



CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2014 FRANK L SCICLUNA - LINKING MALTA AND AUSTRALIA

EMAIL: honconsul@live.com.au Website: www.ozmalta.page4.me

CONVENTION FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD 2015: LOGO AND MEMENTO DESIGN COMPETITION LAUNCHED



Malta's Ministry for Foreign Affairs is planning to organise the 4th Convention for the Maltese Living Abroad in Malta during early April 2015. It is the intention of the Organising Committee of this Convention to involve to the fullest not only the Council for the Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) who represent all Maltese Abroad, but the thousands of Maltese living around the world themselves.

With this purpose in mind, the Organising Committee within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is launching an international **Logo and Memento Competition** open for all Maltese nationals living abroad. Both logo and memento can be the same or different design(s) and should epitomise the spirit of Malta's Diaspora and the Greater Malta concept.

Artists may opt to make submissions for either the logo or memento or both. All participating works should be forwarded to the nearest Malta High Commission, Malta Embassy or Malta Permanent Representation. The final work will be chosen by an independent team of judges in Malta.

Works must be submitted at the nearest Malta High Commission, Malta Embassy or Malta Permanent Representation by **Friday, 30 May 2014 at noon**. Works received after this date and time would not be considered. The contact details for the Malta High Commission in Canberra, Australia are:

Postal address: 38 Culgoa Circuit, O'Malley, ACT, 2606

Email: highcommission.canberra@gov.mt

MALTA TO HOST C.H.O.G.M. IN 2015



Photo : DOI - Omar Camilleri

'UK and other main countries support Malta's position'

Tony Abbott, Prime Minister of Australia with Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of Malta

Malta will be hosting its second Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) within the space of a decade, *The Malta Independent on Sunday* has learnt. The OPM's communications officer Kurt Farrugia broke the news on the social media recently.

In addition to human rights abuses in Sri Lanka, where this year's meeting is being held, the Commonwealth Heads of Government have also had to deal with the issue of next year's venue after Mauritius dropped out. The Indian Ocean island has become ineligible to host the next CHOGM after boycotting this year's event in protest over Sri Lanka's human rights record.

A spokesman from the Office of the Prime Minister yesterday confirmed to this newspaper that Malta, along with a number of other countries, was asked if it would be willing to host the 2015 meeting, and the Maltese government has said that it would consider taking up the offer if no one else did.

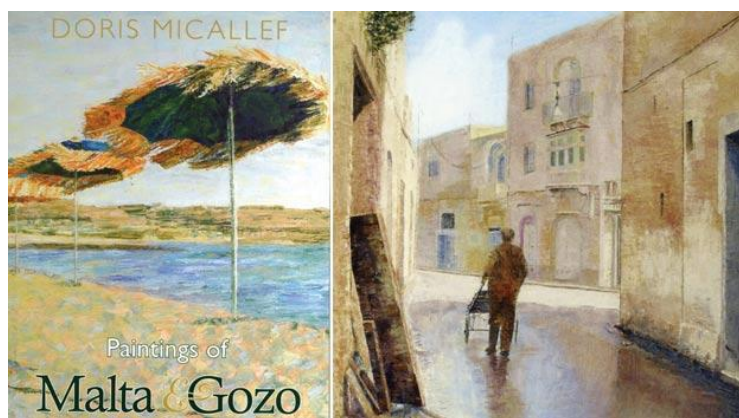
The spokesman added: "The main countries, such as the UK, are backing Malta's position. Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said that Malta would bide its time for the Commonwealth to reach a consensus, and Malta's offer is there to provide peace of mind to other countries."

The news was first broken in the New Zealand media, with reports saying that even that country's government had offered to host CHOGM 2015. The *New Zealand Herald* quoted Prime Minister John Key saying that "he would be happy to host the meeting, although it was possible Malta would take over instead". He said Malta was keen to act as host, but New Zealand would be happy to if Malta could not. The only problem is that Vanuatu will host the 2019 meeting and that would mean two meetings in the same region in a row.

Radio New Zealand News also quoted Mr Key, but said that the next CHOGM "will probably be held in Malta." And *MSN New Zealand's* headline read "Malta tipped to host CHOGM 2015."

When contacted by this paper, government spokesman Kurt Farrugia confirmed that the issue had been discussed during the heads of state retreat in Colombo. Mr Farrugia said after the request had been made, "Malta said that it would be ready to host CHOGM 2015 if there is no agreement on a country that has never hosted it."

DORIS MICALLEF -



ILLUSTRATING OUR HERITAGE

Right: After the Rain, Main Street, Birkirkara.

Norbert Ellul Vincenti, Victor Fenech (Eds): Doris Micallef – Paintings of Malta and Gozo, 164 pp., 136 colour illustrations, hardbound, Dormax Press, 2011. (also available in paperback)

It is a pleasure to leaf through this hardbound volume, which is so obviously a labour of love. The 136 colour illustrations, mainly reproductions of paintings produced by Doris Micallef throughout her multi-faceted career,

represent a thorough cross-section that can never be equalled in quantity, quality and variety in a personal exhibition of a particular phase in her life. Apart from its aesthetic beauty the volume is also quite functional since it can serve the student and researcher to study her career and autobiography.

"Doris has been working on this book for several years now, and the result is an attractive and prestigious publication. This is more of a legacy than anything else," says her son Michael. The volume appeals to both locals and foreigners as it illustrates 33 Maltese and Gozitan villages and towns with an accompanying auxiliary map.

Micallef is a great romantic and paints with passion and enthusiasm. Her meticulous, precise and studied approach does not diminish sentiment, drama and poetry. Never does she want to let go and though she admires the Impressionists, like Cezanne, she prefers to make permanent what is ephemeral and transient. She endeavours to capture the spirit of a place, to create solids in space.

She has an acute understanding of streetscapes, landscapes, townscapes, skylines and countryside with an explicit interest in vegetation and the composition of rocks (see Blue Grotto, p. 120). Almost all her work is structured, meditative – built diligently stone by stone, brushstroke upon brushstroke, horizontally, in the manner of Pissarro.

It will be a good idea if you collect all your newsletters and publish them in a book for future generations. They are a mine of information about the Maltese citizens scattered all over the world who made such a good name for Malta. I have never seen so much material compiled like this. Mario Azzopardi

SPECIAL FEATURE:

THE THREE AUSTRALIAN/MALTESE PROFESSORS

PROFS JOHN MAMO *Department of Health Sciences, Curtin University Western Australia*



Professor Mamo is a son of Maltese parents who migrated from Malta in the 50s and lived in Adelaide for many years. His research interests are broadly in the role of diet in disease risk and management. Notable amongst John's research is a better understanding of how cholesterol becomes trapped in the blood vessels which feed the heart, a pathway which significantly increases the risk of having a cardiac event. And in ongoing studies, John's laboratory are now providing novel insight on how components of diet influence brain integrity and function. The latter may be pivotal for prevention of dementia.

In 2009, John was seconded as Head of Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Science at Curtin University to provide leadership with the institutional node Directors for the Centre for Metabolic Fitness. John continues to serve on a number of lead scientific agencies and provide significant research training opportunities for early career researchers.

Having a holistic view on life, John who is the son of Maltese parents who migrated to Australia in the 50s, is married with three adult children. He has a small acreage holding in Western Australia which he pretends is a 'real farm' and boasts about his small beef herd

holding!

Research Interests:

- Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia
- Cardiovascular disease
- Insulin resistance/diabetes
- Functional foods

Qualifications:

- Doctor of Philosophy, University of Adelaide, 1986
- Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Honours), University of Adelaide, 1982
- Bachelor of Agricultural Science, University of Adelaide, 1981

PROFS STEPHEN GATT AUSTRALIA



Stephen Gatt has been honoured with the Order of Australia (Medal) and the National Order of Merit (Member), he was awarded Fellowship of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (FRCA) of the UK (Honoris Causa) and numerous other awards and has been knighted twice in the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM) – Knight - and the Order of the Holy Sepulchre (OHS) – Knight Commander with Star.

He is the Editor/Author of four books and over 250 papers, abstracts and book chapters and sits on the Editorial Board of several journals.

He living and working in Kensington with his wife and four adult children.

- • Director of Anaesthesia, Operational & Administrative, Wales Anaesthesia, Prince of Wales Hospital;
- • Head of Division of Anaesthesia & Intensive Care of Prince of Wales, Sydney Children's & Sydney/Sydney Eye Hospitals and, formerly, Area Chair in Anaesthesia, South East Health;
- Senior Staff Specialist and, formerly, the Director of Anaesthesia, of the Royal Hospital for Women;
- President (Oceania) of the Obstetric Anaesthesia Society of Asia and Oceania;
- Immediate Past-President of the Federation of Maltese Abroad;
- Senior Visiting Anaesthetist, Healthscope; and
- Associate Professor, Conjoint and, previously, Presiding Member of the Discipline of Anaesthesia, Critical Care and Emergency Medicine of the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.

PROFESSOR MAURICE CAUCHI AM, MQR, MD, MSc., Ph.D, DPH, FRCPA, FRCPATH



Maurice Cauchi was born in Gharb, Gozo, Malta, studied at the Lyceum and Royal University of Malta and graduated M.D. in 1961. The following year he proceeded to the UK where he obtained his M.Sc and Ph.D in Cancer Research at the Royal Marsden Hospital, University of London (1967).

He proceeded to Australia (1969) where he held several senior positions at Monash and Melbourne Universities. He was also Director of Haematology and Immunology at the Royal Women's Hospital (Melbourne).

He returned to Malta in 1992 as Professor of Pathology where he was also Chairman of the Bioethics Consultative Committee (Ministry of Health), and Chairman of the Gozo Health Council (Ministry for Gozo). He returned to Australia

in 2003.

He has been active within the Maltese Community as well as the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria and more recently the Federation of Maltese Living Abroad, and the Council for Maltese Living Abroad.

He has been involved in setting up several newsletters and websites, including one for the Migration museum (www.maltamigration.com).

His commitments included:

- President, Maltese Literature Group (1984-1986)
- President, Maltese Community Council of Victoria (1987-1992 & 2010-current)
- Chairman, Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (1988-1991)
- President, Federated Maltese Council of Australia (1988-1991)
- Chairman, Commission for Maltese Abroad (Ministry for Social Policy, Malta 1992-1994)
- Chairman, Malta Migration Museum (2001-2003)
- President, Federation of Maltese Living Abroad (2010-current)
- Member, Council for Maltese Living Abroad (2012-current)

For his services to the community he was made a Member of the Order of Australia, (AM, 1991) and awarded the Medalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika (MQR), ('Medal for Services to the Republic' of Malta, 1992).

Prof. Cauchi has been involved with the Maltese community for decades, first as President of the Maltese Literature Group, and then as member of the Maltese Community Council, including several terms as President. He has also been interested in the wider ethnic issues, and was member of a number of ethnic organisations, including the Ethnic Affairs Commission of Victoria, Chairman of the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria, and Chairman of the Commission for Maltese Abroad.

He has published extensively on issues relating to migration including:

- *Maltese Migrants in Australia* (1990),
- *The Maltese Migrant Experience* (1999),
- *Worlds Apart- Migration in Modern English Literature* (2002),
- *Maltese Achievers in Australia* (2006) and
- *A Who s Who of Maltese-Background Persons in Australia and New Zealand* (2008), and
- *Under One Umbrella: A History of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria 1958-2008* (2009).

He has also published over 100 scientific publications as well as monographs relating to science and medicine.



SOME PEOPLE THROW STONES IN YOUR PATH. IT DEPENDS WHAT YOU DO WITH THEM - BUILD A BRIDGE OR A WALL. YOU ARE THE ARCHITECT



PRECIOUS HISTORY OF
GREYSTANES
NEW SOUTH WALES -
AUSTRALIA
(IT IS KNOWN AS LITTLE MALTA)

(Photo) Maltese builder Frank Cefai with the Archbishop of Sydney, Norman Thomas Gilroy, placing the first stone of the complex at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Greystanes.

In the early years of British settlement the area was known as Prospect Hill and was the site of the first land grants to emancipated convicts in 1791. At this period it was one of several areas of conflict between the Darug people and the settlers, the Darug people being led for many years of guerrilla warfare by Pemulwuy.

The area later became differentiated into Prospect, to the west of Greystanes Creek, and Greystanes to the east of the Creek, the latter taking its name from a historical home on Prospect Hill, built by Nelson Simmons Lawson, third child of Lieutenant William Lawson. The name 'Grey Stanes', given by Nelson Lawson, came from the outcrops of basalt on Prospect Hill, "Grey" being its colour and "Stanes" being the Scottish word for stones. The land was originally granted to William Cummings in 1799, before being acquired by William Lawson in approximately 1810.

The area was used for poultry farming in the early twentieth century until Greystanes developed in the 1950s and 1960s as a residential suburb. Frank Cefai, a Maltese migrant, is a well known developer who built thousands of residential homes throughout Greystanes and its surrounding suburbs. Frank built and helped fund the Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church in 1975 and the surrounding primary and secondary schools.

At the 2011 census, there were 21,703 residents in Greystanes. About two thirds of residents were born in Australia, with the most common other countries of birth being Malta 3.6%, Lebanon 3.1%, India 1.8% and England 1.8%. Languages other than English spoken at home included Arabic 9.1%, Maltese 3.4%, Greek 2.3%, Italian 2.3% and Croatian 1.7%. The top religious affiliation was Catholic (49.2%) and this was almost double the national rate of Catholics

Many of the early residents of Greystanes were from Malta and many of them operated poultry farms. Three family poultry businesses from Greystanes became household names throughout Australia - Cordina Chickens, Baiada Chickens and Pace Farm Eggs.

Greystanes still has a large Maltese-Australian community. The Maltese community have hosted a Festa (Festa tal-Vitorja & Maria Bambina) every October since 1965 in and around the church. The Maltese community purchased the land and built a new church dedicated to Our Lady of Victories in 1975. The Maltese Festa has its origins in the religious festivals held annually in each village of Malta, celebrating the patron saint of the village. The church and parish were named after Our Lady of Victories, a beautifully hand crafted statue from Italy, a replica of Maria Bambina from Gozo. Despite hundreds of years of tradition, the clergy of the Catholic Church deemed it incorrect to have the moniker Victories attached to Our Lady. The church then became the Parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace. The statue is on display in the church and at the annual procession of the Maltese Festa.

DOMINICAN SISTERS CELEBRATE ROSARY HOME'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY



Thursday 17 November 2011

By Edwin Borg-Manché

On Sunday 30 October the Dominican Sisters of Malta celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the blessing and official opening of the Rosary Home Aged Care Facility in Keilor Downs. A Eucharistic Celebration led by Auxiliary Bishop of the Western Region of Melbourne, His Grace Vincent Long, OFM Conv., was held in the chapel of the Home which was packed.

The concelebrants at the Mass, who included several Maltese priests, were: Fr Charles Portelli, Parish Priest at St Mary of the Assumption in Keilor Downs; Fr Joseph Amal, Assistant Parish Priest; Fr Karm Borg; Dominican Fathers from Camberwell: Fr Dominic Murphy OP and Fr Anthony Walsh OP; members of Missionary Society of St Paul: Fr Denis Carabott MSSP, Fr Emanuel Adami MSSP, Fr Paul Kierce MSSP, and Fr Noel Bianco MSSP (who was also present 25 years ago at the opening of the Home).

Rosary Home Administrator, Sr Doris Falzon, welcomed the distinguished guests to the special celebration, including: the Hon. Natalie Hutchins MLA, State Member for Keilor; the Superior General of the Dominican Sisters of Malta, Sr Carmelita Borg OP and Vicar General Sr Dorothy Mizzi OP, both of whom travelled from Malta for the occasion; Sr Georgina Sultana OP and Sr Pauline Balbi OP from the Dominican community in NSW; the Consul General of Malta, Mr Charles Mifsud; the Honorary Consul of Malta, Dr Edwin Borg-Manché and Mrs Borg-Manché; members of the Rosary Home Board of Management: Chairman, Mr Victor Borg; Dr Marie Pirotta, Prof. Maurice Cauchi, and Financial Controller, Mr Paul Borg; and Chairman of the Board at St Dominic's Hostel in NSW, Prof. Stephen Gatt and Mrs Gatt.



In his sermon Bishop Long said that he was honoured to be part of the celebrations at the Rosary Home. "I believe it one of the places where the best of Christianity is on display, where the best of the Catholic traditions is kept alive," he said.

"At the Rosary Home the aged and the infirm are the presence and the love of the suffering Christ in our midst. And you sisters by your care and by your companionship with them, you make the Gospel come very much alive in a tangible and edifying way," said Bishop Long. "Here we can see what radical discipleship means and what serving leadership is all about. Here all the trappings of honour, status and distinction have no place. Here the vulnerable are loved and cared for simply because they bear the image and likeness of the living God and they represent the crucified Christ among us."

"We want to thank the residents for being who you are, for bearing the wounds of Christ on your bodies and your spirits, for suffering in silence and patience. We want to thank the staff for embodying the spirit of Christian service, for collaborating with the sisters in creating a sense of community here. And finally we want to thank you, sisters, for being the ambassadors of Christ in this place and in the words of St Paul, quite fitting for you today, that 'you are heeding not just the Gospel message for the people who have been entrusted to you but their own lives as well for the benefits of the infirm and the aged'," said Bishop Long.

History of Rosary Home

In a speech for the occasion, Sr Doris Falzon thanked Bishop Long and the concelebrating priests for celebrating mass for this special occasion. "We celebrate our humble beginnings and the many significant people that became part of the fabric woven during this quarter of a century," she said.

"It all started in 1982, when Sr Virginia Ellul OP, the newly elected Superior General, assigned Sr Theresita Bianco OP to Melbourne, to see what were the possibilities of our apostolate in this state to be altered from teaching to aged care. Providence had it that in a short time the land that we stand on to-day, was purchased, plans were drawn up and in 10 months' time, a 36-bed hostel was built. Mr Douglas Cooms Engineer and project Manager was engaged to ensure that the building was as per plans drawn by the architect Mr Ivan Anderson," said Sr Falzon.

"Things moved very quickly under the leadership of Sr Theresita and on Sunday, 28th September 1986, Bishop Joseph O'Connell blessed the hostel, while Mr Victor Borg, the Chairman of the Board of Management, officially declared Rosary Home open for the first 36 residents," recalled Sr Falzon.

IL-FERH TAL-VANGELU



Il-Papa Frangisku Ezortazzjoni Appostolika



APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION OF POPE FRANCIS IS NOW AVAILABLE IN MALTAESE

The Secretariat of Laity of the Church in collaboration with the Gozo Diocese is now able to offer a Maltese version of the first Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel).

The document was translated from the original Italian text during months of work by Francesco Pio Attard, assisted by Joe Farrugia and Vivienne Attard.

The Apostolic Exhortation – *Evangelii Gaudium*, contained in five chapters, is considered one of the most important documents written by a Pope in recent years, and which Pope Francis offers what might be called the programme of his pontificate. That is why, when it was released last November, the document sparked keen interest, not only from within the Church, but also in the secular world.

With his unique style Pope Francis says, "I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come."

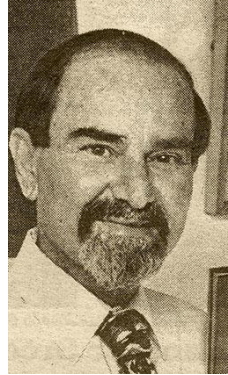
This document is available from the website of the Secretariat of Laity www.laikos.org. Also available are Maltese translations of other documents such as the *Magisterium* of the Church, among others. In the coming weeks, *The Joy of Gospel* will also be available as a book printed by the Maltese

FROM THE MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA - NEWSLETTER

Six prominent Maltese community members honoured

14 Aug 2012 The MCCV honoured six prominent members of the Maltese community in Victoria with the inaugural MCCV Community Awards at a reception held on Saturday evening at the Maltese Centre in Parkville. The program also included welcoming the newly elected Superior General of the Missionary Society of St Paul, Fr Mark Grima mssp, and presenting the first Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Scholarship Award.

DR JOE ABELA - MCCV Community Award for his contribution to Scholarship and Education



Dr Joe Abela was one of the most respected persons within the Maltese Community. Joe Abela arrived in Australia in 1952 and immediately set up a branch of the Society of Christian Doctrine (MUSEUM), which he continued to lead for about 17 years until he decided to train for the priesthood. He then continued his studies in philosophy at the University of Louvain in Belgium.

On his return, he was very much involved in tertiary education, first as research fellow at Monash University and later at the Phillip Institute. During this period he introduced Maltese language teaching as a tertiary subject for the B.A degree. Dr Abela also introduced Maltese as a language in the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI), thus ensuring a high standard for interpreters and translators of our language in Australia.

Dr Abela was also a member of the Australian Institute for Multicultural Affairs. In every way he was very active in promoting the Maltese language in Australia. One example of this was his founding of the Maltese Literature Group which he set up in 1982 to encourage Maltese in Australia to write prose and poetry in Maltese. This association is still active today Dr Abela was a pioneer in

broadcasting in Maltese in Victoria. He started broadcasting in Maltese in 1975 on Radio 3ZZ, and later on, on Radio 3EA (now SBS Radio).

Dr Abela was also an academic and an educationalist, having published several monographs on philosophical issues as well as on Maltese literature. His poems may be found in several books and anthologies. His philosophical studies were published in a monograph titled *The Concept of the Infinite in the life and works of Giordano Bruno*. In 1988 Joe Abela was honoured with a citation given by the Government of Malta for his efforts to promote the Maltese language and culture in Australia.

With his untimely death 21 years ago on 15 March 1991, the Maltese in Australia lost a stalwart member of the community and one who always promoted Maltese language and culture at every opportunity.

MANUEL CASHA - MCCV Community Award for his contribution to Culture



Manuel Casha is a musician, producer, radio-journalist, folk music researcher, and guitar teacher. He is well known within the Maltese community in Australia for his sterling work in highlighting and maintaining the Maltese form of folk music (known in Maltese as *għana*) raising it to a higher level than it had ever reached, in Australia or in Malta.

Born in Vittoriosa in 1944, Manuel has worked with various musical groups and has issued a number of personal albums (CDs) of songs. He has been involved in numerous broadcasts in Maltese on the various community radio stations in Melbourne, where he has, in particular, presented *Ir-Rokna ta' l-Għana*.

Manuel's poetry has been included in a number of anthologies. He has also written a number of popular works for the Maltese theatre in Australia (e.g. *Il-Hanut ta' Dwinu*). He has written music or lyrics for other productions (e.g. *Iz-Ziggi Jibdel Fehemtu*) Manuel is involved in research on traditional Maltese music. He has on several occasions helped the MCCV by entertaining our guests at fund-raising functions.

FRANK CALLEJA - MCCV Community Award for his contribution to Welfare services

Frank Calleja has contributed significantly to the Maltese community in general and to the MCCV in particular. From the very beginning he provided a great deal of assistance to many single men who came out from Malta, including providing them with a dinner on Saturday evenings and helping to obtain employment for them, often acting as interpreter, and in general ensuring that they settled successfully.



As a delegate to the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Frank made a considerable contribution towards providing social and welfare services for the Maltese and their friends in the State of Victoria. He used to spend quite some time on the telephone at the Maltese Centre answering queries from the community.

For some years he was a member of the executive of the MCCV in charge of its welfare programme. For several years he was President of La Vallette Association, then a very active organization. Frank participated in the MCCV annual fête which provided funding for welfare services and raised funds for the building of the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville. He also assisted in organising an overseas trip which raised considerable funds for the same purpose.

As part of his association's activities, Frank organised a Pensioners and Retiree group which meets regularly each week at premises he was able to obtain from the local council.

Frank organised regular activities for the group and kept an eye on aged members who may require assistance from time to time. Frank was also an active member of the George Cross Soccer Club Committee. Frank, now 95-years old, and his late wife Daisy have been excellent role models for young community members.

GEORGE CINI - MCCV Community Award for his services to Welfare



George arrived in Melbourne in 1954 and was soon involved with Maltese community. He started the Malta Star of the Sea Drama League in West Melbourne and was involved in producing several plays in Maltese, arguably one of the earliest and most successful associations in the field of performing arts. He has also taken part in television series.

George has been significantly involved in providing social services for the community particularly in St Albans. He was the prime mover in building the Malta Star of the Sea House (1978). He is also founder of the Maltese Pensioners Association of St Albans (1983). George has always been ready to help the MCCV, and has donated generously to various MCCV projects.

JOSEPH MONTEBELLO - MCCV Community Award for his involvement in general within the community



Joe Montebello is the reporter and cameraman for 'Waltzing Matilda', the Maltese TV programme about the life of Maltese living in Australia televised in Malta and Australia and produced and presented by Josephine Zammit Cordina. Joe has been the lynchpin providing material for this programme since its inception over 18 years ago.

The Maltese community knows and appreciates the work that Joe carries out, travelling and offering his time to film most of the events in Victoria so that the Maltese in Malta can watch them on the 'Waltzing Matilda' program, thereby getting a good idea of how the Maltese Community in Victoria still treasures our heritage and our traditions. Joseph works hard in providing this information and, even though he is getting on in years, he still finds the time and energy to do so. It is appropriate that Joe be recognized for his ongoing work for the benefit of the Maltese community in Victoria.



BENNY SOLER - MCCV Community Award for his services to the community through his work within the MCCV

Benny Soler's involvement with the MCCV started in 1970, when he was elected to the Public Relations Officer position on the Executive Committee. Later on, he was elected Honorary Secretary, a position he held for 18 years, making him the longest serving Secretary of the MCCV.

Benny has been deeply involved in fund raising for the building of the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville which at the time was the top priority project of the MCCV. He worked tirelessly as co-ordinator of the committee for the 'Miss Maltese Community of Victoria Quest', which, over the 15 years of its existence, raised in excess of \$400,000 for the Maltese Community Centre Building Project

Over a number of years, Benny and his wife Helen, also helped to raise funds for the construction of the Centre by organizing a "Bric-a-Brac" stall in the "Annual Fête" organized by the MCCV. He also had the job of organizing annual raffles with big prizes to raise money.

2012 BISHOP JOSEPH GRECH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

RITA CATANIA - Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Scholarship Award



Rita has been involved in Maltese affairs for a long time. She is a very active member of the MCCV Youth Committee, recently named *AusMalts*. Their latest activity has been the setting up of a Facebook page and the design of an attractive logo.

Rita has also been involved with Maltese language classes, where she made several presentations in Maltese. She has been on interviews conducted in Maltese on the Maltese programme of SBS Radio. Through the Youth Committee, Rita will be involved in the running of the MCCV Children's Christmas party this year.

Born in Australia of Maltese parents, Rita studied Travel and Tourism Management and started her career in hospitality and travel. During the past

11 years she has been working in the sports entertainment industry. Rita is currently the Marketing Communications Manager for Country Racing Victoria.

Rita has kept her contact with Malta, which she has visited four times. This has helped her to keep up her interest in Maltese language and culture. In her view, "visiting Malta over a period of years was one of the best things that happened to me as a child, and then later as an adult." She continues to keep an interest in current affairs, through watching Maltese news on SBS TV and listening to Maltese radio programs on 3ZZZ, SBS radio and 97.9fm. She also likes to read The Maltese Herald to enhance her knowledge both reading and speaking Maltese.

Rita has participated in events and functions organised by the Maltese community Council and affiliated associations. On her visit to Malta as part of the scholarship, Rita will take every opportunity to familiarise herself with all aspects of Maltese culture. She will make sure that she shares her experiences with colleagues and other members of the youth group, particularly by posting regular contributions to Facebook. On her return, she hopes to be able to infuse other young persons with her enthusiasm for Maltese culture.

MALTA AND USA

EUROPEAN MONTH OF CULTURE IN WASHINGTON DC

by Malta Ambassador to the US H.E. Marisa Micallef

Saturday, 10 May 2014



On 10 May 2014, the Embassy of the Republic of Malta in Washington D.C. shall once again open its doors to the public as part of the eight annual EU Open House Day event.

However for the first time we will have an artist in residence during the entire day who will also be presenting an exhibition of her works. This Open House event has become a fixture in the Washington May calendar and is celebrated during Europe Week. Each EU Embassy, as well as the EU Delegation to the United States, participates and offers a rare inside look while providing a unique opportunity to experience the respective country's cultural heritage and national traditions.

The Maltese Embassy's staff will welcome visitors to the Embassy and will be on hand to talk about Malta's unique history and culture as well as other topics. As a special treat this year, the Embassy shall also host an exhibition of copper etchings on Malta's Neolithic Treasures by Marie-Therese Camilleri, thereby giving visitors a flavour of Malta's incredible 7,000-year history. For more information, please visit: <http://www.euopenhouse.org/>.

This year the artist Marie Therese Camilleri who recently exhibited her copper etchings in Gozo will also be presenting her work to the visiting public.. as well as talking about Malta's Neolithic heritage to the many visitors who come to our Embassy to learn more about Malta and Gozo.

Thursday, 15 May 2014

On 15 May 2014, the Embassy of the Republic of Malta in Washington D.C., in collaboration with the EU Delegation to the United States, will have the pleasure of organising a lecture by Kenneth Zammit Tabona, the Deputy Chairman of one of Malta's foremost performing arts venues – The Manoel Theatre – on Malta's baroque identity, tying in also with the Valletta International Baroque Festival, of which he is the Artistic Director.

The talk will be held at the EU Delegation.. and shall be accompanied by a small performance to be followed by a light reception. The performance of thematic baroque music shall complement this lecture perfectly and shall include a sonata by Michelangelo Vella. The lecture shall be organised through the EU Delegation's Conversations in Culture programme, which is a monthly cultural series held at the EU Delegation designed to highlight the diverse cultures of the 28 EU Member States.

This is the first time Malta is participating in the Conversations in Culture series and is an integral part of our celebrating ten years of EU membership. Our participation is a wonderful opportunity to promote cultural and artistic events that take place in Malta every year and are now part of our rich cultural calendar. Bookings for this event can be made through our Embassy.



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

NOSTALGIA - ANOTHER ONE FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS 1963 – 69

MALTESE MIGRANTS SETTLING IN AUSTRALIA



1963 - The Maltese Minister for Labour and Social Welfare, the Honourable Dr Alexander Cachia Zammit, MLA, visited Australia in August and September 1963. He was accompanied by the Permanent Head of the Maltese Department of Emigration, Labour and Social Welfare, Mr JM Rossignaud, and by his private secretary, Mr JL Bonnici. From September 9-12 Dr Zammit stayed in Melbourne where he discussed aspects of Maltese migration to Australia with State authorities and leaders of the Maltese community. In this photo Dr Zammit speaking with the Matron of the Maltese Government Hostel, Mrs Melita Trapani, and some of the girls. Left to right; Tessie Micallef, Mary Rose Borg, Melita Trapani, Carmen Xuereb, Josephine Conti and Doris Conti CATEGORY: photograph FORMAT: b&w negative TYPE: cellulose acetate STATUS: preservation material



1968 -Title : TITLE: Immigration - Migrants in the community –
Maltese mother wins contest for Australian visit - Mrs Filomena Vassallo from Melbourne Australia.

CATEGORY: Photograph PRINCIPAL CREDIT: Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) FORMAT: b&w negative TYPE: cellulose acetate STATUS: preservation material



1969 Title : TITLE: Immigration - Migrants in employment - **Farming - Maltese poultry farmer is on the Egg Marketing Board - Mr Sam Sammut from News South Wales, Australia. At Greystanes (NSW) which is called Little Malta there is a street called Gozo Road. Most of the residents were poultry farmers who migrated from Gozo, Malta**

CATEGORY: Photograph PRINCIPAL CREDIT: Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) FORMAT: b&w negative TYPE: cellulose acetate STATUS: preservation material
Date : 1969

I just wanted to say that I really enjoy reading the Maltese newsletter. Although I have a pretty hectic lifestyle (I am a journalist and researcher) I always make time to read your magazine. It has a great mixture of world news, local interest and heritage. Although I am half-Australian, it makes my half-Maltese heart proud to read it! So, to you and all the team - Grazzi hafna! Natasha Marsh

MINDING OUR MALTESE LANGUAGE



Technology is becoming increasingly fluent in Maltese, says Thomas Pace, executive director of the National Council for the Maltese language.

Does the Maltese language lend itself well to technology?

All languages lend themselves well to technology, and Maltese is no exception.

We are witnessing a digital revolution that is impacting society in general, and our means of communication in particular. Through various online tools and applications, gigabytes of texts are transferred every day around the world.

Language tools and resources, such as software, apps and mobile information services are constantly being developed. They facilitate e-learning environments, machine translation, speech interaction, social networking platforms and website localisation, among others.

Technology is also being used as a medium for people to learn a language in an innovative way, for example by means of digital games.

Contemporary technologies like laptops, tablets and smartphones give communication a new dimension. These communication developments have given rise to the relatively new research field of language technology – this is about seeking ways of how to make technological devices interact with humans using natural language.

Language technology is generally acknowledged as one of the key growth areas in IT, with large international corporations making substantial investments in this area. In Europe, hundreds of small and medium-sized enterprises have specialised in certain language technology applications and services in various languages.

Language technology allows people to collaborate, learn, do business and share knowledge across language borders and independently of their computer skills. One finds language technology solutions in many places, from electronic votes to reading texts and instructions on screen. When you use a spell-checker on your PC or mobile phone, there is a language technology programme behind it.

And yet, only few of these products understand the Maltese language. This is not because Maltese does not lend itself well to technology or because it is difficult to be programmed. Rather, it's because Maltese has a relatively small community of speakers and, therefore, a small market.

This makes it difficult for us to find readily available applications and open source software in Maltese – thus, every application has to be developed from scratch and tailor-made.

Malta is located in the Mediterranean Sea, just south of Sicily; the Maltese archipelago basically consists of three islands: Malta, Għawdex (Gozo) and Kemmuna (Comino). Their total population is almost 400,000. The largest island of the group is Malta, from which the archipelago takes its name. In 2003, it had a population of just over 388,867. Valletta, the capital, is the cultural, administrative and commercial centre of the archipelago. Malta is well served with harbours, chief of which is the Valletta Grand Harbour (Il-Port il-Kbir). Malta's international airport is situated five kilometres from the capital. The distance between Malta and the nearest point in Sicily is 93 km. The distance from the nearest point on the North African mainland (Tunisia) is 288 km. Gibraltar is 1,826 km to the west and Alexandria is 1,510 km to the east.

Circa 98% of the population are Maltese, and the remaining 2% consists of foreigners working in Malta and a few foreign residents who retired here. Besides the main islands, there are another two uninhabited ones, Filfla and Kemmunett. There are also the islets of St Paul (Selmunett).

With an area of 315.590 square kilometres, Malta has a population density of 1,257 persons per square kilometre, which is the highest in Europe. Because of its size and density, emigration was necessary, especially during the 1950s and 1960s. There are a good number of Maltese communities abroad, the major ones are found in Australia and Canada. There are other important Maltese communities in UK and in the USA. Earlier migrations can also be traced in Algeria and Tunisia, amongst others.

On 21st September 1964, Malta became a sovereign and independent nation within the Commonwealth. Ten years later, Parliament enacted important changes to the constitution and on the 13th December 1974, Malta was declared a Republic within the Commonwealth.

LINGUISTIC SITUATION

The national language of Malta is Maltese (Malti). Apart from being the native (majority) language, Maltese is also the official language of Malta together with English. Other popular foreign languages practised in Malta besides English are Italian, French, German and Spanish, with Italian being the most popular amongst the three. In fact, in the early 1900s, Italian was the more favoured tongue, especially by the cultured classes and Maltese aristocracy; more than the English language and even the native Maltese tongue.

Fundamentally, Maltese is a Semitic tongue, the same as Arabic, Aramaic, Hebrew, Phoenician, Carthaginian and Ethiopian. However, unlike other Semitic languages, Maltese is written in the Latin alphabet, but with the addition of special characters to accommodate certain Semitic sounds. Nowadays, however, there is much in the Maltese language today that is not Semitic, due to the immeasurable Romantic influence from our succession of (Southern) European rulers through the ages.

Il Cantilena is the oldest known literary text in the Maltese language.^[1] It dates from the 15th century (no later than 1485, the death of its author, and probably from the 1470s) but was not found until 1966 or 1968 by Prof. Godfrey Wettinger and Fr. M. Fsadni (OP). The poem is attributed to Pietru Caxaro, and was recorded by Caxaro's nephew, Brandano, in his notarial register (Dec. 1533 -- May 1563). Although written in Maltese, in Latin script, it was a very early Maltese that had not yet been influenced much by Italian or English, and as such is an example of historical Maltese.

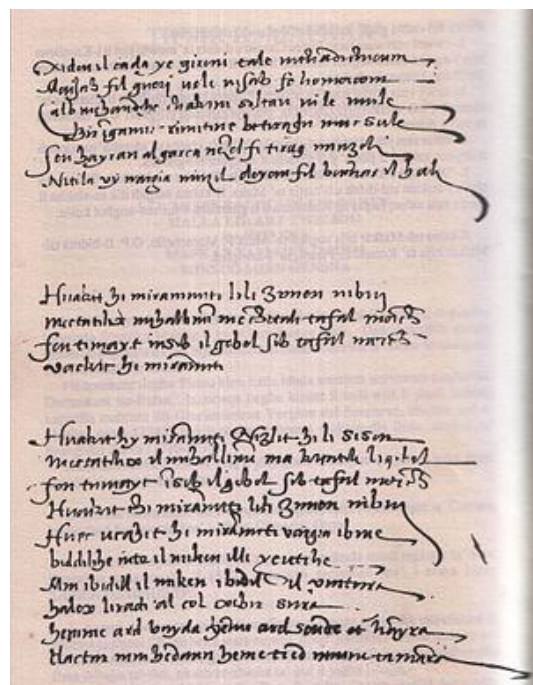
TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH

*But this, Friend of my heart,
I have; this God gave me,
this world in whose beauty
you see me now delighting.
Who said that it is heavy, and crawls
like a snake creeping on its belly?
See, how light it is,
How suddenly it leaps and soars;*

*And in the world that rises
from my heart to my mouth
pure, sweet and beautiful
even as my mother taught me,
As once in Valletta, as you still
today hear it in the villages
without trappings on its breast,
poor, but possessing all.*

*See how lovely it is
like a bunch of May flowers:
not sweeter is the fragrance
of basil and pennyroyal.*

The earliest known piece of literature in Maltese, Pietro Caxaro's 15th century poem *Il-Kantilena*, has been



A. Cuscheri O. Carm: *The Maltese Language*
A.J. ARBERRY *A Maltese Anthology* (Oxford
University Press, London 1960) p. 223-226

nominated for inclusion in Unesco's world heritage list, securing its conservation and accessibility. Formally submitted yesterday by the government and the Office of the Permanent Delegation of Malta to Unesco, this is Malta's first nomination for a literary work to be included in Unesco's Memory of the World Register.



The first Committee 1980: Seated from left: Alfred Sammut. ass/sec, Paul Grima Secretary, Louis Vella Vice President (Deceased), Reno Grima President, Vanni Armato Treasurer (Deceased), Joseph. F. Grima Ass/Treasurer (Deceased). Standing from Left: Charlie Grima p.r.o. (Deceased), Joe J. Grima, Emanuel Grima, Leli Galleja, All Committee Members, Anthony Vella Organiser (Deceased), Frank Grech com/mem, Con Briffa ass/org (Deceased), Frank Borg com/mem, Salvu Busuttil ass/p.r.o., Alfred Spiteri com/mem and Emanciei Vella com/mem (Deceased)

ST HELENA MALTESE-AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL CLUB - MELBOURNE

Date Club founded: 1980

Association Objectives. The main purpose for which the Association was formed is to celebrate the Feast of St Helena, the patron saint of Birkirkara, Malta.

Association History

The Maltese United Social Club, as the club was initially known, under founder Reno Grima used to celebrate this feast in 1979. At first he organised a Dinner Dance at Brookwood Reception and in 1980 he did it again but he organised a mass at the church of St. Mary Star of the Sea in West Melbourne. Three Maltese priests, Fr. Honoratus Galea, Fr. Joe Micallef, and Fr. Joe Briffa concelebrated mass and after the mass there was a procession with a picture of St. Helena in the church grounds.

Later all those attending the church festivities went to North Melbourne Town Hall, for a concert when Reno saw this, he organised a meeting at 2nd Ave Altona and he asked Chev. Joe Attard to chair the meeting. That was the beginning of our club. The First committee was formed and it consisted of 17 committee members with Reno Grima as President, Paul Grima as Secretary and Vanni Armato as Treasurer.

The Club has had 8 Presidents since its formation and 8 members of the committee who have since passed away, plus 2 Chaplains and Hon President. One of the big activities the club was involved in was the birthday party for Carmena Armato

who celebrated her 100th Birthday. The club invited her free of charge in conjunction with Vanni Armato and his friends. At the time it happened that the President of Malta H.E. Agatha Barbara was in Melbourne for an official visit, and we arranged through the Consul General in Victoria Mr. Frank Consiglio for her to attend.

Another one of the biggest concerts held at Broadmeadows Town Hall with Fr. David Azzopardi as well as Joe Joe Zepp. We had 2 shows in one day one matinee and one later in the evening which were a huge success. Sooner the club had organised a lot of functions, but the members were always looking for a feast day and the concert that we used to do at the show grounds which lasted until 2007. Now we have moved to celebrate St Helen's Feast at the Croatian Church and the Hall in Ardeer.

MALTESE MIGRANTS BOUND FOR MELBOURNE VICTORIA 1958



Fr Ben Azzopardi and a number of Maltese men before leaving Malta for Australia in 1958.

Leafing through pages of data, including the names of all those priests who moved to Australia over the years, Mgr Calleja said: "Malta is an emigrant's country, however, it has not only sent its people to other countries but also priests who used to take care of them."

Mgr Calleja, who has been working with migrants for many years, said a Maltese priest used to depart with every ship full of emigrants leaving the island some 50 years ago.

"Some of them decided to stay on," he said. The new immigrants had needed help, especially since many were illiterate and could not communicate with their families back in Malta without assistance.

"Soon after the immigration started we realised there was a big problem because they could not communicate with any of their relatives. The priests were very important in this area because they used to read letters and even write on behalf of Maltese migrants."

But staying on in Australia was no easy feat for priests who initially did not receive any financial assistance. "We tried hard to get them some assistance and they started getting AUS\$10 a month, which did not even cover their travelling expenses to visit the Maltese living in different areas of Australia," he said pensively.

Over the years some 200 Maltese priests have served in Australia, some of whom were the sons of Maltese migrants born on the continent. There are still several Maltese priests in Australia. Mgr Calleja said one of the Maltese priests - Fr Albert Fulbrook - left the island as a child migrant in the 1950s.



THE RSL MALTESE SUB BRANCH OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA IS WORKING ON TWO PROJECTS TO COMMEMORATE THE CONTRIBUTION OF MALTA DURING WORLD WAR ONE.

(Details in the next few editions)

I like your stories especially your old ones and would like with your permission to broadcast some of your articles naturally these will be done in Maltese For instance the one on Richard Curmi, we relied very much on this man those days. If you like this idea, please let me know, naturally we will promote your Newsletter and where we obtained this information. Regards Lewis Stafrace (Victoria)

MOUNTAINEERS HAVE SUMMIT TO DO



Adventure-seekers Matthew Xerri, Raphael Fenech Adami and Douglas Barbaro Sant.

After 12 days on the road, the Everest 14 team has finally approached base camp, the first step of their arduous journey to become the first Maltese to summit the mountain from the north ridge route in Tibet.

The team is made up of expert mountaineer Gregory Attard, who has already scaled the mountain from the southeast ridge route from Nepal, and three adventure seekers: Raphael Fenech Adami, Matthew Xerri and Douglas Barbaro Sant. It is the first time that the latter three will be attempting to

scale a mountain higher than 7,000 metres. Writing to Times of Malta, Dr Attard said the journey was put in jeopardy because of a delay in issuing a Chinese entry visa.

The team left Malta on April 4 for Nepal's capital Kathmandu, subsequently travelling to Kodari, the Nepalese border town with Tibet. On Tuesday they were in the Tibetan town of Tingri, at an altitude of 4,300 metres. "All the group has acclimatised well and we are now ready to move on. Today [yesterday], we will get to see the impressive north face of Everest in all its glory for the first time.

"The team is doing great, morale is high and everyone is now very excited and eager to start climbing," Dr Attard wrote. The team reminded the public to help the cause to raise funds for Id-Dar Tal-Providenza. They are attempting to raise €1 for every foot they climb. The target sum is €30,000 as Mount Everest is 30,000 feet high (8,848 metres).

The team will attempt the 15-hour climb to the summit during the first opportune weather window in the first week of May. To donate, go to www.everest14.com/charity.



Fr. Rob Galea is a Maltese-Australian ordained Catholic Priest and is currently serving in Shepparton, Australia after moving to Australia in 2007 from Malta, his home country. He is a singer and songwriter with a comparable international fan base. Apart from a series of recordings and CD releases, Fr Rob has also written a number of songs for various campaigns and international

conferences.

Fr. Rob has recorded with several renowned artists such as pop idol Guy Sebastian, Paulini, Gary Pinto, Natasha Pinto and Amelia Farrugia, and has shared the stage with the likes of Matt Maher, Hillsong United, Darlene Zschech and more. After being selected to sing in the international version of the official 2008 World Youth Day song, Receive the Power, Fr Rob entered the realm of the cast of musicians having performed in some key events before an estimated 500,000 pilgrims in Sydney.

Fr. Rob's passion is to draw others to the heart of God. He believes that music is an important instrument in helping people understanding the need for intimacy with God. Fr Rob has released six music projects to date. In all this, whilst greatly appreciating his gift of music, Fr Rob recognises that before everything he is a follower of Christ, a priest and only then, a musician. In 2008 Fr Rob, together with the late Bishop Joe Grech, founded the Stronger Youth Program – a series of youth retreats, rallies and small groups which are run around the Sandhurst Diocese, Victoria, Australia. By God's grace, Stronger is fast becoming one of country Victoria's largest Catholic youth movements.



"Queen of Victories" Maltese Community Council members are (from left) E. Grima, L. Monsigneur, L. Borg, J. Chetcuti, J. Monsigneur, Fr. E. Zammit, G. Borg (chairman), F. Brincat (secretary), J. Borg, C. Baldacchino, L. Baldacchino, C. Chetcuti, N. Zammit, and C. Zammit. Absent are Messrs. Cortis, Barbera and Furrugia.

The first Maltese Community Council of South Australia in 1981

DELEGATES FROM AUSTRALIAN VICTORIAN STATE PARLIAMENT VISIT THE MALTA CHAMBER



Malta Chamber Director General Kevin J. Borg and Policy Executive Marilena Gauci met with two members of the Australian Victorian State Parliament this year. Christine Fyffe, Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Andrew Elsbury, State Member of the Legislative Council for Western Metropolitan Region visited the Malta Chamber to learn more about the business opportunities between Australia and Malta.

Mr. Borg gave the Australians a general introduction about the workings of the Malta Chamber, explaining that the Malta Chamber comprised of three Economic Groups, namely Manufacturing, Services and Importers. He made reference to the thriving manufacturing industry in Malta, and also spoke in detail about the ever-growing services sector, with special reference to financial services, tourism, and gaming. Mr Borg also mentioned sustainable waste management as a possible niche market Australian companies could possibly look into, when deciding to tap

into the Maltese market. The same delegation met with Mr Curmi during a dinner held in their honour at the Australian High Commission.



YOUNG MALTESE REFEREES OFFICIATING IN ENGLAND



Article By: www.di-ve.com news

Following an agreement of collaboration reached between English Referees' General Manager Mike Riley and MFA Director of Refereeing Adrian Casha, two young Maltese referees are currently officiating matches in England.

Young talents Ishmael Barbara (aged 20) and Alex Johnson (aged 22) are this week officiating at the NIKE Youth Tournament for Premier League clubs being played this week at St George's Park, the English Football Association's National Football Centre at Burton upon Trent in Staffordshire.

Ishmael Barbara's first matches were West Brom vs Arsenal and Stoke City vs Fulham, while Alex Johnson was in charge of the Everton vs Newcastle United match. Other referees in the tournament are all from the English Premier League, including the well-known Howard Webb, Marc Clattenburg, Martin Atkinson, Mike Dean, Michael Oliver and Kevin Friend amongst others. Ishmael Barbara and Alex Johnson are being assisted by assistant referees and 4th Officials provided by the Cornwall Referees' Academy, while their performances are being assessed by referee observers from the English FA. Both Ishmael Barbara and Alex Johnson are currently following a two year Referees' Talent and Mentor Programme under the mentorship of former referee Alexander Spiteri.

Whilst visiting my mother Mrs Carmen Testa (OAM,QRM) she showed me the magazine that you publish. I write to thank you for the coverage of our Sisters history since the Congregation's arrival in 1956. We continue to minister to the Maltese here and also to those who may not be of Maltese heritage. May God continue to bless your work and dedication to the Maltese who worked so hard in this country and those who continue – like you, to instil the values of

As a friend and as the President of the Maltese Guild of SA Inc. (Maltese Cultural Centre of SA) very much appreciate your very informative news letter that you are producing as late, it does bring me and the Maltese Community World wide great memories, keep it up please you are doing a great job of it Regards to you. Joseph Briffa

