 60 years.

"Growing up with the name Buttigieg was interesting. No one ever heard of it or could pronounce it. That gave me the opportunity to tell people I was Maltese and my family was from Malta.

"The funny thing is, we never pronounced our last name correctly either. When my father enlisted in the army for World War II, his boot camp sergeant mispronounced his name as 'beauty-jay'. Even though it didn't sound anything like it was spelled, my dad said; 'When you're in boot camp, you never correct your sergeant.'" When he got back from the war, her father never stopped pronouncing the name that way, even though the rest of his family said it correctly.

*I would love to meet him some day. Maybe I could make some pastizzi for him!*

Somehow, the American pronunciation became Butt-i-gee and/or Butt-i-gig.

"I have no idea how that happened, I guess because that is how it's pronounced phonetically in English. I always made it a point to tell people of the different pronunciations and that the proper way they say it in Malta is 'Boot-edge-edge'.

"I think it sounds more like Boot-a-jeej and I plan to tell candidate Pete when I meet him."

Lisa, who is active in several local Maltese groups around Detroit, says she will definitely vote for the Democrat should he become the party's candidate between now and June. That has suddenly become a bigger possibility after Iowa.

Lisa is hopeful. "I am a huge fan of Pete. I think he has a fresh younger perspective on things. I like the way he carries himself. He's not running a negative campaign. I agree with his policies on income and fair wages. Especially for our teachers and minimum wage workers. He is also pro-environment. However, I don't agree with his views on abortion.

"I would love to meet him someday. Maybe I could make some pastizzi for him!"

Another Maltese-American who is desperate to meet the presidential-hopeful is chef Joe Gauci. He is the owner of Malta Joe's Baked Goods in Arizona and travelled to Malta in 2014 to learn how to make the perfect pastizzi. He now ships the traditional Maltese dish around the US and is enjoying the extra interest Mr Buttigieg is bringing to his restaurant. "My business is booming," says Joe, whose parents migrated from Tarxien and Paola in 1950.

“Malta has been living under the radar for so long and now, with the Information Age, people are discovering our diamond in the Mediterranean Sea.” Like Lisa, Joe, 55, is an active member of the Maltese community in his state – and runs the Facebook Group ‘Maltese of Arizona’.

He also says he will vote for Pete Buttigieg should he become the Democrat choice.

“We have a robust Maltese community. Through my pastizzi business, I have gathered dozens of Maltese families who thought they were the only Maltese around, but now that is changing.

“I have definitely seen a surge in interest since Mr Buttigieg started his campaign. When people come in to buy pastizzi, they get a lesson in Maltese heritage.”

## DOMVS ROMANA

The remains of a 1st-century aristocratic Roman town house featuring beautiful well-preserved mosaics

On the border between Mdina and Rabat in Malta there is a small museum built around the ancient ruins of an aristocratic town house, or domus, from the Roman era. The ruins were accidentally discovered by landscapers in 1881, and while little remains of the house itself, the beautiful floor mosaics have survived the centuries remarkably intact, one of the best examples of Hellenistic style mosaics found today.

Archaeologists determined the Roman villa was built in the 1st century BC, inspired by ancient Greek architecture, and was lived in up until the 2nd century AD. The domus had a colonnaded peristyle featuring intricate Hellenistic style mosaics that are the highlight of the site today, some depicting mythological scenes and others simply decorative.

The fine painting and architectural elements would place the mosaic art somewhere between the 1st and 2nd Pompeian styles. But unlike its counterpart in Pompeii and Sicily, the mosaics at Domvs Romana have survived largely intact.

At the purpose-built, on-site museum, domestic artifacts and antiquities are on



display giving a glimpse of daily life of a wealthy Roman family. There are also a number of well-preserved 1st century statues of the imperial Roman family.

However, the site is not confined to the Roman people alone. In the 11th century, while Malta was part of the Fatimid Caliphate, a Muslim cemetery was established on the remains of the domus. At least 245 burials were discovered during the excavations, which also unearthed a number of limestone and marble tombstones with Naskh or Kufic inscriptions.

### Know Before You Go

Not all of the Roman ruins can be accessed, but can be viewed from the museum's patio. Museum Hours: Monday to Sunday: 09.00 - 17.00hrs Last admission at 16.30hrs Closed on 24, 25 & 31 December, 1 January & Good Friday





## Maltese Young Triathletes at International Training Camp in Serbia

In October 2019 A team of six Maltese young triathletes have attended an international triathlon training camp organised by the International Triathlon Union in Serbia. **The team was composed of Emilia Vella, Pia Zammit, Callie Hock, Pavel Dalli, Gabriel Bongailas and Sean Darmanin**, all hailed from the Malta Triathlon Federation's own nursery, the MYTA – Malta Youth Triathlon Academy, which is a joint project between the Federation, SportMalta and the European Triathlon Union. The athletes were accompanied by Triathlon Level 2 Coaches Maria Mizzi and Barry Farrugia. The training camp was split between the town of Kragujevac and the capital city of Belgrade.

During this training camp, the Maltese Athletes had the opportunity to train under the supervision of some of the best youth triathlon coaches in the continent together with other young athletes coming not only from the Balkans and East Europe but also from many other countries where triathlon is developing. The Maltese coaches were also involved in delivering training sessions to the whole group of athletes during the camp.

The training camp was at perfect timing since practically all of these six athletes will be taking the big step and start racing together with the 'adult' triathletes by the end of this season. For most of them, this was the first international experience so they could compare their levels with those of their foreign peers.

*Congratulations to Hannah Cutajar for winning the Gold Award at MOC Awards. Great way to end an eventful year for Hannah!*

'Although we have been placing young athletes in these international training camps for the past 6



years, this is the first time we have such a solid team of 6 athletes and 2 coaches' said Triathlon Malta's president, Cyprian Dalli. 'We are finally reaping the invest we made in the MYTA academy and now the kids have become of age and are leading the way in

the development of Triathlon in Malta.

We are blessed with a small but fantastic team of coaches who direct these youngsters in the right direction and ensure their progress and development is steady yet sustainable. We are also greatly indebted to SportMalta through who's programme these athletes train for the continuous support shown towards our project and the development of our young talents. We are also very grateful for these opportunities to the European Triathlon Union and the International Triathlon Union, especially the Development Committee'. As a conclusion to this camp, the Maltese athletes took part in an international Aquathlon race in Belgrade. The Maltese posted some very positive performances, with practically all them placing in the first ten, topped by Sean Darmanin's second place overall in the Males competition.



## Why are most Maltese balconies in Valletta painted green?

At a number of localities throughout the Maltese islands, including Valletta, one still finds many typical Maltese balconies which decorate the facade of some of the existing characteristic houses.

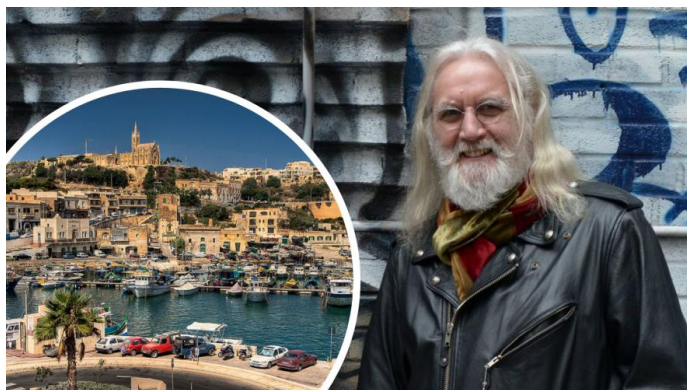
Finished to the smallest detail with meticulous care, one can find balconies of every colour and shape. Some of them are painted with loud colours, which immediately catch your eye.

However, there was a time when many of these typical balconies especially in the area of the Grand Harbour used to only be painted dark green, as explained by Joe Azzopardi from the Planning Authority during the programme '[Malta u lil hinn minnha](#)'.

This green paint used to be used by the British Royal Navy for its ships.

Mr Azzopardi added that as a result, a large amount of paint used to end up on the Maltese market, probably sold at a cheap price. For this reason it was very popular and was used by Maltese people to paint their balconies.

Another advantage was that this paint used by the British Royal Navy could withstand the elements, and therefore it was a better choice to ensure the protection of the wood.



## SIR BILLY CONNOLLY OPENS UP ABOUT HIS LOVE FOR 'WEE GOZO'

**Gozo's** most famous resident has spoken about his love for 'the wee island' in a new **BBC** documentary series.

Sir Billy Connolly revealed he 'fuels up' on sunshine at his home in **Sannat**, after doctors told him that vitamin D can help combat the effects of Parkinson's disease.

He explained: 'I took advice to scale back and enjoy the simple life when I'm not working.

'Gozo is a lovely wee island off Malta and it's quiet. I sail my boat, smoke cigars, read books and relax.'

Sir Billy is one of the most popular and successful stand-up comedians of all time.

The 'Big Yin' is loved the world over for his comedy, his many films and his charity work.

Sir Billy owns a house in the beautiful village of Sannat. Viewers will also see him admit that his life is 'slipping away' as he battles with Parkinson's disease.

In an emotional interview, he said: 'My life, it's slipping away and I can feel it and I should. I'm 75, I'm near the end. I'm a damn sight nearer the end than I am the beginning.

'But it doesn't frighten me, it's an adventure and it is quite interesting to see myself slipping away.

'I don't have the balance I used to have, I don't have the energy I used to have.

'I can't hear the way I used to hear, I can't see as good as I used to. I can't remember the way I used to remember.' According to the **Daily Mirror**, the programme also features lighter moments the Glasgow-born comedian, musician and actor is famous for as he revisits the streets where he grew up.



## EJJEW F'GHAQDA SHIHA NFASLU KALENDARJU WIEHED GHALL-MALTIN-KANADIŻI KOLLHA

**Dr. Raymond Xerri,  
Il-Konslu Ġenerali /  
Consul General**



### Frar ix-xahar ta' San Pawl u l-Karnival

Frar huwa sinonimu mall-migja ta' l-Apostlu Missierna San Pawl, storja li hi mnaqxa b'ittri tad-deheb fl-aktar klieb popolari u moqri fid-dinja – il-Bibja Mqaddsa. '...u l-gżira kien jisimha Malta .. nies laqawna b'ilewla liema bhala,' kliek li poġġa lill-pajjiżna fiċ-ċentru tal-istorja tal-bniedem. San Pawl huwa dak il-bniedem li għab il-fidi Nisranija lill-poplu Malti u Għawdx u li sal-lum għadha r-religjon ta' Malta fil-skont Artiklu 2 tal-Kostituzzjoni.

Bhala Maltin-Kanadiżi, ixxortjati li l-Knisja tagħna l-Maltin u l-Għawdxin fil-Kanada li tinsab f'Malta Village hi propju ddedikata lill-Apostlu San Pawl.

F'Malta apparti li hi festa nazzjonali tiġi ċelebrata f'kull belt u raħal, il-Belt Valletta, f'Malta u l-Munxar f'Għawdex għandhom parroċċi ddedikati li dan il-qaddis b'festi kbar organizzati f'Frar fil-Belt Valletta u f'Mejju fil-Munxar.

Festa oħra popolari, din id-darba ta' kuluri jssir fil-Karnival tal-Gzejjer Malta. Diversi bilet u rhula Maltin u Għawdxin jorganizzaw il-Karnival minn b'laqta' lokali, minn reġjonali u l-Karnival nazzjonali li jsir fil-Belt Valletta. Il-Karnival tan-Nadur, Għawdex huwa mhux biex partikolari, iżda' wkoll għamel hoss sew fl-isfera internazzjonali fejn hafna turisti jigu apposta għal dan il-Karnival msejjah 'spontanju.'



**One of the Many Colourful and Creative Floats  
Seen in Malta during Carnival**

## LET US TOGETHER IN UNITY DEVISE A MALTESE-CANADIAN CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### February – the month of St Paul and Carnival

For Maltese everywhere, February is the month we remember St Paul The Apostle's shipwreck on the Maltese Islands, a story enshrined in golden letters on the pages of the world's most popular and most read book—the *Holy Bible*. 'We learned that the island was called Malta...and its people welcomed us with great kindness.' Such words thrust our mother country, Malta, into the centre of human history. Saint Paul was the person who brought the Christian faith to the Maltese and Gozitans, and, to this day, the Maltese Islands are still predominately Christian and Christianity is still enshrined in Article 2 of our Constitution as the official religion of the Maltese Islands.

Maltese-Canadians, are blessed that the Maltese-Canadian Church in the heart of 'Malta Village' in Toronto is dedicated to St Paul The Apostle.



**Statue of St. Paul the Apostle,  
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Toronto**

In Malta the 10th of February is not only a national holiday, but feasts are celebrated in all parishes, particularly in the national capital Valletta and in the village of Munxar in Gozo. The latter organises the feast in May whilst the former celebrates the feast on the 10th February.

Another very popular feast, is the celebration of colour and creativity which is the Carnival of the Maltese Islands. While the national carnival is held in Valletta, many towns



### The Greater Toronto Area, Ontario

A meeting is to be held at the Annette Street Branch, Toronto Public Library, at 2:00 p.m., Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, to discuss issuing a license for Runnymede Healthcare Centre to build a 200-bed, long-term care home next to its existing facility. Twenty beds are specifically intended for Maltese Canadians requiring such care.

### Consulate General of the Republic of Malta

Dr. Raymond Xerri will be holding a question and answer session at the Melita Soccer Club, between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m., on Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, starting at 3:00 p.m. he will hold a similar session at the Malta Band Club.

### Malta Band Club

The Club held a New Years Eve Dinner and Dance on Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. The Executive Committee for 2020 is as follows:

President – Anthony Vella  
 Vice President – John Borg  
 Secretary – Virginia Church  
 Treasurer – Cathy Ebejer  
 Band Director – Anthony Frendo  
 Youth Director – Fred Portelli  
 Hall Director – Joe Camilleri  
 Directors – Charles Derira  
 Edgar Gambin  
 Spiro Tanti



**Dr. Raymond Xerri Addresses the AGM**

A bus tour to Casino Fallsview, Niagara Falls, ON, will take place on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Fenkata-a rabbit stew dinner-will be held on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

### Melita Soccer Club

The New Year's Eve Dinner Dance was held at the Club.

An NFL Super Bowl 2020 Party took place at the Club starting at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were

chicken wings, pizza, ribs, French fries, nachos, chips, veggies & dig, fruit, etc. Raffle draws were also held.

Family Day will be celebrated on Saturday, February 15, 2020.



A Carnival Ball will be held on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> with a dinner & dance, cash bar and a costume competition with the presentation of trophies.





## Looking to brush up your Maltese language skills? These classes are for you!

*This is perfect for those struggling to get past the 'mela's and 'uwejja's*



*Caroline Curmi 18th October 2019*

The level of difficulty of the Maltese language is a very debatable affair. While it's easy to pick up common expressions such as *mela/sure*, *grazzi/thank you* and *faqa oht/cool sis* and incorporate them in everyday language, the overall linguistic dynamics might be a completely different affair – and this is coming from a local who still confuses her Maltese spelling.

Whether you're new to the island and need some language tools to help you settle and find work in Malta or if you, like me, cannot retain the rules of where to place the 'ie's and 'gh's, then these lessons are for you!



### Malta University Language School, Lija

This [beginner course](#) is perfect for those who have either zero or limited knowledge of the island. Held approximately every two months, it involves 30 contact hours spread over two-hour slots on Mondays and Wednesdays. While the last course for the year is already underway, scheduled courses for 2020 shall cover the months of January-March, May-June, August-October.

*Malta University Language School / Facebook*



### 2. Xewkija Local Council, Gozo

No commutes to Malta are necessary for those settled in Gozo. [This course](#), also aimed at beginners, is spread over a longer period, spanning from October till May, with lessons held weekly on a Thursday from 5pm till 6.30pm. *Ix-Xewkija Local Council / Facebook*

*Tempted to join? Take a leap!*



**GuideMeMalta.com**



**H**

**CAFA'S GOLDEN ROSE**

Melchiorre Cafà's 'St Rose of Lima'  
recently acquired by Heritage Malta

**PUBLIC LECTURE** by Prof. Keith Sciberras  
12 February, 1830 hours  
MUŻA, Valletta  
FREE admission

Organised by Heritage Malta in collaboration with the Department of Art and Art History, University of Malta

## Heritage Malta acquires Melchiorre Cafà's 'St Rose of Lima'

A public lecture by **Professor Keith Sciberras** on Melchiorre Cafà's statuette, 'St Rose of Lima', will be held on **Wednesday 12th February** at 6:30pm at **MUŻA**. Attendance is free of charge.

The lecture will discuss the statue within the context of Cafà's work, and the wider framework of the Roman Baroque style. The event is a joint collaboration between Heritage Malta and the Department of Art and Art History within the University of Malta.

St Rose of Lima, who lived between 1586 and 1617, became the first female saint of the new world in April 1668. For this occasion, Cafà's marble statue of the Dominican saint was displayed prominently on the Cathedra of St Peter, in the titular apse of the Vatican, directly in front of Bernini's iconic ensemble within the same Basilica.

Melchiorre Cafà was meant to be the artistic protagonist, but his untimely death seven months prior to the Beatification tragically precluded his presence from the well-choreographed ephemeral spectacle commissioned by the powerful Dominican Order. The real protagonist, however, was his white marble statue.

Following the Beatification, the statue travelled across the Atlantic Ocean and beyond, to finally mark the saint's tomb in Lima, Peru, making Cafà's work the first monumental statue of the Roman Baroque to travel so far from the Papal City. Melchiorre Cafà also produced a number of smaller bronze versions of the statue, the most beautiful of which, made of gilt bronze and silver, has been acquired by Heritage Malta.



MaltaExpo

**SCALE MODEL EXHIBITION**

9:00am - 17:00pm  
21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
Malta Maritime Museum,  
Vittoriosa



## Oscar Wilde masterpiece in MADC-Manoel Theatre co-production

Report: Daphne Cassar



One of the most popular classic plays in English literature, Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest", is being put on at the Manoel Theatre. Dramatist Oscar Wilde had described his theatrical work as a trivial comedy for serious persons.

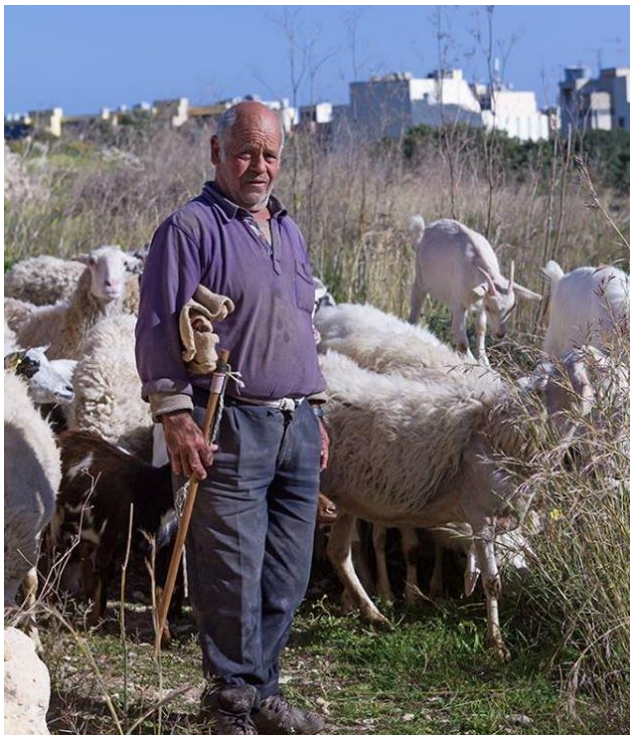
Hugely popular with audiences since its debut on 14 February 1895 at the St James Theatre in London, the comedy is full of characters who elicit either sympathy or antipathy. Although the characters accept the Victorian society they live in, the love story which

evolves also uncovers anomalies in this society.

The dialogue is full of conversations which sift universal themes and processes like marriage and death, which are tackled through Wilde's sophisticated views, with profound humorous asides.

Malcolm Galea, artistic director of the co-production between the Manoel Theatre and the MADC, says the play enjoys universal appreciation. "You will see how these affluent people spend their time. These are people who do not work, have time on their hands and always find something to do in order to avoid getting bored, even getting up to pranks which were a form of satire in those days... the play is set in the 1890s and we have left the timeline, as the speech and Wilde's witticisms are part of it."

The cast is made up of some of Malta's leading lights. The iconic character of Lady Bracknell is played by Marylou Coppini.



## The People of Malta

"Qabel niftakar ħafna joħorgu bin-nġaġ f'dawn in-naħat. Illum kollha mietu jew inqatgħu. Kullimkien qed jinbena u l-ħdura qed tonqos. X'hin jispiċċa kollox inżarmaw, m'hemmx x'taġħmel."

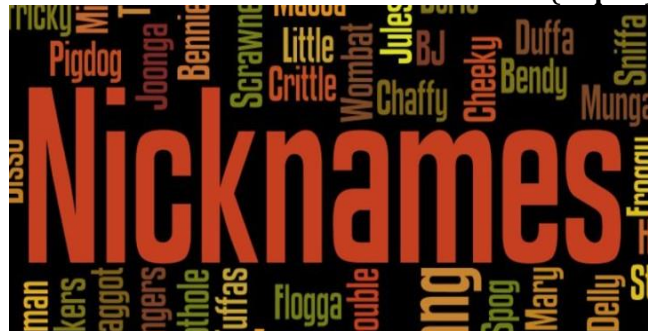
Il-na minn mindu konna tfaġ bin-nġaġ. Kieku ma tħobbhomx, ma trabbihomx." – Żaren

"In the old days, you would see many farmers coming here with their herds of sheep. Today they're all gone or they're becoming rarer. Land is being taken up by buildings and countryside is being lost to development. When the time comes, we'll pack up our things and go. What else can we do?" "We've been raising and tending sheep since we were kids. We wouldn't be doing this if we didn't love them."— in [Zabbar, Malta](https://www.facebook.com/thepeopleofmalta/).  
<https://www.facebook.com/thepeopleofmalta/>

## WHERE DO MALTESE NICKNAMES COME FROM?

[Melisande Aquilina](#)

One often hears that in many Maltese and Gozitan villages, most people are much better known by their **nickname** (**lagam**)



rather than by their Christian name or surname. Nicknames have been used in the Maltese islands from time immemorial, perhaps due to the frequency and impersonality of certain popular names and surnames at the time. Nicknames therefore gave one the chance of using a more personal or individualised form of naming a person, while retaining the use of official names and surnames established by society only for the dotted line of the birth register.

The relation between an individual, or his/her family, and their nickname grew to be an intimate one. Maltese nicknames reveal the popular mind and bring back to life the world in which our forefathers lived. They are charged with social significance and can relate to particular cultural issues and mind-sets.

The use of nicknames has been prevalent in Malta and Gozo at all ages, and although very few written records have survived prior to the 15th century, one can still trace their evolution. Many of these, for example, were introduced from certain Maltese Semitic surnames or words possibly dating from the period of Arabic domination, while others reflect the close proximity of Malta to Sicily and Italy.

Maltese nicknames are formed by prefixing the definite article 'l-' to a noun or an adjective, ex. 'l-ghannej' (the singer) or 'l-ahmar' (the red-faced). In general, it may be said that this type of nickname denotes the first person to be so called, however his descendants or relatives may also share the same nickname, adding the pre-fix 'tal-', for example 'tal-Kutu' (the family of the quiet one). To the present day in Malta, people describe themselves and are

known by their descent, for example 'Ġanni ta' Pawlu' (John son of Paul). Nicknames can also relate to geographical origin, like 'tal-Ingliz' (the family from England) could pertain to the children or grandchildren of an Englishman. These kinds of nicknames originate as the result of population movements, or following marriage or migration.

Physical nicknames are by far the most expressive, and at times can be even crude and offensive. They are usually taken from some aspect of the personality, or from a physical trait. For example 'iz-zopp' (the one with the limp) may refer to someone with a mobility impairment, 'il-ginger' (the one with the ginger hair) could refer to a blonde, 'in-niexef' (the lean one) could refer to someone who is excessively thin, and so on.

Another class of nicknames derives from plants and trees. For example 'tal-harruba' (of the carob tree) could refer to a family who owns a prominent carob tree, as would be the case for 'tal-bajtar' (of the prickly pears). Names of animals too could inspire certain nicknames, such as 'tal-fenek' (of the rabbit) which could refer to a family who owned or sold rabbits or rabbit meat. The most numerous types of Maltese nicknames are undoubtedly those which describe particular occupations. These are usually hereditary and very old, passing from one generation to another. Thus we find 'tal-Kaptan' (the captain's family), 'tal-Barun' (the baron's family), or 'tas-Saqqafi' (the roof constructor's family), etc. There are even nicknames which derive from particular tools of a person's trade, like 'tal-Mingel' (of the sickle) or 'tal-Mekkuk' (of the weaver's shuttle).

The last century or so has also seen the emergence of new nicknames having a clear link to other sections of Maltese social life. We find nicknames which refer to band clubs, like for example 'tal-Ajkla', which refers to a La Vallette Club and 'tal-Vitorja', in reference to the Naxxar Parish band club. Nicknames are a link to the ever changing perceptions of the Maltese population – they map our history, our traditions and even our states of mind. They also serve as a clear indication of the way Maltese language changed and evolved, while retaining ancient words and word formations that are no longer in use today.



**IMQARRUN IL-FORN****QASSATAT****PULPETTI TAL-LAHAM****QARABALI MIMLI****MINESTRA****ROSS IL-FORN**

### **The People of Malta** is with [Manuel Tonna](#) in [Mosta, Malta](#).

*"I am 93 years old and on April Fool's day I shall be 94. When the bomb fell on the Mosta church dome I was there, in the church belfry, seeking shelter. Had it exploded I would not be here.*

*I have no regrets and neither do I have dreams. As you get older your health and energy diminish. I am a positive, sociable person. It is a beautiful thing to mix with different kinds of people. That is how you grow and learn. I enjoyed life. I have nothing to complain about. During my lifetime I journeyed a lot and travelled to many places even outside Europe.*

*I always wear a tie and people used to tease me for it. I never got married and live with my two sisters. I go to Valletta everyday and to Gozo once a week. I still have a driving licence but I take the bus. When I am at the terminal I feel the same excitement as when catching a plane."*



## THE OLD GOZO PRISON

This prison on the Maltese island of Gozo is almost 500 years old, and they have the graffiti to prove it.

Inside the Citadel. The nation of Malta is an archipelago of 5 islands, the second largest being Gozo, home to the Citadel, an ancient fortified city within a city. Inside the walls you'll find the Old Prison, where you can get a glimpse into some pretty grim prison-digs

from centuries gone by. Covering the walls and floors is centuries of graffiti, etched-in proof that carving your initials and crude drawings go back long before "Kilroy was here."

Known simply as "The Old Prison," it was an active jail beginning in the mid-16th century, originally run by the Crusades-era Knights of St. John. At the time it was used for knights who were a little rowdier than the others, and their 5x10-foot block cells gave them some time to cool their heels, and apparently let off a little artistic steam.

Much of the graffiti relates to the knights and their symbols, including crosses, medallions known as the "Malta Cross," and lots of plain old handprints, names, and dates. There are also some intricate carvings of ships, some with multiple planks on the hulls. One theory is that the planks were used as a kind of calendar system for the prisoners, as a tally of their time served.

The Old prison was later controlled by the British after the Knights were kicked out of Malta, and it was in some use up until 1962 when it closed completely, eventually being meticulously restored for visitors to see. Notable prisoners included Jean Parisot de La Valette, the founder of Malta's capital city of Valletta, who spent four months there in 1538. He was convicted of attacking a man, and he later went on to become the Grand Master of the Order of St. John. Not bad for an ex-convict. The Old Prison is in the fortified Citadel of the capital city of Victoria on the island of Gozo, the second largest of the many islands that make up the archipelago of Malta.

## Secret Passage in St. Gregory's Church - Zejtun



A hidden tunnel of bones in one of Malta's oldest churches.

In the 1960s, locals discovered a secret passageway in one of the oldest churches in [Malta](#). Within, they found a wooden shoe sole, a small wooden cross, three coins, pieces of pottery, chainmail armour, and a large pile of human bones.

St. Catherine's Old Church sits on the outskirts of Żejtun. It's dedicated to St. Catherine of the Wheel, but locals call it Saint Gregory's for a traditional procession held yearly on the first Wednesday after Easter Sunday.

Very little remains of the original medieval church, built before 1436. The church's present edifice is a fusion of Gothic and

Romanesque and dates back to the 16th century. Its dome is one of the oldest Maltese cupolas. Around the dome is a secret passage built in the walls of the southern transept. The passage is U-shaped and contains a large number of human bones.



Local legend claims that the people were buried alive within these passages during the siege of 1614. Studies conducted between 1978 and 1980 concluded that the bones were probably exhumed and moved there from a cemetery, and that the deaths had all occurred around the same time.

For about three centuries St. Gregory's served as the parish church for all of southeast Malta. The church once doubled as a watchtower; the orientation of the southeast transept of the church is aligned with the bays of Marsaxlokk harbour, St. Thomas Bay, and Marsascala Bay. The church occupies the highest point that overlooks the harbours in the south, a once frequent landing spot for Barbary pirates. The secret tunnel was ideal for the lookouts who watched for pirates in the bays. Unwanted landings were communicated to French troops in the north via smoke signals from the roof of the church.

**Know Before You Go** The church is generally not opened. They only open it a handful of days a year, on special local holidays.

## Maltese Catacomb Complexes



Burial grounds for more than 1,000 bodies deep under the modern town of Rabat.

***Support column with several crypts in the background***

From the 3rd to the 6th centuries CE, the Roman city of Melite developed a complex system of burial grounds on its outskirts under the modern town of Rabat, a village outside of Mdina, the medieval capital of Malta. Roman law prohibited burials within the city, which derives its name from the Arabic word for suburb.

Known today as the St. Paul and St. Agata catacombs, the burial grounds form an important part of Malta's early Christian history. The catacombs include tombs for more than 1,000 bodies in 2,200 square meters.

The organizational and architectural complexity of the catacombs points to the ritual importance of burial grounds in early Christianity. The catacombs were planned in a centralized manner, providing private space for numerous family units, while leaving a lot of communal space for festivals and rituals. The entrance to the main complex of St. Paul's leads to two large halls, adorned with pillars made to resemble Doric columns and painted plasters. The main hall is equipped with large circular tables and couches, carved out of rock. They were probably used during burial rituals and festivals of the dead. In some places the burial corridors were cut in three subterranean stories.

The catacombs were abandoned sometime in the 7th century during the later stages of the Byzantine Empire. They were reopened during the re-Christianization of the Island after 220 years of Fatimid rule. The catacombs became a popular site for religious pilgrimages in the 12th century and a Christian shrine was recut in the 13th century.

There are a number of smaller catacombs dating back to antiquity in Malta. One was rediscovered within a traffic roundabout close to the Malta International Airport in 2006. The Hal Resqun tomb was originally excavated in 1912. Soon after its discovery, the catacomb was covered up by a road surface, following the development of the Luqa Airfield



## NOSTALGIA OF WORLD WAR 2 – PERSONAL EXPERIENCE –

**Dr George Boffa NSW Australia**

The Hotel Point de Vue, on the escarpment just outside the walls of Mdina (the old capital of Malta) was one of the messes of the fighter pilots. The other pilots' billet was at the Xaghra Palace inside the ramparts of Mdina, the old

city which well predated the arrival of the Knights of Malta in 1530. When the hotel was hit, pilots were killed. It seemed to be a deliberate planned attack. Very accurate and deadly.

Someone insisted that the enemy knew who lived there. Somebody told them! The damage to the front of the hotel and inside was very bad indeed. Several pilots were dead. One of them, severely mutilated, was dead at the piano with his head blown off.

The pilots were not only our heroes, they were our friends. Their shoulder tabs denoted their origins; Australia, Canada, New Zealand...countries of the Empire. For a long time after the war ended I sometimes wondered why they befriended us, boys of nine, ten, eleven. Many years later in Australia, particularly when meeting country people it dawned on me,.. the pilots looked upon us as substitutes of the kid brothers they had left behind...brothers who they would never see again.

The young men who fought in the sky over Malta to protect us were held in high esteem by the local population; they were greeted warmly wherever they went. We prayed for their safety as the vibrating noise of aero-engines and the sound of unrelenting battle penetrated everywhere, even deep down into the shelters. Those daring and gallant pilots fought under conditions which taxed their stamina and morale and decimated their numbers.

The stories are endless and the memories of those days remain sharp and haunting. There was an aura of fatality about Malta and its warriors. The recollections bring a realisation that what happened in our islands belongs to history.

Young pilots, on both sides in the war, would die in the battle over our skies; some to be buried in our fair land, some to fall at sea and have no known grave like the young pilot who fell to the North West of 'Zonqor Point' I met his parents in an emotional moment ten years after his death.

And Giuseppe Simonetto whose story we heard from his nephew Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotti, Papal Nuncio in Australia for several years, born the year after his death' and named after him'

What passing doleful bells would toll for them? Only the monstrous anger of the cannon, only the stuttering rapid rattle of machine guns would patter out their sudden untimely deaths.

Prayers and bells and the voices of mourning would mix with the choirs, the harsh demented choirs of wailing shells and the shrill, piercing whistle of falling bombs.

Far, far away bugles would call to wounded hearts round empty graves.

"The pallor of girls' brows will be their pall, and each slow dusk a drawing down of blinds" (Wilfred Owen)

In the heart of boys like me who saw and wept in stunned grief, a candle of memory was lit and stays alight, burning bright and warm every Remembrance Day and Anzac March ... until death comes.





## ‘Highly unlikely’ Preti masterpiece was stolen from Governor’s Palace

Kristina Abela

Boethius and Philosophy, a 17th century-monumental oil on canvas painting by Mattia Preti.

It is highly unlikely that a prestigious Mattia Preti painting purchased by the Maltese government last week had been stolen from the Governor’s Palace, according to the Head of the University’s Art and Art History Department.

The government acquired the 17th century monumental oil on canvas painting Boethius and Philosophy for €1.32 million from London auction house Sotheby’s.

Prof. Keith Sciberras told the *Times of Malta* that the painting is likely to have left Malta in the second half of the 19th century, probably taken by one of the governors or somebody within the colonial government. It would seem the person who took it was primarily interested in the subject of the painting rather than the artist, since at the time it left the palace it did not have great antiquarian value, explained Prof. Sciberras.

In the 19th century, paintings by Preti and Baroque artists were not worth the monetary equivalent we give them today, he said. International preference, especially British preference at the time, was certainly not for Baroque paintings of this type but for a more classical imprint.

This is probably the reason Malta’s collection of Preti paintings is still largely intact, Prof. Sciberras added. They were counter to British taste and began to appreciate greatly in value in the 1970s and 1980s. Boethius and Philosophy is one of Preti’s late works and was painted in Malta.

While the work was not painted for the Governor’s Palace, it was donated to the Palace probably through the legacy of Andrea di Giovanni, Knight of the Order of Malta.

In this composition, Preti captures the moment when an allegory of Philosophy, whose image follows the iconography of the subject, appears to the jailed Boethius, who sits pondering his past. There are at least three copies of the painting by Preti’s workshop which shows its presence in Malta, and also demonstrates it was an important picture, according to Prof. Sciberras.

He further explained that while Preti produced a large number of paintings, and many of them are extraordinary, there are those which have that added special characteristic.

“This has it all. It has the theme and the narrative, the quality, the size and the provenance,” he said. “What really interests me and what is fascinating about this work is the subject. As a scholar I am intrigued by the number of works Preti painted in Malta that represent either philosophy or subjects of a philosophical nature.”

Behind the scenes, a number of players, including Heritage Malta, various ministries and the art world, made a concerted effort to bring this masterpiece back to Malta, said Prof. Sciberras.

Judge Giovanni Bonello, one of those who pushed for the acquisition of this important work, said: “Mattia Preti is today acknowledged as a truly gigantic figure in the art world, among the top five of the seicento baroque.

“Though a Calabrian, he identifies with Malta in that he lived most of his mature life on the island and created his most important masterpieces in Malta and for Malta.”

Regarding some criticism of the high cost of the painting, he said, “even if one were to look at this purchase from a purely materialistic perspective, superior art is always a secure investment.”

## BELMORE TO HOST INTERNATIONAL TRIPLE HEADER MALTA V LEBANON



Belmore Sports Ground, the spiritual home of the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, has been announced as the host venue for the International Rugby League Round on Saturday 20th June, featuring Malta (ranked 16th) and Lebanon (ranked 10th).

The Phoenician Cup which will be Malta's opening match for the year ensures a solid test for the Mediterranean nation as they intend to up the stakes and challenge against Top 10 opponents in 2020 as well as contest the Rugby League European Federation Championship D tournament at seasons end.

In a first, the Belmore event will also feature an inaugural International Women's Rugby League test between the two countries following an opening U18's game. "The Phoenician Cup is a passionate clash of cultures and one that has always been highly-anticipated by both countries supporters," Jean Pierre Zarb, Malta Rugby League (MRL) President, said from Valletta this morning. "We are expecting a large attendance at one of Sydney's most cherished suburban NRL grounds to witness our U18's, women's and men's teams go

up against the Lebanese Rugby League Federation who will undoubtedly start as clear favourites." Zarb stated. The current Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs Tarsha Gale coach Alysha Janssen has been appointed to take charge of Malta's women's team with her assistant, Cronulla Sharks star Kate Mullaly, whilst Aaron McDonald and Peter Cassar will again colead the men's test squad. In a peculiar set of circumstances, Lebanon coach, Burleigh Bears and former NRL and Super League boss Rick Stone may very well find himself coaching against his two eldest sons! Both have made appearances for Malta in recent times (Ben Stone a total of 9 tests and Sam Stone of the Gold Coast Titans with 2 tests to his name) and are undoubtedly in Malta's selection calculations to oppose their father in the mid-season test. The event will take place on June 20 during the NRL - National Rugby League annual standalone representative weekend.

### PHOENICIAN CUP MALTA v LEBANON TRIPLE HEADER

**Venue:** Belmore Sports Ground.

**Date:** Saturday 20 June 2020.

**Kick off times to be confirmed.**

**1ST Match:** U18s.

**2ND Match:** Dames v Junipers – Women's Test Match.

**3RD Match:** Knights v Cedars – Men's Test Match.

**IMAGE:** Malta's Sam Stone and Lebanon's Mitchell Moses.

**Publishes regularly in  
Adelaide - South Australia**

**Email:** [maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com)

**While we thank all our contributors  
we invite other to send us their  
stories to share with others and have  
them archived for future generations**





### Golden Bridge (Da Nang) - VIETNAM

The Golden Bridge is a new architectural construction, laying inside Ba Na Hills entertainment – tourism complex. This bridge was built at the height of 1.400m above sea level and stretches about 150m long. The root of the name “Golden Bridge” comes from its gilded railing frame.



This weekend our Parish is celebrating the feast of St Paul, which is the main feast of our Parish. This is to coincide with the feast of the Shipwreck of St Paul on Malta, which is traditionally celebrated in our islands every year on February 10. Reflecting on this episode a few days ago, Pope Francis said of the inhabitants of Malta, “These people, foreign to them, are attentive to their needs. They light a fire to keep them warm, offer them shelter from the rain and food. Even though they have not yet received the Good News of Christ, they manifest God’s love in concrete acts of kindness. Indeed, spontaneous hospitality and thoughtful gestures communicate something of God’s love. And the hospitality of the Maltese islanders is repaid by the miracles of healing that God works through Paul on the island. So if the people of Malta were a sign of God’s Providence for the Apostle, he too bore witness to God’s merciful love for them.” Let us, like our ancestors, continue to communicate something of God’s love to others, whoever they might be. Thus, let us continue to experience God’s miracles in our lives

**St. Paul the Apostle Church Maltese-Canadian Parish Bulletin**  
**February 2020**



89.3fm 2GLF-fm - Sunday mornings from  
11am to 12pm

Greg Caruana together with Frances  
Montesin and Emanuel Camilleri,  
Panel Operators, present a radio  
program full of news and events from  
the Maltese community in NSW and  
from the Islands of Malta.

Join us:  
Live 89.3fm 2GLF-fm  
Online 893fm.com.au  
and on Demand

[http://ondemand.893.com.au/  
html/sun1100.php](http://ondemand.893.com.au/html/sun1100.php)  
— at 89.3 2GLF Studio.



*the place to learn the Maltese language and culture*

Have you ever wanted to learn the Maltese language? Would you like to learn enough Maltese to hold a conversation with your *nanniet*? Or is your ambition to eventually sit for the HSC examination in Maltese?

Whatever your purpose is to want to learn the language and whether you are of school age or an adult, Dwejret il-Malti is a private tuition that can provide a pathway to help you achieve your objectives!

Maltese lessons are being held at **La Valette Social Centre** in Blacktown, NSW for students at all language proficiency levels on;

<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>5-8pm</b>	group & individual sessions
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>5.30-8.30pm</b>	group & individual sessions

Sessions are generally aligned with school terms.

For individual (one-on-one) sessions, weekday and time can be discussed.

For more information or to register your interest, contact Ivan:



0414208449



dwejretilmalti@gmail.com



<https://www.facebook.com/dwejretilmalti/>

With knowledge of family past, pride in one's heritage strengthens.  
**Learn Maltese and discover your heritage today!**

THE MALTESE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF NSW

proudly presents one of Malta's  
most popular personalities

**LUDWIG GALEA**  
in all new concert



**SUNDAY**

**22 MARCH 2020**

**AT 2.00 PM**



supported by the popular  
and talented young  
Maltese-Australian singer  
**NATASHA VELLA**

at the **"STARLIGHT ROOM" Wentworthville Leagues Club NSW**

DONATION: ADULTS \$22

CHILDREN UNDER 15YRS: \$10

**FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT:**

**MIRIAM: 0419 476 924, CHARLES: 0421 662 298**

**OR MONICA: 0414 859 386**

**PROUDLY SPONSORED BY**



Contact: George Vella Phone: 02 9622 7799  
Cnr Main and Campbell Street, Blacktown



Wentworthville Leagues Club  
50 Smith Street, Wentworthville Phone: 02 8868 9200

**SIGN UP TO  
E-NEWSLETTER SO YOU DON'T  
MISS A THING**

Are you one of the thousands  
signed up to receive The Maltese  
Journal? If not then what are  
waiting for?

Our newsletters are an easy way to  
stay connected, keep informed and  
entertained. It's a great way to  
keep you finger on the pulse. Send  
us an email  
**maltesejournal@gmail.com**