

# Maltese eNewsletter

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR

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



**POMEGRANATE**  
**RUMMIEN**

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**BLACK MULBERRY**  
**THE MALTESE TUTA**



**FIGS**  
**TIN, BAJTAR TA' SAN GWANN**



## MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF NSW COMMITTEE 2021/22

On Feb 19 the Annual General Meeting was held at La Valette Social Centre, Blacktown. It is with great pleasure to announce the New Executive Committee of the Maltese Community Council of NSW for 2021. **President:** Miriam Friggieri **Vice President :** Antoine Mangion **Secretary:** Francis Montesin **Treasurer:** George Bartolo

OAM **Assistant Treasurer:** Patrick Bartolo OAM **PRO:** Sandra Grech.

We wish all New Executive Members and the Maltese Community Council of NSW success in this new year.

## Servient of the Community Retires



My retirement should not surprise anyone, to serve a single, five-year term as president of the Maltese Community Council of NSW - MCC. My motto is 'no task is impossible' - if it had to be done go ahead and do it – and my aim was to build a younger

and more energetic committee, and to oversee the need of our aging Maltese Community.

One of my aims was to show our pride in two events, among many others, during which we celebrate Sette Giugno, when our forefathers took their first steps towards achieving independence for our country, and

**Mr. Emanuel Camilleri** Australia Day, when we celebrate the birth of our adopted country. The possibility of holding the first was always dependent on the weather, and there was a complete lack of comfort for those who attended. Cumberland City Council was asked to help, and a marquee and seating was provided. The visit by Maltese President Marie Coleiro Preca was a particular during my tenure as President.

The Alfred Fenech Resource Centre at north Parramatta, became a hive of activity. A library was established, and a complete issue of "The Maltese Herald" was added and made available to the community. State of the art printing equipment was acquired, and newspapers, function booklets and informative material were produced.

A monthly get together for seniors was initiated, where pastizzi and other Maltese food, washed down with Kinnie or coffee, was served, while the elderly dispute the stories from old times.

When Covid -19 put a stop to all activities the council had to find an alternative way to keep the community informed. The media played a big part, Facebook and Zoom become the best means of communication. Unfortunately, this didn't please those who could not see the merits of new technology, and showed it by grumbling, and openly protesting and trying to influence other vulnerable members to boycott meetings on Zoom, and started a propaganda to unsettle the Council, a tactic we had experienced before, when things had not gone their way.

It is my opinion that, these so-called leaders of our community are only interested in their precious position, and that they are determined to control the council. A story that had been played for many years. I tried to fill each position with the right people and knew that it was important to change the current ideology and culture that existed in the council. I was not afraid to make the hard decisions, and for this, I received no help from certain members of the Committee, who considered themselves to be indispensable for its running.

Now, at the end of my five-year tenure as President, I wish the new Council every success. I believe that like a sensible leader, I relinquish my position to someone younger to steer the council in the years ahead, hopeful that a lesson is learned, to unite and not divide.

**Emanuel Camilleri JP**





## THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA

◆ Fr George Vella, the President of Malta together with his wife Miriam who is also THE PATRON OF St. Michael Hospice answered donors' calls during the recent telethon that was televised on all TV stations to raise funds for the newest project, the St Michael's Hospice. This will be the first palliative care services centre in the country. I call on

everyone to be generous.

## ST. MICHAEL HOSPICE



**Hospice Malta has embarked on a journey to fund St Michael Hospice – a much-needed first Hospice Complex for palliative care services.**

The first step of this journey will

focus on the Human and Financial resources required to upgrade, finish and equip the complex with all the medical apparatus and professionals required to run a state-of-the-art Hospice Complex.

The newly refurbished building will become the main premises for Hospice Malta and is expected to help further enhance the already established palliative community services provided by Hospice since 1989. St Michael Hospice will also house an In-Patient palliative care unit complementing all the other services for a more comprehensive approach. The present-day therapy services will be expanded and a number of Out-Patient clinics will also be introduced. St. Michael Hospice will also enhance its educational wing which will open many opportunities to exchange expertise with other Hospices across Europe and beyond.

All Hospice services are free of charge. As an NGO, we, however, seek assistance from individuals and businesses to enable our operations to continue serving those who need it most. If you would like to support the St. Michael Hospice Project kindly [make a donation](#) or [get in touch](#) to learn about how you can make a difference. Visit the official website:

<https://hospicemalta.org/st-michael-hospice/>

**DISCLAIMER: The statements and opinions expressed in our journal are not necessarily those of the editorial team.**

# 58 new vehicles registered every day on Malta's roads in last three months of 2020

Tuesday, 23 February 2021, 11:51 Last update: about 16 hours ago

An average of 58 newly licensed motor vehicles took to Malta's roads every day during the last three months of 2020, statistics published by the National Statistics Office show.

By the end of December 2020, the stock of licensed motor vehicles stood at 402,427 – an increase of 1,841 vehicles over the previous quarter, [which was the first quarter where the number of vehicles on Malta's roads exceeded 400,000.](#)

## ADVERT

Out of this total, 76.6% were passenger cars, 13.9% were commercial motor vehicles, 8.3% were motorcycles/quadricycles and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), while buses and minibuses amounted to less than 1%.

During the quarter under review, the stock of licensed motor vehicles increased at a net average rate of 20 motor vehicles per day.

Newly licensed motor vehicles put on the road during the period under review amounted to 5,373. The majority of the newly licensed motor vehicles, 3,814 or 71% of the total, were passenger cars, followed by goods carrying vehicles with 725 or 13.5%.

Newly licensed 'new' motor vehicles amounted to 1,949 or 36.3% of the total, whereas newly licensed 'used' motor vehicles totalled 3,424 or 63.7%.



An average of 58 motor vehicles per day were newly licensed during the quarter under review.

During the fourth quarter of 2020, 7,946 motor vehicles were taken off the road due to a restriction. Out of these, 38.3% were garaged, 32.8% were put up for resale, while scrapped motor vehicles amounted to 27% of the total. Motor vehicles that had their restriction ending during the quarter under review totalled 4,156. The majority were recorded as being resold (59%) or garaged (40.2%).

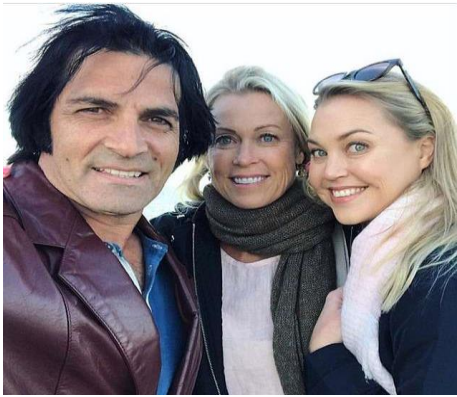
As at the end of December 2020, 238,510 motor vehicles or 59.3% of the total had petrol-powered engines. Diesel-powered motor vehicles reached 156,131 or 38.8% of the total. Electric and hybrid motor vehicles accounted for 1.5% of the entire stock, with a total of 6,017 motor vehicles.

When compared to the previous quarter, increases of 15.6%, 10.5% and 8% were registered in the Hybrid(Electric/Diesel), Hybrid (Electric/Petrol) and Electric motor vehicles respectively.

**GOOD TO START THE DAY WITH THE MALTESE'S JOURNAL**

Stephen Mifsud





## Lisa Curry 'couldn't have survived' without husband Maltese-Australian Mark Tabone

© Provided by Daily

was planning a road trip with Mark, where she plans to do some 'regional and rural workshops' while Mark will be 'entertaining'. Last week, Lisa announced on Instagram that she had a campervan ready to go on a romantic road trip with Mark, where she plans to do some of her regional and rural 'Happy Healthy You' workshops, while he will be 'entertaining'.

Once they set off, she said the tour will be titled 'On The Road Again' - however, she doesn't think she's quite ready to be heading around Australia just yet.

'Our new Happy Bus is ready to go as soon as I can get my head around being on stage again... but i feel like I've lost my sparkle,' she wrote. 'So need a bit more time to find it. I'm still crying at anytime... usually when I'm out in public when people give me beautiful tight hugs.

'The tears just roll out... but I'm letting them. I've realised I can't hold it in.'

© Provided by Daily Mail Grief: Jaimi died on September 14 at Sunshine Coast University Hospital, after a long battle with alcoholism and an eating disorder

Jaimi tragically died in September, with Lisa announcing her death in an emotional social media post on September 15. 'Our beautiful daughter Jaimi has lost her battle with a long-term illness and passed away peacefully in hospital yesterday morning with her loving family by her side,' she wrote at the time.

'Our hearts are broken and the pain is unbearable but we cherish every wonderful moment we got to share with our treasured and so loved first child.'

It was later reported that Jaimi had battled alcoholism and an eating disorder before her death at a Sunshine Coast hospital.

Mail MailOnline logo

Lisa Curry's daughter Jaimi Kenny tragically died in September, aged 33. And on Monday, a source told New Idea that Lisa's 'incredibly supportive' husband Mark Tabone has helped his grieving wife beyond words. 'Mark is warm, emotional and incredibly supportive,' a source said. 'I'm not sure she could have survived this without him.'

© Provided by Daily Mail Heartbreaking: Lisa Curry's (middle) daughter Jaimi Kenny (right) tragically died in September, aged just 33 years old. On Monday, a source told New Idea that Lisa's 'incredibly supportive' husband Mark Tabone (left) has helped his grieving wife beyond words

'He's her rock and has supported her and held her hand throughout this ordeal, rarely leaving her side.' The source added: 'She's also utterly exhausted - [Lisa's] grief is just so debilitating and draining. She's just taking it day by day.' The former competitive swimmer, 58, married her Elvis impersonator Maltese-Australian husband, Mark, 55, in 2018 in an intimate ceremony in Queensland. Prior to Mark, Lisa was previously married to Grant Kenny for 23 years before calling it quits in 2009. As well as being parents to Jaimi, they also share daughter Morgan and son Jett.

© Provided by Daily Mail Happy: The former competitive swimmer, 58, married her Elvis impersonator husband, Mark, 55, in 2018. They tied the knot at a intimate ceremony in Queensland© Provided by Daily Mail Ready to roll: Last week, Lisa announced that she

IT'S NICE TO BE IMPORTANT, BUT IT MORE IMPORTANT TO BE NICE



## Pierre Jean Louis Ovide Doublet Serving the Knights of Malta



(1749 - 1824) was a French politician and writer who spent much of his life serving in the [Knights of Malta](#). Following his enlistment as a soldier, he entered the service of the French Secretariat of the Knights and was eventually promoted to the leadership of the Secretariat.

Doublet participated in the negotiations for the surrender of the Knights when Malta was captured by Napoleon in 1798. Grand Master [Ferdinand von Hompesch zu Bolheim](#) had failed to bolster [Valletta's](#) defenses against the French fleet and had peacefully admitted some French ships to the harbor, leading to the island's capture. Doublet, being in the Grand Master's direct service, was accused as a collaborator with the French and became caught in the political maneuvering by other members to depose Hompesch.

Doublet stayed in Malta during the French occupation, serving as Secretary General to the Commission of Government installed by Napoleon and later becoming Commissioner of Malta. He was exiled to France when the island became a British Dominion in 1800 and wrote a book about his experiences in Malta. Doublet remained in exile for most of his life, though he was allowed to make a permanent return soon before his death.

Pierre Jean Louis Ovide Doublet, the son of a gardener Jean Doublet and his wife Jeanne Desire, was born in Beaugency, within 20 kilometres (12 mi) of [Orléans](#), France. On 19 June 1779, he enlisted as a soldier to the Infantry Regiment of the [Order of Malta](#) and reached the rank of *premier sergent* (first sergeant) in November 1782.

In 1781, he also entered the service of the French Secretariat of [Grand Master de Rohan](#) (the Order also included two other secretariats, Spanish and Italian), with the title of under-secretary of its [Commanderies](#).

His qualities were quickly recognised and on 6 October 1783 he was rewarded by affiliation to the

Order as [confratello](#) or *donato*; the Donat of Devotion was a rank within the Order recognising individuals for the services they provided. He also received the privilege of wearing the "[croix](#)" with six points in gold and enamel in his buttonhole and in white linen sewn on his coat. Moreover, he acquired the right to enjoy pensions from any commanderies in the appointment of the Grand Master, a privilege usually reserved for commanders of the Order. His Bull of reception is recorded with the Chancery of the Order on 14 October 1783.

The following year, on proposal of the baillif d'Almeida and the listener Bruno, he was offered promotion to the rank of [conventual](#) chaplain. He had already formed prospects for marriage which obliged him to refuse: the conventual chaplains, like the knights, made vows of chastity. On 19 April 1784, against the will of his hierarchy and in semi-secrecy, he married a young Maltese woman of modest origin, Elizabetta Magri, also known as Bettina.

In his final position in the Order, as Head of the French Secretariat, he served under the successive reigns of two [Grand Masters](#). The first, [Emmanuel de Rohan](#) by whom he was protected then, after the death of de Rohan in 1797, his successor [Ferdinand Von Hompesch](#).

Within the framework of his functions, he was particularly closely associated with the creation of the [Grand Priory of Russia](#) which replaced the Priory of Poland after the division of this country.

He was also a "Brother" of the Masonic Lodge in Malta (St. John's Lodge of Secrecy and Harmony) which had obtained an English warrant. The Bailiff (Count) Fra' Giulio Litta, was greatly involved in the creation of the Grand Priory of Russia, was by chance, also member of this same lodge, entirely under the benevolent indifference of the Grand-Master de Rohan (himself initiated in Modane in 1756).

In June 1798, at the time of the capture of [Malta](#) by [Napoleon Bonaparte](#) en route to his expedition of [Egypt](#), part of the [Mediterranean campaign of 1798](#), Doublet formed part of the delegation which negotiated the terms for the surrender of the Order on board *Orient*, Napoleon's flagship. He intervened when negotiating the amount of the allowance allocated to the Grand Master. Pointing out that the proposed amount appeared insufficient to him, Napoleon's only retort was to address the problem directly to the Republic. As he had with the other Frenchmen in the Order that he thought to be of some use to him, the General proposed Doublet accompany him to Egypt. Because of Doublet's age—he was almost 50 years old—and his family for which he was the only support, Doublet declined the proposal courteously but firmly. His refusal angered Napoleon, who did not appreciate anyone denying his will, but the future emperor confided to [Junot](#), his aide-de-camp, that this man had good qualities because he had substance.

During the occupation of Malta by [France](#) (June 1798/September 1800), his competencies were again put to use by the French authorities because of his knowledge of the land and because he was French and thus reliable in the eyes of the occupiers. He is named as of June 1798 Secretary General to the Commission of Government installed by Napoleon at the time of his stay. On 10 November 1799 he became *Commissioner* to replace [Regnaud de Saint Jean d'Angély](#) who is recalled to France, a position that he remained until the surrender of Valletta on 5 September 1800. The President of this commission was another Frenchman, Citizen Bosredon de Ransijat, formerly commander of the Order and also its former treasurer.

witnesses, including Matthius Poussielgue, Napoleon's finance adviser at the time of these events.

After the [surrender](#) of the French garrison in [Valletta](#) on 5 September 1800, the [British](#) expelled from the Maltese islands all those who collaborated with the French, expressed any sympathy with them, or accommodated them in some way. This included those who had taken an active part in the civil administration and French military, mixed French and Maltese, but also the French who had been long term residents of Malta. Thus was the case for [Pierre Manchin](#), a native Frenchman

of [Troyes](#) in the department of [Aube](#), living in Malta since 1749, who married there, started a family and had integrated into the Maltese population.

After passing by the [Balearic Islands](#), Pierre Jean Louis Ovide Doublet was disembarked in [Marseilles](#), France, in December 1800. [Bourrienne](#), private secretary of Napoleon, recalls in his own *Mémoires* Doublet's presence in [Paris](#) in 1802, in spite of a decree from the [Directory](#) to the Maltese refugees to remain in the departments of the [Var](#), the [Bouches-du-Rhône](#) and in [Corsica](#) (departments of [Liamone](#) and [Golo](#)). After the [Treaty of Amiens](#), Doublet once again believed he could settle in Malta; he returned a few times, but was exiled again when hostilities resumed between France and England.

Subsequently, his life became a long exile. He spent nine or ten years in Rome, living a precarious and penurious existence, while making brief sojourns to Malta, where he could not remain for long. He finally settled with his son in [Tripoli](#), ([Libya](#)). In the last months of his life, he was finally permitted to return permanently to Malta and he died there soon after his return, 4 February 1824. Today, many of his descendants have been traced and are living in [Malta](#), [France](#), [Australia](#), [England](#), [The Netherlands](#), [Germany](#) and [United States](#). Among these one still bears the name Louis Ovide and toward the end of 19th century one was named Napoleon.

Pierre Jean Louis Ovide Doublet left a book, *Mémoires Historiques sur l'Invasion et l'Occupation de Malte par une Armée Française, en 1798*, in which he tells of his experience. The first part is an analysis of the reign of Grand Master Emmanuel de Rohan; the second part reports the invasion and the occupation of Malta by the French. In 1832, when [Sir Walter Scott](#) wrote his work about the occupation of Malta by the French, someone presented Doublet's manuscript to him; it was not published until 1883. The father of [Ivanhoe](#) and [Rob Roy](#) will affirm he acted with good intent and left the most complete report on these events that had been given to him. This work most probably constitutes a kind of plea [pro domo](#) and some will suggest that Doublet could have portrayed himself in a more important role than in fact it actually was.

References [Pierre Jean Louis Ovide Doublet Wikipedia](#) (Text) CC BY-SA



## MALTA MIGRATION MUSEUM



Charles Butigieg was appointed Malta's first Refugee Commissioner in 2001.. Since 2009, he has been Secretary of the Migration Museum. Charles is also an occasional lecturer on international refugee protection and migration phenomena. Dar l-Emigrant Since 1972, Dar l-Emigrant, in Valletta, was best known among Maltese migrants as a beehive of activity by the Emigrants' Commission in their best interest and that of their families.

Under the steadfast leadership of Mgr. Philip Calleja, the social assistance offices of the Commission dealt with around 25,250 cases during the post-war migration experience from Malta. The people involved were linked to immigration to Australia (11,500), USA, Canada and the UK (12,500). There were also 759 marriage-related cases and 500 concerning people whom the Emigrants' Commission helped to obtain a travel loan from the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) Loan Fund.



Step by step, especially when Maltese migration started to subside, the mission of the Emigrants' Commission was enriched with a wider dimension. New initiatives started to emerge and pick up within it. These included the Apostleship

of the Sea, the Religious Tourism Organisation, the Apostolate of Aviation, the Personal Parishes, the Secretariat for Maltese Priests Overseas, the Ecumenical Commission, and the Inter-Faith Commission. In 2003, the Archbishop of Malta appointed Fr (now Mgr.) Alfred Vella as his Delegate for the Secretariat for Emigration and Tourism, a responsibility which until then was in the hands of Mgr. Philip Calleja. The new director of the Commission who was appointed recently is

On his part, Mgr. Calleja continued to give his services in the role of President of the Commission, primarily in the assistance offered to asylum-seekers reaching Malta and seeking all sorts of help from the Emigrants' Commission. The second decade of the new millennium is seeing the Commission focusing on four main areas of activities: migration, refugees, the Catholic Enquiry Centre and a Digital Migration Museum aiming at passing to future generations the story of emigration from Malta to the Mediterranean countries and other receiving countries over a span of some two hundred years. The story of emigration The Migration Museum has been set up at Dar l-Emigrant. The Emigrants' Commission took this initiative in the contest of the active and main contribution it had been making for decades in assisting the number of emigrants setting off from Malta and the fact that, as a result, it has extensive memorabilia. The scope of the museum is to record how emigration started off and subsequently developed, as well as how the communities of Maltese emigrants integrated in the various countries where they settled and what they contributed in these places.

The museum also seeks to further strengthen the migrants' sense of belonging to their Maltese origin and thus continue to maintain strong ties with Malta despite the geographical distance and cultural variations. Another aim for setting up the museum is for the Maltese in Malta, especially the new generations, and the Maltese communities abroad to understand better the realities of migration and the value of social inclusion. Digital collection, archive and library

The initial stage of the Museum was inaugurated on 22nd December 2011, during the Emigrants' Commission's annual Christmas get-together. The first phase featured a digital collection management system aimed at



recording, consolidating and preserving all the Emigrants' Commission's vital records and artefacts relating to Maltese Emigration for posterity. The central digital information podium, which is in the main hall, has eight LED screens, eight touch screen interfaces and computers to drive the digital system. This presents an opportunity to display a large number of items in an interactive way. Visitors are encouraged to use the central podium to browse through digital information using natural hand movements.

The next step was the setting up of an archive and library to preserve and catalogue material in the form of various media in relation to migration for use by scholars and the general public seeking additional or deeper information to that provided in the digital section of the Museum. The documents have been scanned and are being inserted in a proper database. The work is mainly carried out by volunteers, including returned Maltese migrants, who are effectively supporting the initiative with their much-appreciated skills and time. The way ahead The Migration Museum is currently concentrating on the further enhancement of its database and the acquisition of more technological facilities to ensure a better set-up for the transfer of information to its digital management system.

## *Ta' Qali Crafts Village*

Ta' Qali is a wide open space in the limits of Attard in central Malta, which contains the national football stadium, Ta' Qali National Park, a crafts village, and a national vegetable market which is locally known as the Pitkaliġa. Shortly before World War II, the area was used to build a military aerodrome and a station for the Royal Air Force, which the British called RAF Ta Kali; Maltese place names were often corrupted in this fashion. RAF Ta Kali was operational throughout the war and continued to be used as an RAF airfield until the mid-1950s. Latterly, U.K.-based squadrons visited Ta Kali as part of their annual proficiency training. Since the departure of the RAF, the location has been transformed into a recreational area. The area is small in scale but considered by some in Malta as an ideal place to go for a picnic and spend weekend afternoons. The National Park also includes an amphitheatre. A number of international concerts were staged at the park, including artists as diverse as Status Quo, Deep Purple, Fish, Iron Maiden, Demis Roussos, Alannah Myles, Bonnie Tyler and many others. International artists such as Riccardo Fogli have also planted their own trees in the Park. The newly built U.S. Embassy stands across from the Ta'Qali National Park. In July, 2011 the embassy relocated to Ta'Qali from Floriana where it stood for nearly fifty years. Ta' Qali still fulfils part of its former role as an airfield but the only aircraft that take off from the greatly diminished landing strip are



scale models, whose owners make part of a club located in Ta' Qali. Today, many of the military huts and buildings have been converted into workshops where Maltese craftsmen produce their handiwork, and the Ta' Qali Crafts Village has become an important tourist attraction. There is also the Malta Aviation Museum where one can find different types of aircraft related to Maltese aviation history. Before being converted to a recreational park the airstrip was used in the first car races ever held by the Maltese; nowadays the Sport Muturi has its off-road tracks where the annual motorsport championship is held. 13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi is a 2016 American biographical war movie filmed in Malta and Morocco, for which a large film set was built during 2015 in Ta' Qali. The film follows the 2012 Benghazi attack, in which Islamic militants attacked a U.S. diplomatic compound in Libya.



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR  
40TH ANNIVERSARY  
**MALTESE QUEEN  
OF VICTORIES  
BAND SA**

## MMG Concert Band of Victoria

We would like to congratulate the Maltese Queen of Victories Band SA, on achieving such an awesome milestone of 40 years, performing and keeping our Maltese traditions and culture alive in South Australia.

Over this time we look back and reflect our crossing of paths and friendship through interstate trips with the Malta Gozo Concert Band and the St Albans Melita Band. Many friendships have been formed both young and old. Joint performances like St Catherine in SA, St Gaetan and Good Friday here in Melbourne have always been a

highlight for both musicians and the Maltese Community.

With the formation of MMG Concert Band of Victoria, we have enjoyed moments like performing together in our virtual concert piece as well as having your musicians join us at the feast of The Assumption here in Melbourne. We look forward to continuing our friendship and keeping our culture alive through music.

Congratulations once again on your 40th Anniversary, we look forward to continuing building our culture and sharing our love for music and tradition for many more years to come.



**Maltese Own Band  
Philharmonic Society Inc.**

**Victoria - Australia Est: 1977**

**Congratulations to the 2020/2021 committee members!**

PRESIDENT - JOE PORTELLI  
VICE PRESIDENT - ANSELMO XUEREB  
TREASURER - DAVID COLEIRO  
ASSISTANT TREASURER - JOE ELLUL  
SECRETARY - DANI WARD-SMITH  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY - CORINA DE LEON  
PRO - AARON AZZOPARDI  
FUNCTIONS ORGANISER - LEANNE COLEIRO

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:  
VICTOR (SNR) CILIA  
JASON PARNIS

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

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## CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA TO CANADA

### MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

The Consulate General will re-opening soon. The Consulate General of the Republic of Malta will be reopening on Monday, March 8, 2021 by appointment only. For appointments please call 416-207-0922 or 416-207-0989 or better email on [maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt](mailto:maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt)

The Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada, Dr Raymond Xerri has just returned from Malta to Toronto and as per COVID19 regulations is presently in quarantine for 14 days.





The Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Malta, Albrecht Boeselager, addressed the 46th session of the United Nations Human Right Council, which opened in Geneva on 22 February. In expressing his deep appreciation for the Council's efforts in protecting human dignity, Albrecht Boeselager stressed the multiple challenges humanitarian actors are facing in the wake of the Covid emergency. "The Covid-19 pandemic, with its devastating effects on the health and economy of many nations, is added to global tensions and conflicts, the growing problems of famine, environment degradation, the issue of refugees and those fleeing war, terrorism and hunger and the many forms of violence that humiliate and offend human dignity". To this end, Boeselager stated that: "a rapid and widespread global distribution of the vaccines is not only an ethical imperative but also a scientific and clinical imperative as it is the best way to stop the pandemic".

The Grand Chancellor expressed his deep apprehension for the ongoing violation of human rights in many parts of the world, from the Horn of Africa to the Caucasus region, and in war-torn Syria: "Protecting the rights of minorities – often subject to discrimination and persecution – remains an imperative at a time when the logic of power,

## Statement of the Grand Chancellor at the UN Human Rights Council

Human dignity at the  
centre of our action



nationalism and populism is growing at the expense of the logic of dialogue" he said, also referring to the "migrant emergency in South East Europe and to the shameful mistreatment of migrants in deplorable run-down camps in order to discourage the arrival of other migrants".

In illustrating the Order of Malta's efforts to assist refugees and migrants during their transit, Boeselager stressed the need to work on transnational approaches based on shared values. In this framework, the work of faith-based organizations can prove being particularly effective: "In massive violations of human rights, the most reliable first responders for local communities are very often the faith-based organizations. The Order of Malta – which has a long experience in interventions in difficult areas affected by ethnic or religious hostilities – calls for a closer inter-religious dialogue as fundamental in helping the victims in these situations".

The Order of Malta has drafted the Compact "Religions in Action", based on the shared key principles of the monotheist religions, drawn up with the contribution of a selected group of religious experts, Christians and Muslims. The document contains guidelines for the role religious communities and religious institutions can play for the respect of human rights and to help resolve crisis situations and mitigate their effect on the communities involved.



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## Magna Zmien - Maltese in Tunisia

Despite being an archipelago in the middle of the Mediterranean, we often forget that Malta has a close and deep history with its neighbouring countries, especially those in North Africa.

On a research and collection trip to Tunisia, Magna Żmien founder and artistic director Andrew Alamango met with some Tunisian-Maltese who shared their memories, anecdotes, and stories of their once-thriving community.

The Maltese in Tunis were known as quality cotton producers, for driving *karozzini* (horse-driven carriage) and for Maltese *pastizzi*, which left their mark on Tunisian society even today. They were also particularly associated with being butchers, particularly of horse meat as well as pork. Many of these set up shop in the local

market of downtown Tunis, Marché Central in Rue de Allemagne. Joseph Mangani collection [http://www.magnazmien.com/events/Joseph Mangani collection](http://www.magnazmien.com/events/Joseph%20Mangani%20collection)

Though the Maltese community disintegrated in Tunis after the 1950s, one can still find remnants of the past, harkening to the days of a rich Maltese presence in the country.

The Maltese particularly are still remembered with endearment, due to the proximity of language and the adaptation of the Maltese in Tunisian society and upon which it left its mark. The bond between the two countries is still strong today and anyone travelling to and from Tunisia is sure to come across the phrase “*Malta ħanina, ħobża u sardina.*”

Today they tell stories of how they lived harmoniously alongside other cultures carrying on their Maltese religious and cultural traditions, whilst integrating with the liberal and culturally diverse society in Tunisia which was open to the Mediterranean and its people.

A particularly interesting photo is that of a portrait of the Temimi family, the grandmother of which was Antoinette Zammit from Ħamrun. Antoinette worked as a stewardess on the ferry-ship between Malta and Tunisia in the early 1930s and, on this same ship, she met and fell in love with Mohamed Taoufik Temimi whom she eventually married.



Maltese nationality.



Hatem Temimi collection

<http://www.magnazmien.com/stories/maltese-in-tunisia/>

Antoinette packed up her life in Malta, moved to Tunisia and started her life there living in La Fayette, where she raised her family. Antoinette is still remembered today as Nanna Ferida Temimi from Ħamrun and although there are only a few descendants of this once numerous community, they still retain a strong affection for their island of origin. Some have even obtained





Hatem Temimi collection

The Embassy of Malta in Tunis is also attempting to maintain these relationships, including publishing research on notable Tunisian-Maltese, including the discovery that the eminent Maltese architect Ġuże D'Amato, who designed the iconic Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Valletta, was born in and graduated as an architect in Tunisia.

### people of Malta Lonzu D'Amato

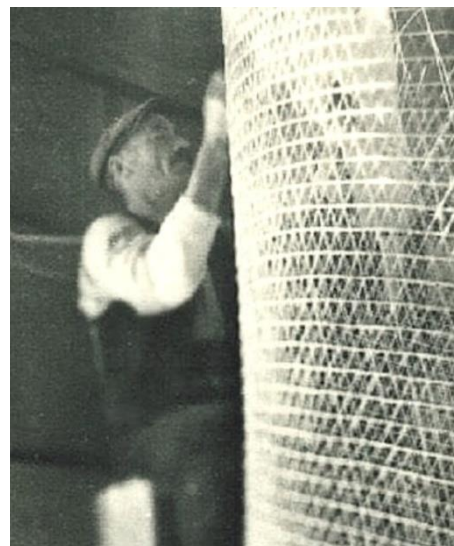
A few visitors to our *Malta in Transition* exhibition by [Guido](#)

[Stilon](#) recognised friends and family members in some of the photographs.



Ann Marie D'Amato recognised her great-grandfather, Lonzu D'Amato in a photograph of fishermen laying out their nets alongside the road leading down to Wied iż-Żurrieq in the early 1960s.

Images of Lonzu D'Amato courtesy Anne Marie



D'Amato and family

*Born in 1895, Lonzu D'Amato was born and raised in Żurrieq, and lived there until his death at the age of 86. He and his wife Catherine had five children; Joseph, Ninu, Leli, Xandru, and Salvina. Sadly, Salvina died tragically at the age of 16 in an incident at Wied iż-Żurrieq. The story goes that an unexploded mine had been found by a village man, near the Grotto known as 'il-Ħnejja'. He carried the mine to his warehouse where it exploded taking his life, along with that of one of his children, and the young Salvina who had been sewing on the doorstep at the time.*

*Lonzu made a living as a fisherman, and also farmed the land whenever the sea was too rough. One of his grandchildren recalls that 'Nannu Lonzu' raised his family by fishing from a kajjik with oars and sail; "I remember going inside those huge cane nets as we passed the needle whilst fixing the damaged parts."*

*Guido's camera captured the fishermen at work with the island of Filfla in the background. The shot captured the moment Lonzu stares into the lens – a moment made timeless as he looks at us from across the sea of time.* <http://www.magnazmien.com/stories/lonzu-damato/>



### Charlo Pisani

*These were 3 brothers. First one on the right is Alonzo known as Lonzu. He was a well built fellow. The middle one is Michelangelo known as Kalanġ. He was a chain smoker and a very reserved fellow. The first on left is Francis known as Frenċ, the smartest of the three. Their boat was burned out at Marsa where it was moored near the Salvatore Caruana warehouse. Later they had another one which was kept at Wied Żurrieq. Raymond Zammit*



## The Malta Comic Con – Wicked Comics the Crew Behind it!

Wicked Comics is a voluntary organization aimed at promoting the comic culture both in Malta and abroad. Formed in 2005, Wicked Comics is responsible for the creation of a comic scene in Malta. Ever since its inception Wicked Comics have given the local comic artists and enthusiast the opportunity to learn more about this component of popular culture and have continued to provide suitable platforms for the local artists to hone and showcase their skills.

**The Malta Comic Con – Details** In 2009 Wicked Comics, held the first comic convention in Malta which they have been holding annually ever since. This year's comic con will be held on Saturday 2nd and Sunday

3rd November at Malta Fairs & Conventions Centre in Ta' Qali.

**The Malta Comic Con – What's all the Buzz about?** The Malta Comic Con (MCC) is a 2 day event which celebrates comic creators, comic books, books, movies, TV series, table top games, video games, role playing games, cosplaying and virtually anything that is related to the comic culture. The MCC is both entertaining and educational and on both days there will be material specifically intended for children and material specifically intended for a mature audience. However, particular focus is always given towards providing a platform for creators to meet their fans. The names will be communicated shortly but one thing we will promise is that there is going to be some really BIG names this year.

**The Malta Comic Con – Local Creators!** Joining the professional creators will be a vast array of independent creators both Maltese and foreigners all of whom will be exhibiting their work, signing and selling their comic books and always willing to chat to fans.

**The Malta Comic Con – Workshops, Discussion Panels, Talks and more!** Another aspect of the convention which Wicked Comics also focus on is the creative development of potential artists. To this end every comic con is brimming with workshops, discussion panels, talks, and focus groups which are led by professional creators, and moderated by leading pop culture journalist Chris J. Thompson (Orbital, First Comic News and Pop Culture Hound).

**The Malta Comic Con – Exhibitions, Movies and Animations!** Part of the MFCC will be brimming with activity during the MCC. Besides the artwork exhibited by all creators taking part in the convention this year other exhibitions will be held too. Also a variety of comic culture related movies and anime will be shown throughout the convention.

**The Malta Comic Con – Gaming, Cosplay and Competitions!** Gamers can simply play for fun on a variety of leading consoles or enter specific tournaments held throughout both days, while a number of exhibition and introductory table-top and creative role playing games will also be held courtesy of Malta's leading gaming club WARS. Fans will once again be encouraged to create their own costumes of their favourite heroes and come dressed in these costumes. Should they wish they can also participate in the cosplay competition which will be held on both days. A number of commercial stands will compliment all these events.

**The Malta Comic Con – Guests, Signings, Sketches and more!**

The professional creators coming from England, Ireland, Scotland, Italy, France, Germany, Spain, and the USA look forward to this opportunity to chat with their fans and sign their books. Besides selling their books and original pieces of artworks the majority of these creators also do sketches for free during the convention. An opportunity which art lovers and collectors certainly cannot afford to miss!

**The Malta Comic Con – 2 Days of Fun for Everyone!**

Unlike other events the convention is best experienced by those who stay for the whole duration of the show. Wicked Comics guarantees that the Malta Comic Con offers something for everyone!

**2020 Annual Malta Comic Con Cancelled** It is with a heavy heart that we announce that due to the current global situation, Wicked Comics has taken the decision to cancel the annual Malta Comic Con for the first time in twelve years. The decision was taken to ensure that we can provide a safe, professional and enjoyable experience like we always do. Unfortunately that cannot happen in the current climate.

We will continue to work on the 2021 edition and follow up with news as we go along, so please follow our Facebook page. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the ongoing support.



## Marama Corlett - Originally from Malta,

Olivia Wilson

Marama Corlett? Actress born and raised in Malta to Maltese mother and New Zealand father began her career as a professional ballet dancer before transitioning to acting. Marama's first role was in 'The Devil's Double' in 2011 directed by Lee Tamahori.

Marama is an actress, who has reached stardom with roles such as Rina in the TV fantasy action adventure film "Sinbad" (2012), and as Aki in the TV action-adventure series "Blood Drive" (2017), among many other differing roles she has secured so far in her career.

So, do you want to find out more about this popular actress, from her childhood years to date, including her personal life as well? If yes, then stay with us for a while, as we introduce you to Marama Corlett.

Marama Corlett was born on the 3rd May 1985, in Valetta, Malta; she is of New Zealand, Sicilian, and Maltese ancestry. She has three sisters with whom she spent her childhood in Malta. From an early age, Marama was interested in the performing arts, and started attending ballet lessons, which led to her becoming a professional dancer before she turned to acting. She attended the Olivia Dow School of Russian Ballet before she moved to London, England, where she studied acting, dance and musical theatre.

Marama's professional acting career started in 2009, when she starred in the short film "What a Witch", and continued with short film "Todd and the Tooth Fairy" the following year, while in 2011 she starred in the biopic of Latif Yahia – known as Uday Hussein's double – entitled "The Devil's Double". It was in 2012 that she felt the first rays of success when she was chosen for the female lead role of Rina in the TV series "Sinbad", starring next to Elliot Knight and Elliot Cowan. Then she returned to short films, and featured in "Duende" (2012), "The Bridge" (2013), and "Let's Talk About Sex" (2013), while in 2014 she appeared in the .. <https://twitter.com/maramacorlett>



fantasy drama film "Maleficent", starring Angelina Jolie, Elle Fanning and Sharlto Copley.

**Continual Success and Recent Work** Marama was quite busy in 2014, as she starred in the drama film "Desert Dancer" next to Nazanin Boniadi, Freida Pinto and Tom Cullen, then made a minor appearance in the Academy Award-nominated film "Guardians of the Galaxy", with Chris Pratt, Bradley Cooper and Vin Diesel in the lead roles, before starring in the romantic drama film "The Goob". Three years later, Marama was chosen for yet another notable role, as Aki in the TV series "Blood Drive", and also started portraying Linda in the TV comedy-crime drama series "Sick Note", with Nick Frost, Ruper Grint and Pipa Bennett-Warner as the stars of the series. Most recently, Marama played Rebecca in the TV crime-drama mystery miniseries "The City and the City" (2018), and is now working on the horror film "Vignettes of Hell", in which she will star next to Juan Francisco Villa, and Isabel Ellison, scheduled for release late in 2019.

**Marama Corlett Internet Fame** Over the years, Marama has become quite popular on social media platforms, especially Instagram and Twitter. Her official Instagram page has over 8,500 followers, with whom she has shared pictures from film and TV sets, but also a picture from her kitchen while making cookies, among numerous other posts. You can find Marama when her sister lost a necklace in Hyde Park, and just hoped that someone would find it.

So, if you aren't already a fan of this prominent actress, then this is a perfect opportunity for you to become one, just skip over to her official pages and see what she is up to next



### Events we never forget

## Maltese-Australians show off cooking skills 2012

The 30 contestants at the Maltese Cook Off in Melbourne, Australia. Photo: Martin Bonnici Photography

Pulpetti (corned beef patties), brungiel mimli u patata l-forn (stuffed aubergines with baked potatoes) and a torta tal-lewż (almond tart) were the winning entries at this year's Maltese

Cook Off, which recently took place at the William Angliss Institute in Melbourne, Australia.

Organised for the first time last year by the non-profit association Nisga, Maltese Cook Off is the brainchild of Sandra Mooney, who realised that as the years went by the younger Maltese-Australian generations were losing Maltese tastes and aromas. Mrs Mooney said: "It's about passing on the recipes and having fun doing it." Taking part in the Maltese Cook Off were 10 teams made up of three generations of Maltese-Australians, who cooked Maltese traditional food for over 200 guests.

The teams competed for best entrée, best main dish, best dessert, best Maltese flavour, best organisation, people's choice award and best overall team. Entertainment was provided by Nicky 'Bomba' and Michael Caruana together with their band, Jacinta Caruana, Granston Display and Nicol Caruana.

## "Mother Teresa" Award for 25th Anniversary of Order of Malta's Albanian Voluntary Service



On its 25th anniversary, Malteser Albania has received the "Mother Teresa" decoration for its humanitarian activities in favour of the weakest social groups from the President of the Republic of Albania, Ilir Meta. The ceremony took place on Saturday 7 February in the hall dedicated to Cardinal Mikel Koliqi, hero of the Catholic faith under Communism, in front of St. Stephen's Cathedral in Shkodra.

The reason for the award, granted on the initiative of the Rector of the University of Shkodra, Professor Suzana Golemi, stated: "For its noble work in offering humanitarian aid to poor citizens, as well as spiritual revitalization and

support for the weaker social categories. For its contribution to the education and welfare of children without parental care, as well as the provision of medical and nutritional assistance to those in need. Its volunteers have always flanked the Albanian institutions and people during humanitarian crises and natural disasters such as that of Kosovo refugees in Albania and the floods and earthquakes in the Shkodra region."

After the greetings of the Archbishop of Shkodra-Pult, Monsignor Angelo Massafra, President of the Episcopal Conference of Albania, and of the new Apostolic Nuncio to Albania, Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi, President Meta thanked the President of Malteser Albania, Marku Maranaj, saying: "The decoration I award today on behalf of the Albanian citizens is an act of the deepest gratitude for your contribution and your mission".

The Albanian president recalled the Order of Malta's longstanding mission in favour of the poorest sections of Albanian society and also praised the work performed during these months of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Order's volunteers have been distributing masks, therapies, oxygen machines and food since the beginning of the emergency, providing 400 people with a free hot meal every Sunday.

The integration of the Roma community is another priority of the Order of Malta's volunteers, who have for years been managing centres and specialised staff to help Roma young people find decent work.

The Order of Malta's Ambassador to Albania, Stefano Palumbo, greeted the Lieutenant of the Grand Master, Fra' Marco Luzzago, reading the letters of congratulations and thanking volunteers for the dedication and professionalism they have shown over these years, always ready to serve with a profoundly Christian spirit.



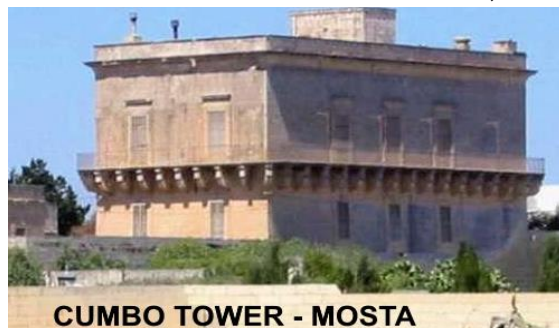


## THE MOSTA BRIDE L-GHARUSA TAL-MOSTA

Posted by [Melisande Aquilina](#)

weeks and months of strenuous search, he realised

Located  
at the  
corner of  
Triq it-  
Torri  
Cumbo  
and Triq



**CUMBO TOWER - MOSTA**

Durumblat in Mosta lies Cumbo Tower, or Torri Cumbo. This historic medieval stronghold surrounded by extensive gardens today hosts a water reservoir which receives water through an underground channel, however it is primarily known because of the role it played in one of [Malta's](#) most famous legends – that of the **Mosta Bride**.

The Mosta Bride, or I-Għarusa tal-Mosta in Maltese, is a very old ballad and local legend, one which every Maltese child learns about at primary school. The legend tells the story of an abduction, while being a love story and one which highlights Maltese valour. No wonder it was, and continues to be so popular!

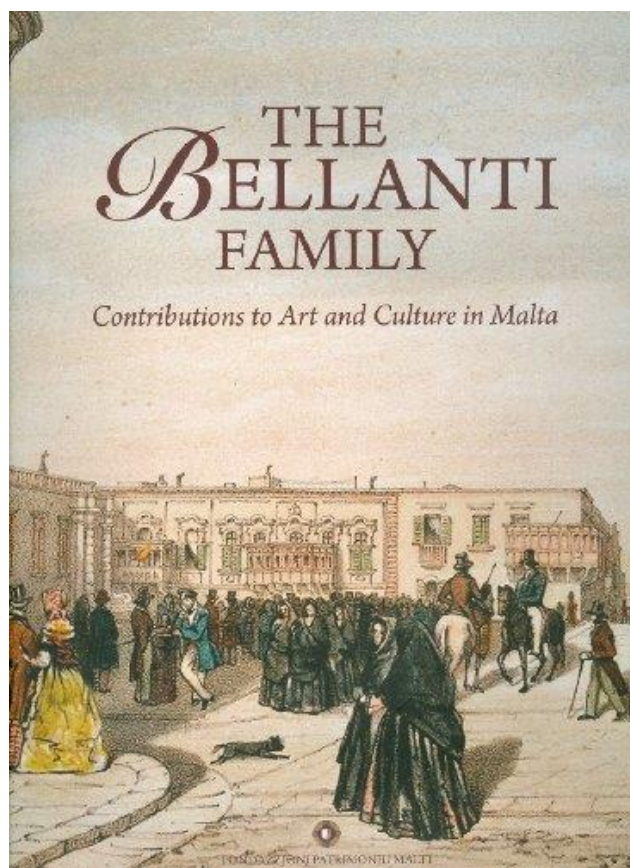
Although there are different versions to the folktale, the most well-known tells the story of Marianna Cumbo, a maiden from the Cumbo family who lived at the tower. The family had a Turkish servant who was very enamoured of Marianna, however she thought nothing of him, being in fact in love with Toni Manduca, the son of a neighbour. When the Turkish servant heard of her intention to wed her lover, he escaped from the family house and left the island on a ship bound to Turkey. Some months later, Marianna's wedding was finally taking place. The bride, resplendent in her white dress of Maltese lace and bedecked in all her finery, was preparing herself for the ceremony. Suddenly, a pirate ship from Turkey arrived on our shores, and the pirates targeted Mosta, taking a number of slaves. The Cumbo's disgruntled servant was among these pirates, and he made it a point to storm through Cumbo Tower, seize Marianna and take her on the ship as a slave.

Marianna's bridegroom was broken hearted, as were her mother and the rest of her family. They tried to discover her whereabouts in order to perhaps be able to pay a ransom and so to save her, but could not find where she was. It is then that true love distinguished itself. Toni disguised himself as a wool merchant, sailed on a ship to Turkey and vowed he'd find Marianna and save her. After

that his bride was being held in the Sultan's harem. One day, while looking up at the Palace walls, Toni heard a sweet voice singing a traditional Maltese folk song, known as 'għana'. Thoughtlessly, Toni sang together with the female voice, and this was how he realised that he had indeed found Marianna. Meanwhile, the poor girl had befriended the Sultan's daughter who, hearing that help was near at hand, pledged her aid in smuggling Marianna out of the Palace. They garbed the girl in the robes of a eunuch, and she escaped through the gardens and reunited with her beloved Toni. Together, they raced towards the docks and found a Venetian ship heading towards Malta, where they were finally reunited with their families and got married.

While this legend of love and abduction has no actual historical basis, it is documented that during the middle of the 16th century, around 400 prisoners were abducted from Mosta and taken by Turkish corsairs. A woman dressed as a bride, it is documented, was one of the taken.

The oldest written version of the ballad of the Mosta Bride was first printed in 1895 and written by Annibale Preca. Different versions of the tale change some of the points in the story. Some say that the Turks offered the Cumbo family Marianna's life for ransom, but that the family refused as it was too high. Others maintain there was no servant in love with Marianna determined to steal her, and that she was simply part of the number of slaves taken against their will. Still another version recounts that Marianna had been greatly weakened by her enslavement and captivity, and not being able to withstand the voyage back to Malta, died on the ship. Mad with anger and grief, Toni spent his life fighting the Turks and died in battle. Today, Cumbo Tower belongs to the Contessa Preziosi, the daughter of the late Barone della Quleja.



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## WHAT TO EXPECT AT A MALTESE FESTIVAL

**Emma and Thom Shaw - Australia**

Festas are a massive part of Maltese culture and tradition. Held across both Malta and Gozo, festas are religious celebrations organized by the local parish and are an iconic part of the Maltese summer with massive fireworks, marching bands, parades and happy celebrations. They are such an important event to the locals of the village and they are just *epic* celebrations that everyone visiting Malta needs to experience at least once.



Each festa typically has the same structure. It's a total of five days of festivities including the lead up, the eve of the feast and the feast day itself. The celebrations revolve around the patron saint of each parish and his place in the village church.

Besides the special church services there are also outdoor festivities with marching bands, food and drink trucks all around the main village square and the most spectacular fireworks displays I have ever seen.

These festivals are big enough to rival the vibe of a music festival. It's so easy to get caught up in the atmosphere and with all the young people in their festival t-shirts and the dancing and drinking it can be so easy to forget that this is actually a religious festival.

The Maltese specialise in manufacturing fireworks and fireworks often constitute the benchmark for comparing the success of the various festas in the local inter-village rivalry.

**Explore all of the adventures and experiences you can have around Malta**

In Malta and Gozo, the village church is the pride of each villager. In preparation for the festa all the treasures of the church, including their massive crystal chandeliers, are put on display, creating a stunning setting for the parades honouring the statue of the saint.

The streets are covered in decorations and fairy lights, flags are flown from rooftops and statues are placed all around the village. It is really the most beautiful time to visit a village, when everything comes alive with celebrations.

**Check out the best places to stay in Gozo**

I would definitely recommend that everyone who visits Malta or Gozo during the summer gets themselves to at least one festa. It is a great way to spend the evenings in these quiet villages, still leaving you the day time to explore the rest of the islands.

It's such a unique culture to experience and it's so much fun to experience. If you're not very religious that's still okay, just be respectful of the locals and their beliefs and enjoy yourself. It will be hard not to!

## EXPLORING VALLETTA AND MALTA'S MAINLAND

For those of you who are interested, the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul is celebrated on the 29th of June in both Nadur on Gozo and also Mdina on Malta.

**Explore all of our adventures around Malta**

<https://www.exploreshaw.com/celebrating-local-maltese-festival/>

**EMMA SHAW** Emma is a travel writer, photographer and blogger, currently living on the road full time and chasing the sun around Australia. Travelling in her recently renovated vintage Viscount caravan, along with her husband Thom, she's sharing the very best experiences from around her beloved sunburnt country.

## JERITAGE MALTA Tasting prehistory

On March 6, Heritage Malta, through its Taste History unit, will be holding a unique culinary event spanning the 5,000 years of Maltese prehistory.

The event, being held at the Malta Maritime Museum in Vittoriosa, will consist of a sit-down dinner for 40 people who will be able to sample some of the food consumed during different periods, namely the Early Neolithic Period, the Temple Period and the Bronze Age.

The proposed menu is a mixture of what was found archaeologically and determined scientifically to have been available during these periods. Apart from the meat of two of the most common animals whose remains were found in Maltese prehistoric sites, guests will experience various grains that have over time been replaced in popularity with the common wheat, together with the produce of trees which are known to have been present at the time.

*All ingredients will be locally and sustainably produced*

Taste History's chef Joseph Cassar will be preparing the food on site. All ingredients will be locally and sustainably produced. Free-flowing wine will also be served.

Sharon Sultana, senior curator at the National Museum of Archaeology, and Josef Caruana, curator of prehistoric sites within Heritage Malta, will briefly outline the Maltese prehistoric period, with the archaeological remains and scientific studies consulted in the creation of the dishes served during this dinner being explained throughout the evening. Guests will also be able to admire related artefacts which will be showcased on site.

Tickets may be bought via the Heritage Malta website [www.heritagemalta.org](http://www.heritagemalta.org). There will be strict adherence to public health regulations related to COVID-19.

Source – Time of Malta



## THE MALTESE CENTER - ASTORIA N.Y

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MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021 AT 3:30 AM UTC+10:30

IL-MALTIN TAGHNA with guest Thomas Grech

<http://www.themaltesecenter.com/>





## POMEGRANATE - RUMMIEN

The popular Pomegranate tree (Scientific: *Punica granatum*, Maltese: Rummiena, *Sigra tal-Bullar*) is frequently encountered in our Maltese countryside. This tree was originally introduced to our Islands in ancient times and has today become an integral part of our flora. The Pomegranate, a deciduous small tree or shrub of around 5 meters, is attractive with its light green leaves. These leaves are oblong to elliptical in shape and arranged as opposites or in tufts at the extremities of the shorter twigs. Its more or less crooked trunk, which supports a well-branched tree, has a greyish or yellowish bark, which often flakes with age. During the flowering season, the bright-orange flowers are displayed either solitary or united in twos or threes; these are trumpet-like and composed of rather crumpled petals. Following fertilisation, beautiful yellowish or deep-red fruits are produced. And nestled inside the leathery rind of these fruits are numerous seeds, each of which is embedded in a juicy pulp having a delicious sweet flavour. Today, besides for its edible fruit, the Pomegranate is utilised in a number of ways - ranging from the making of red dye, to drinks and medicine.



## FIGS - BAJTAR TA SAN GWANN

I don't know of anyone who does not like fresh figs, or Bajtar ta' San Gwann. In Malta these figs are in season for a short while usually from the first

week of June to the end of that month. The feast of St. John the Baptist falls on the 24th of June. This typically Mediterranean fruit usually grows wild in our countryside. The fruit has a high content of natural sugars; in fact, when the fruit is very ripe it is like a concentrated jam so to speak. Figs can be made into ice-cream, jam, sweet tarts, sweet loaf cakes, liquors or just eaten chilled.

## BLACK MULBERRY THE MALTESE TUTA

The Black Mulberry (Maltese: Tuta) is known



scientifically as *Morus nigra*. This tree is actually native of China but was introduced to the Islands in ancient times by the Phoenician settlers because of its fruits, which were appreciated for their refreshing and depurative qualities. The Black Mulberry is a majestic tree, reaching a height of around 10 to 12 metres, having far-spreading branches that are more or less twisted. Its shady foliage is dark green, heart shaped and covered beneath with short soft hairs. It is a deciduous tree, shedding its leaves at the end of the growing season. The wind-pollinated small and inconspicuous flowers are borne in clusters, where the female flower quickly ripens to form a blackberry shaped edible fruit. Although this fruit is often referred to as a berry, it is actually a number of berries closely packed together. These purplish-blue fruits usually ripen in May until well into the month of August. Mulberries have many functional uses, which range from the direct use (as they are edible), to the making of jams, syrups and wines, as well as the flavouring and colouring of medicine. Recently, a long-horned beetle which is well adapted to living on Mulberry trees, was accidentally introduced into Malta. And regrettably in certain regions this pest has attacked and killed some old specimens of Black Mulberry.

## Opera Highlights in Malta

**This March, Bulgarian-Maltese soprano Andriana Fenech Yordanova** will perform a concert entitled 'Opera Highlights', with tenor Andrei Daranyi and pianist Maria-Elena Farrugia at the Ball room of the Westin Dragonara Resort, St Julian's. Also featured will be the two young tenors and students of Fenech Yordanova from the Malta School of Music, Angelo Muscat and Georg Zammit.

The concert features a programme of works in the Lyric Opera tradition, including pieces by Verdi, Puccini, Massenet, Leoncavallo, Tchaikovsky, Lehar and others. The event features Andriana Fenech Yordanova, a soprano originally from Bulgaria, who, since 2001 has made Malta her second home. Also featured is Romanian tenor Andrei Daranyi and Maltese pianist Maria-

EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR SUPPORT OF CULTURE PROUDLY PRESENTS

20<sup>2021</sup> MARCH 7PM

BALLROOM AT THE WESTIN DRAGONARA RESORT

# OPERA HIGHLIGHTS

ANDREI DARANYI  
TENOR

ANDRIANA YORDANOVA  
SOPRANO

ANGELO MUSCAT  
TENOR

MARIA-ELENA FARRUGIA  
PIANO

GEORG ZAMMIT  
TENOR

PROGRAMME:  
VERDI, PUCCINI, MASSENET, LEONCAVALLO, TCHAIKOVSKY, LEHAR AND OTHERS

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Elena Farrugia.

Andriana Fenech Yordanova has considerable performance experience in addition to her varying educational activities, her past outings including concerts performed under the auspices of the H.E. The President of Malta and the Hon. Prime Minister of Malta, as well as numerous appearances abroad including at the Sofia Music Weeks Festival in 2019. She has performed with noted conductors including Brian Schembri, Michael Laus, Damiano Binetti, Alexey Nyaga, Christopher Muscat, Colin Attard, Franchesco Falci, Alexey Galea Cavallazzi, and Wayne Marshall among others. Making her debut in Puccini's *La Boheme* at Bourgas Opera Theatre in 1995, she followed this playing the role of Fiordiligi in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* the next year at the Varna Opera House, and in 2019 was nominated for a Crystal Lyre Award in Bulgaria.

The rehearsal for the concert will be filmed for release on TVM, with viewers treated to an inside look at the creative process behind this intriguing concert offering, as well as including interviews and previews of the works featured in the performance.

*Opera Highlights* will take place at the Westin Dragonara Resort in St Julian's on 20th March 2021. For full details, see the [EUFSC](http://eufsc.eu) website or contact the Westin Dragonara directly.

*Opera Highlights* will be on at the Westin Dragonara Resort in St. Julian's on 20 March, 2021. For full details, see the [EUFSC](http://eufsc.eu) website.





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As a proud Aussie born Maltese, I am passionate about all things Malta. Namely the place, and the food, I decided to combine my passion for anything Maltese and cooking (I'm a pastrychef) to provide some Maltese favourites to the wider community. Deliveries in Sydney commencing next month!

First area is The St George/Sutherland Shire.

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A \$10 flat fee applies for all deliveries. Prepayment is required. Thanking you

**The "3" Maltesers**

Join Your Host DJ George Galea - Charlie Camilleri & One Of Australia's Leading Elvis Performers Paul Fenech As The 3 Maltesers .  
Maltese Classic Hits & Rock n Roll Memories

**La Valette Social Centre Inc.**  
175 Walters Road, Blacktown  
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## **The "3" Maltesers**

On  
Sunday, 18 April 2021  
From 2.00pm  
For a 4-hour  
Musical Extravaganza

(\*\* Some Covid-19 restrictions still/may apply \*\*)

**Tickets \$20.00**

Kitchen and Bar  
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