



**CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER**

**MAY 2014 FRANK L SCICLUNA - LINKING MALTA AND AUSTRALIA**

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## **PRINCE CHARLES TIPPED FOR GALLIPOLI 2015**



Australian authorities believe Prince Charles is likely to attend the 100th anniversary Anzac Day dawn service at Gallipoli in 2015.

The Prince of Wales is expected to join Prime Minister Tony Abbott on the Turkish peninsula on April 25 next year along with other Commonwealth leaders.

An official invitation is yet to be sent to Buckingham Palace but the Australian government intends to ask a member of the royal family to attend.

The Queen is scheduled to travel to France in June this year to mark the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings at Normandy.

But the palace in mid-2013 indicated Her Majesty would be scaling back longer overseas flights. Gallipoli services director Tim Evans on Tuesday said that was significant.

'I also understand that if approached the royal family would like to send a very senior member of the royal family, so you can draw your own conclusions,' Mr Evans told reporters at Anzac Cove. 'Prince Charles would be a very welcome nominee, but the decision is for the palace.'

The Department of Veterans' Affairs official added: 'In 2005, for the 90th (anniversary), it was the Prince of Wales (who attended).' Prince Charles has a strong connection with Australia having been a student at Geelong Grammar and subsequently visiting more than a dozen times.

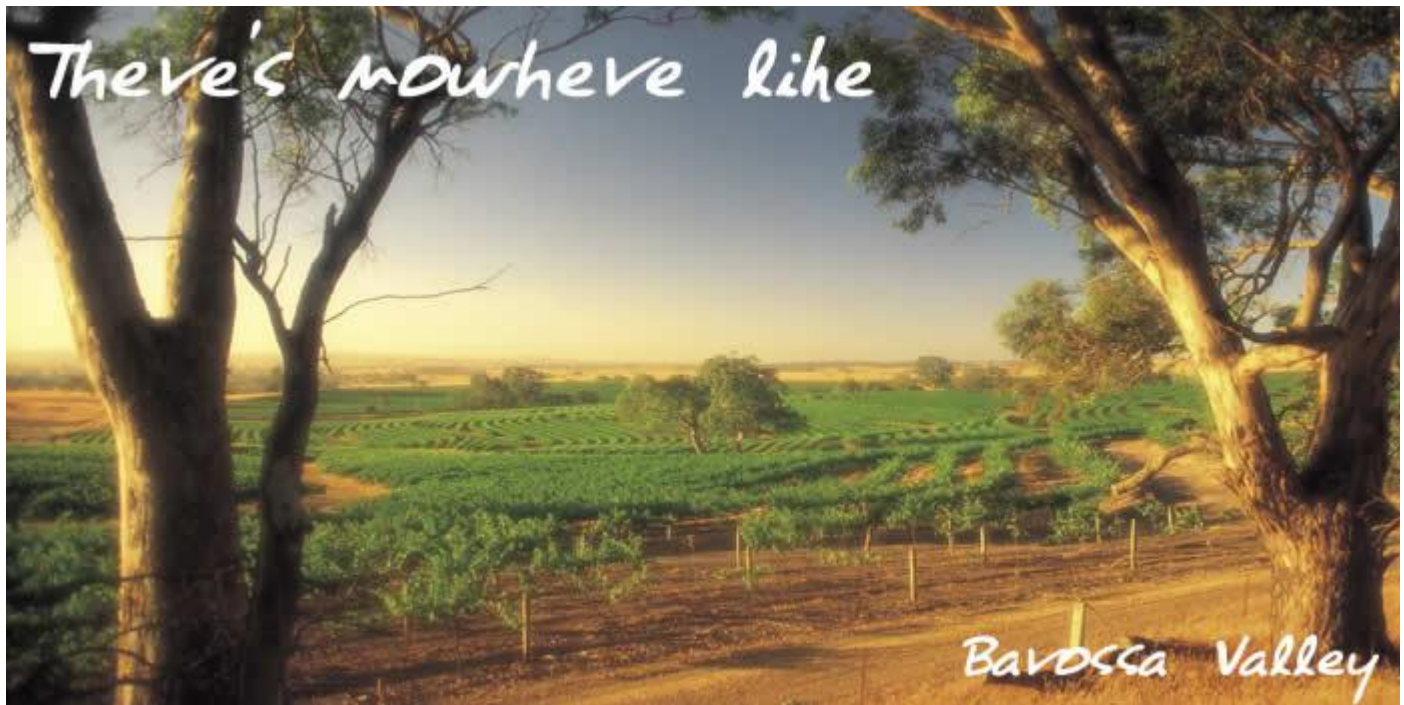
Mr Abbott is expected to be joined in Gallipoli in 2015 by New Zealand's prime minister. Canada and Ireland could also send heads of state while France is considering its options. Some 8700 Australians died during the eight-month Gallipoli campaign in 1915, while more than 2700 New Zealanders were killed. It's estimated up to 87,000 Turks lost their lives.



Prince William and his wife Kate will attend the Anzac Day parade in Canberra during their three-week royal tour Down Under in April 2014.

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

(Details in the next few editions)



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**THERE IS NOWHERE LIKE BAROSSA VALLEY – SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

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The Barossa Valley is one of Australia's major destinations, being known all over the world for its quality wines. A home to many major wine producers this area produces over half of the country's wine. To the east flows the Murray River which is one of the largest river systems in the world.

Irrigation introduced in 1887 transformed the northern section into lush paradise with a wide variety of attractions, from watersports to wildlife and of course delicious fruits and wine. The Barossa Valley was first settled by European Immigrants, mostly Germans, more than 165 years ago, and is now a thriving, world renowned wine community.

With around 500 grape growing families, much sixth generation, many continue today to supply nearly 60,000 tonnes of grapes to about 50 winemakers - including popular household names like Seppelt, Penfolds and Lehmann it's no surprise the Barossa is one of the world's leading wine regions.

The Barossa is the wine capital of Australia, a tranquil friendly place, where you can share a drink with the people who actually make the region's world class wines. The Barossa has a typical Mediterranean climate with dry summers and mild winters making it an idyllic place to enjoy a relaxing holiday in Australia's own wine region.





## **MALTA COMMEMORATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS ACCESSION TO THE EU**



Photo : DOI- Clifton Fenech

Speaking during a press conference with Fort St. Angelo in the background, Parliamentary Secretary for EU funds and for the EU Presidency 2017 Dr Ian Borg flanked by representatives from the Foundation for National Celebrations (FCN), revealed events planned in view of the 10th anniversary since Malta's accession to the EU.

The Parliamentary Secretary said that such celebrations belong to the whole-wide nation, not just to a single political party. He said the thought that national anniversaries belong solely to anyone in particular prevents us from understanding the historical background attached to these dates that have followed each other, and that represent our national identity.

Dr. Borg referred to the three personalities that have left their mark on these anniversaries namely; Gorg Borg Olivier, Dom Mintoff and Eddie Fenech Adami – three political figures that have shaped the history of our country in the past 50 years. The three of them were different from each other but had one thing in common, the love for their country.

The Parliamentary Secretary added that on the 30th of April we will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of Malta's accession to the EU at exactly the same time and in the same venue where celebrations took place in 2004. The political divide at the time does not exist any longer and today there is universal agreement that Malta is a European country as much as it is Maltese.

To commemorate this important day, FCN will be organising a number of events. On the 30th of April a special spectacle will be staged at the Grand Harbour area. Most of the event will be executed on water. Light projections on the bastions will feature prominently while choreographed fireworks will also be used during and at the conclusion of the spectacle. On the same evening, DJ Gareth Emery, one of the best ranked DJs of our generation will be giving a unique free concert. He will be joined by other local popular DJs including Carl Bee and J Joy.

## MALTA MAKES IT TO FINALS OF THE EUROPEAN WASTE REDUCTION AWARDS

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Ms Scicluna's work.

Joanne Scicluna, coordinator of Createhope, was shortlisted as a finalist in this year's edition of the European Waste Reduction Awards. She was nominated by WasteServ.

Ms Scicluna will be going to Rome in May for the award ceremony.

The awards are linked to the European Week for Waste Reduction, an annual initiative celebrated in November that brings together thousands of events from across Europe, all aimed at reducing the amount of waste produced.

In 2013 there were 66 events registered for the local edition. Of these, the most innovative and exemplary initiatives were recognised at the Malta Waste Reduction Awards, following which the six local winners were nominated by WasteServ to contend for the European awards scheme.

Joanne Scicluna had won a cash prize of €500 for her recycled jewellery, home décor and Christmas decorations among other items, all of which are created using donated items

or reused materials. Her voluntary activity tagged 'Createhope' is aimed at raising funds for *Fondazzjoni Suret il-Bniedem*, to whom she also donated her prize money.

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## **RARE LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD IN ITS JOURNEY NORTH**



The rare visitor, a long-legged Buzzard roosted for the second night at an undisclosed area in North Western part of Malta. This majestic large raptor soared high early on Saturday morning and headed north towards Gozo.

The Government said that the bird was observed circling over Qala in Gozo, before continuing on its onward journey North.

Officials from the Wild Birds Regulation Unit, who monitored the bird's location throughout its stay, ALE officers who patrolled the area, Birdlife Malta volunteers, who maintained watch and provided information to the authorities, as well as members of the

FKNK, who alerted the authorities regarding the bird's presence, bade the bird farewell as it continued on its northward migration.

The Government added that flocks of other protected birds were also observed over past few days at various locations throughout the Maltese Islands. These birds were also seen proceeding on their northward journey.

The Government praised all law enforcement officers, volunteers from Birdlife Malta and the FKNK for their efforts in ensuring a safe passage for migrating protected birds. "High level of cooperation between the authorities and NGOs, including hunting organisations and environmental NGOs is a key ingredient of success of enforcement in the field," the Government said.

## **MALTA DURING WORLD WAR 1 - ANZAC - 1914-2014**



Malta was justly described as the Nurse of the Mediterranean during WW1. In all 27 hospitals and camps were set up. The peace establishment of the RAMC in Malta in 1914 was 23 officers, 150 other ranks and 12 nursing sisters of the Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service.

On the declaration of war, the majority of regular RAMC officers were withdrawn from Malta for active service elsewhere, and replaced by four RAMC Territorial Force officers, four officers and nearly two hundred men of the 1st (City of London) Field Ambulance TF.

Malta had four military hospitals in 1914. The Military Hospital in Cottonera, Mtarfa Barracks Hospital, St Julian's Forrest Hospital with 20 beds used mainly for venereal diseases, and the Valletta Station and Military Families Hospital. There was

also a small military hospital on the neighbouring island of Gozo and the large Royal Naval Hospital at Bighi.

The first batch of 600 casualties from the Gallipoli landings arrived on 4th May 1915. Barges of wounded men were unloaded gently on to the quayside outside Valletta's ancient Sacra Infirmaria hospital, which can still be visited today. It was built by the Knights of St John in the sixteenth century and has one of the longest wards or halls in Europe. From here the wounded were sorted and moved on to the other hospitals around the island. Local Boy Scouts ran errands for



the soldiers, posting their letters and bringing them magazines. There was a cool garden at the back of the hospital where a weekly concert was held for the patients.

An additional 39 nurses arrived on 7 May 1915. A total of 240 medical officers, 567 sisters and VADs, as well as 1,760 men of the RAMC attended the sick and injured. In October 1915, a combined Franco-British force was landed at Salonika to assist Serbia in its war against Bulgaria. From Salonika came 2,600 officers, including members of the nursing services. Up to 64,500 other ranks were received at the hospitals of Malta up to August 1917, the majority arriving during the summer and autumn of 1916.

The casualties from Gallipoli and Salonika were initially treated at Malta and Egypt. In 1917, however, submarine attacks on hospital ships made it unsafe to evacuate from Salonika, and five General Hospitals were mobilized in Malta for service in Salonika so the number of beds in Malta fell to just under 13,000. The number of sick and wounded treated in Malta from May 1915 up to February 1919 was approx 58,000 from the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, and 78,000, from the Salonika Expeditionary Force. Not all patients survived of course. Private Donald Haldane of the Royal Fusiliers died of wounds received at Gallipoli and is buried along with the other casualties in Malta's Pieta Military Cemetery.

In June 1916, the medical personnel in Malta consisted of 165 medical officers, 403 nurses and 1,827 other ranks. In August 1916, 48 women doctors were sent to Malta. More lady doctors arrived in November 1916, bringing the total number of women doctors employed in Malta during the Gallipoli and Salonika campaigns to 80. In July 1916, an outbreak of malaria in Macedonia brought more sick to Malta.

To accommodate the weekly convoys the hospital beds and convalescent depot accommodation were gradually increased to over 25,000 by adding tentage to the hospitals formed in 1915.

In peace time and during the first nine months of the war the military hospitals of Malta were limited to the needs of the garrison and, excluding the Naval Hospital at Bighi, consisted of 300 beds. In September 1914, the already depleted regular RAMC staff was reinforced by the addition of a London Field Ambulance. It was not until the start of operations in the Dardanelles, in April 1915, that it became clear that more accommodation and staff would be required. By adding camps and huts by August 1915 there was accommodation for about 7,000 patients. By the end of August 1917, the total number of men treated in Malta was about 125,000.

The important surgical hospitals of Cottonera and Tigne and the infectious isolation hospital of Mtarfa each had their own fully equipped pathological departments. In the autumn of 1916, about 80 medical women arrived and their assistance was highly appreciated. The majority of the hospitals were under the command of territorial or temporarily commissioned officers. The last of the Gallipoli patients were evacuated in spring 1916.

The Salonika Expeditionary Force began to send casualties to Malta at the end of 1916. After June 1916, cases of malaria began to arrive in large numbers from Salonika. Dysentery cases went to Mtarfa. The epidemic of influenza of 1918 increased the beds to over 9,000 in November, but the sick were evacuated to England. By February 1919, fewer than 500 equipped hospital beds remained on the island.

Nursing staff and doctors often died in Malta from diseases while nursing patients. Most are buried in the Pieta Military Cemetery. Helen Margaret Batchelor Taylor worked as a VAD of the British Red Cross Society. She died from dysentery in November 1915 at the Floriana Hospital aged 42. Her death is also recorded on the [War Memorial](#) at Felmersham in Bedfordshire, and in Felmersham Church. During the summer and autumn of 1916 many cases of dysentery were admitted into Tigne hospital from Macedonia.

Two QAIMNS Staff Nurses, Frances Ethel Brace and Mary Clough, died of dysentery in the autumn of 1916. Staff Nurse Dorothy Watson of the Territorial Force Nursing Service died at St John's Hospital in March 1917. Dr Isobel Addy Tate MD, DPH, a member of the Friend's War Victims' Relief Committee operated by the Serbian Relief Fund was attached to the RAMC and died in January 1917 while attending the sick at Valletta Military Hospital.



*Events to Remember!*

## CONSUL-GENERAL IN VICTORIA RETIRED IN 2006

The Consul-General for Victoria, Clemente Zammit, has relinquished his post in 2006, bringing a career of 46 years service to an end.

He has been succeeded by Angele Azzopardi, who has been working in the High Commission in Canberra as Deputy High Commissioner.

Dr Zammit served in the post of Consul-General for 17 years. In fact, he was appointed Consul-General for Victoria on March 1, 1989. He relinquished his post on February 28.

A party at the Maltese Centre in Parkville to mark the occasion was attended by over 320 persons. It was organised by the Maltese Community Council of Victoria and its president, Maurice Cauchi, highlighted some of the outgoing Dr Zammit's achievements during the period of his service in Melbourne.



Dr Zammit had worked in the civil service in Malta for many years before deciding to emigrate to Victoria with his family in September 1983. This experience as an executive officer and later assistant head in the Department of Health in Malta was to serve him in good stead as it gave him a good understanding of how the service operated. He also had some useful contacts in the network although he did express his "disappointments related to uninformed interference by a bureaucracy occasionally intent on superficial window-dressing".

Dr Zammit's relationship with Victoria University led to hundreds of students, who would otherwise have been excluded from receiving tertiary education, successfully obtaining professional and even higher degrees, with a pleasing number obtaining Ph.Ds. In the words of the then Vice-Chancellor, Jarlath Ronayne, Dr Zammit used "every resource at his disposal to ensure that Victoria University continues to serve the local Maltese community abroad as well as at home". He was awarded the degree of Doctor of the University in October 2001.

The former Consul-General gave birth to the Consular Newsletter on the internet, which was a mine of information for those wanting to know about various aspects of life in Malta and in Australia.

In recognition for his services to the community, the Government of Malta awarded him the Medal for Services to the Republic in December 1999, thus becoming one of just a handful of Maltese expatriates who have been thought fit by the Maltese government to receive such an honour.

"The last 17 years have been an enriching experience beyond my wildest expectations, an astounding opportunity to be of service to my country of birth and to so many of its people," Dr Zammit said. "Regrets I have had, but not to the extent as to take the shine off an amazing journey."

These years heralded an era of moves in spheres as diverse as double taxation, health coverage, pensions, multiple-citizenship, the dissemination of information and the movement of people between the two countries. Reflecting on these measures and others, such as the recognition Malta gave in 1992 to those who contributed to the defence of the island during World War II, Dr Zammit concluded that it was an astonishingly productive and positive period.

"I now focus on getting the most of the rest of my life, enjoying the simple things and clearing the way for a calmer, less stressed routine," he said. As Prof. Cauchi noted: "Without any doubt, Clemente has been the most popular member that has ever graced the service of the Maltese consular corps in Australia".



## **MALTESE PIONEER IN AUSTRALIA**

### **THE LATE FATHER VICTOR BONELLO OFM CONV 1920 - 2012**

The Franciscan Conventual Friars are spread all over the world to testify for the truth and work in various fields and with different tasks. Even the Maltese friars contribute to this presence in the one big convent - the world. These friars are proud to be present in various countries while contributing to the cultural and religious growth of themselves and of other people. Here is the life story of a missionary who spent most of his life in Australia.

**Father Victor Bonello OFM Conv passed away on Monday, 6 August 2012 aged 91 years.**

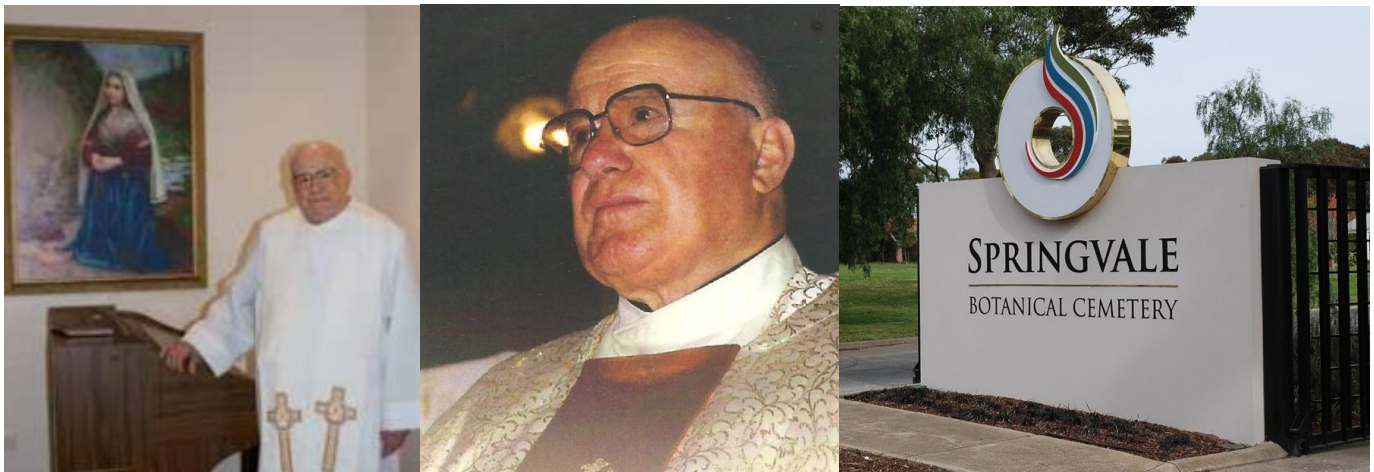
The Pontifical funeral service, celebrated by Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, was held at 11am on Tuesday, 14 August 2012 at St Joseph's Church, Springvale. A Franciscan wake service was held on Monday night at 7pm at St Joseph's Church, Springvale. The homily was delivered by Fr Eammanuel (Manny) Bonello

One of eight children born to Francis and Domitilla Bonello, Father Victor Bonello OFM. Conv., was born in Xagħra, Gozo, Malta, on November 29, 1920. Entering the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, he took his Simple Vows on November 9, 1941 and his Solemn Vows on December 25, 1944.

Ordained to the Priesthood on March 22, 1947, his first appointment was that of Director of the Franciscan Students and Master of the Novices in Malta and Gozo. He also made visits to Bona, Algeria, North Africa, to preach missions to the Italian and Maltese migrants. In 1956, Father Victor accepted his Superior's request and migrated to Australia on board the 'Castel Felice'. He left Malta on February 2 and arrived in Australia on March 3.

There, he designed and built the first underground church in Coober Peddy, South Australia, to protect parishioners from the heat which strikes the area. He also provided pastoral care to mining communities using a 4 wheel jeep. He opened two colleges, one in Kellyville and the other in Dingley, and was the First Parish Priest of the Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in Warrawong. He was also Parish Priest at Dingley and Springvale.

A linguist, teacher, architect and builder, Father Victor moved to Melbourne in 1983. Spending his last years at St. Bernadette's Aged Care Facility, he passed away at Sunshine Hospital on Monday, August 6, 2012, aged 91.





## **GREYSTANES - OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH (EST 1972)**



The Catholic community at Greystanes has worshipped in the area since 1836 when they were part of the large Parramatta parish established by Archbishop Polding. In 1946 they became part of the new parish of Wentworthville and in 1958, among chicken farms and market gardens, a primary school and Mass centre were built. The high school was started in 1962.

The parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace was established in 1972 with Fr Duggan as the first parish priest. He was succeeded a year later by Fr Darmania who, with a dedicated group of parishioners, built the church, which opened in 1975. Fr Galway together with his assistant Fr Sciberras continued the work of developing the parish.

The church was blessed and opened by His Eminence Sir James Darcy Cardinal Freeman on 20 April 1975. After extensive renovations it was solemnly dedicated by Bishop Bede Heather on 7 July 1996.

For 10 years until 1994 the brothers and sisters of St Gerard Majella built on these foundations. Sadly, this was also a time of pain and grief for some because of the offences of a few.

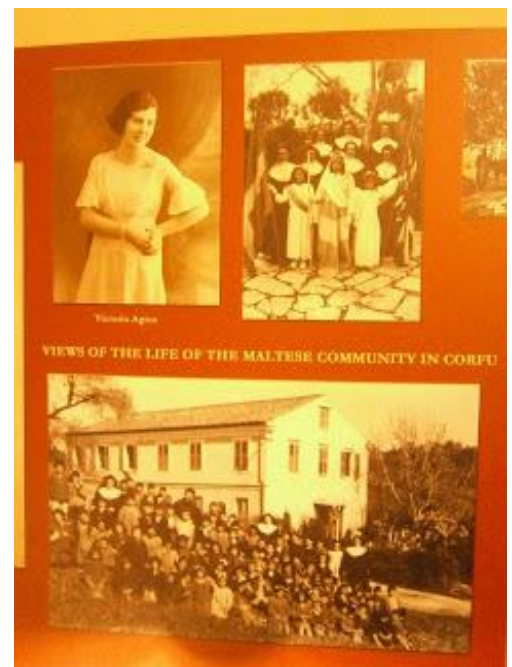
From 1994 till his retirement in 2010, Fr Gerry Iverson, in collaboration with the Parish Team and Pastoral Council, encouraged and welcomed the sharing of the various rich gifts of parishioners, which promote and enhance parish ministries. Fr Gerry died in 2012

"This issue is serious and Europe must take it in hand, immediately, because this is not a Mediterranean border but a European border."

Rome has repeatedly urged the European Union to take a greater role in policing the seas as two-thirds of migrants who reach Italy travel onwards to other countries in the region. The interior minister said 15,000 migrants had arrived in Italy by sea since the start of 2014.

Rescues over the past two days included one group of 1,049 migrants containing 91 women and three babies, who were spotted by a navy helicopter and a drone as their boats ran into difficulty. They were rescued by ships and brought to ports on the island of Sicily.

Alfano said that on Wednesday two commercial vessels alerted by Italian forces were aiding 661 people in distress and that at least one migrant on the boats had died during the journey.



## "MALTESE IN CORFU" - AN EXHIBITION IN THE PALACE

There was a very interesting exhibition in the Palace of Esplanade at Easter about the Corfiot Maltese Community. It demonstrated the history of the maltese immigrants who fled to Corfu from 1818 until 1832 invited by the then High Commissioner of the Ionian islands Thomas Maitland in order to help in the building of the Palace and other projects commissioned by the british authorities. The Palace had been built using maltese rock and the maltese people themselves by that time were famous for their building skills. Most of them lived in the neighbourhood named "Kotsela" which took its name from the island that most of maltese immigrants came from, Gozo.

Nowadays, the Maltese community is still quite big, there are more than 3000 people of Maltese origin living in Corfu. Most of them are christian catholics, they have hellenized Maltese surnames but unfortunately very few of them understand or speak the Maltese language.

Here are some photos from the exhibition which took place inside the Palace built by the Maltese immigrants almost two centuries before. The exhibition featured rare photos from the everyday life of the maltese people as well as more than a century old documents such as music scores, certificates, books, passports etc.

Everywhere you go in Corfu one can see some shops bearing "Maltese" surnames, hotels named after Malta or bearing Maltese surnames (Hotel Maltezos and Hotel Debono are only two of many), and tourist guide books proudly stating that some of the main historical buildings on the island were built with Maltese stone by Maltese stone masons.

The new Mayor of Corfu (who was incidentally elected while on our trip on the island and maybe our influence on the electorate contributed to his success!) is of Maltese descent. His name is Sotiris Michalef (Saviour Micallef). Though we could not meet him personally at the time since he was busy after being elected, he is well aware of the new interest being shown by the Maltese in this island and my contacts in Corfu assure me that he is more than willing to further these ties.

The Catholic Bishop is Iannis Spitieris (John Spiteri). In a country which is almost exclusively Orthodox in religion, the fact that Corfu has a Catholic community, most of whom are descendants of Maltese emigrants, is testimony to the vigour of the ancestral legacy.

## MERCEDES-BENZ FASHION WEEK MALTA OPENS

Malta's biggest Fashion Photography Exhibition. Sponsored by LOGOGRAFIX and various other sponsors. The exhibition will remain open till Thursday 10th May 2012 — at Pjazza San Gorg, VALLETTA

The first event of this year's Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Malta opened on Thursday evening at Pjazza San Gorg in Valletta. This consists of a fashion photography exhibition with no less than forty large format prints laid out around the square

The general public may walk around the posters all throughout the day and night as they are being illuminated until midnight every evening. The exhibition has been made possible with the support of Logografix and remains open until Thursday 10th May.

"We are very excited to open this year's fashion week with a free for all public event that's of an artistic and cultural nature", remarked Adrian J. Mizzi, the executive producer of Malta Fashion Week. Whilst most fashion week events are free of charge, an invite or ticket is generally required; however the fashion photography exhibition has been purposely put up in a public space that is freely accessible to anyone so that everyone may participate in this national scale event.

The Maltese photographers whose work is being exhibited are: Andrew Camenzuli, Bernard Polidano, Clint Scerri Harkins, Elisa Von Brockdorff, Jacob Sammut, James Galea, Karl Cutajar, Keith Darmanin, Kurt Paris, Noella Agius, Robert Attard, Steven Vella, Valentina Lupo, Will Camilleri, Dennis Calleja, Steve Muliatt and Tonio Lombardi. These are joined by a number of international renowned photographers namely, David Leslie Anthony, Julia Kiecksee, Raya



photographer, Bruno Sabastia, Jakub Kaminski, Stefan Bourson and Anja Collins and selected photographers from the University for Creative Arts UK.

Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Malta forms part of an international circuit of similar events around the world and is being made possible with the support of Mercedes-Benz, Estetika, Fimbank, Airmalta, Aldo Shoes & Accessories, and Corinthia Palace Hotel & Spa. The week of daily activities includes fashion shows from prominent and upcoming Maltese and

foreign fashion designers, cultural and artistic activities and parties, culminating at the Trussardi Jeans Malta Fashion Awards on Saturday 12th May at the MFCC in Ta' Qali. The Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Malta will take place from Saturday 24th May to Saturday 31st May 2014.



**NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALTA** - Department of Information (Malta)'s photo.

The George Cross Island Association - Malta Branch hosted an exhibition on World War II entitled "Lest We Forget" from 26 March until 19 April 2014 at the National Library in Valletta.



# **"LEST WE FORGET"** **WW II EXHIBITION**







## **26 MARCH - 19 APRIL 2014**

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## HMCS ONTARIO (CANADA) - THE SECOND WORLD WAR

### War in the Pacific and South East Asia - The Pacific, the Indian Ocean, and Hong Kong

During the Second World War in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, some Canadians and Canadian ships served with Britain's Royal Navy fighting against Japan. After helping Canadian soldiers reinforce Hong Kong in 1941, the Royal Canadian Navy returned in 1945 and helped repatriate Canadian prisoners of war.



CWM 19840132-040

#### HMCS *Ontario* in Malta

The powerful light cruiser HMCS *Ontario*, seen here in Malta, was commissioned into the Royal Canadian Navy too late to see action in either Europe or the Pacific.

*Ontario* completed working-up exercises around Malta and then steamed eastwards via the Suez Canal to join the British Pacific Fleet. The war against Japan ended with *Ontario* still in transit, but the cruiser met HMCS *Prince Robert* in Hong Kong. The two ships' crews helped restore order in the recently liberated colony, and helped with the repatriation of prisoners of war, including Canadians, from Japanese camps.

George

Metcalf

Archival

Collection



WALL OF HEROES: Royal Canadian Air Force Sergeant Lucien "Shadow" Brooks, shot down over Malta in the spring of 1942, is one of 55 Powell River men who did not return from WWII and is being honoured by Grant Workman's digital memorial. Photo courtesy of Powell river historical museum and archives

## THE MALTESE CONNECTION: THE R.C.E.L. MEETS ON A SYMBOLIC WWII ISLAND



Malta cares for veterans. So does the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League (RCEL) whose mandate is to provide a meal a day to the thousands of elderly veterans who go hungry across the commonwealth.

The Mediterranean island is also unwavering in her bravery. So much so that she is the only country to have ever been awarded the George Cross—the highest civil decoration of

the United Kingdom. Imagine, for two years the inhabitants of this tough little island stayed resolute while 30,000 bombs pulverized her buildings, and enemy submarines surrounded her shores and watched as people starved and died from warfare and disease. Between Jan. 1 and July 24, 1942, there was only one 24-hour period when bombs did not fall on the island.

Fortunately, Malta has survived, and so has the caring nature of the RCEL which held its international conference there in May. Many of those attending the five-day gathering have risked their lives helping disadvantaged veterans around the world—from the jungles and cities of Myanmar (Burma) to the squalid refugee camps in Lebanon, or in other trouble spots that don't welcome outside help. Just as the Maltese have remained loyal to the ideals of service and care, the RCEL has moved forward with exactly the same principles.

But there is a third player, a founding member of the RCEL that continues to give generously and faithfully. This year, at the 44th dominion convention in Halifax, Legionnaires donated almost \$200,000. Once again The Royal Canadian Legion (RCL) has contributed the highest amount on record to the RCEL, an organization that rose from the ashes of war with the solid belief that no serviceman or woman be in need.

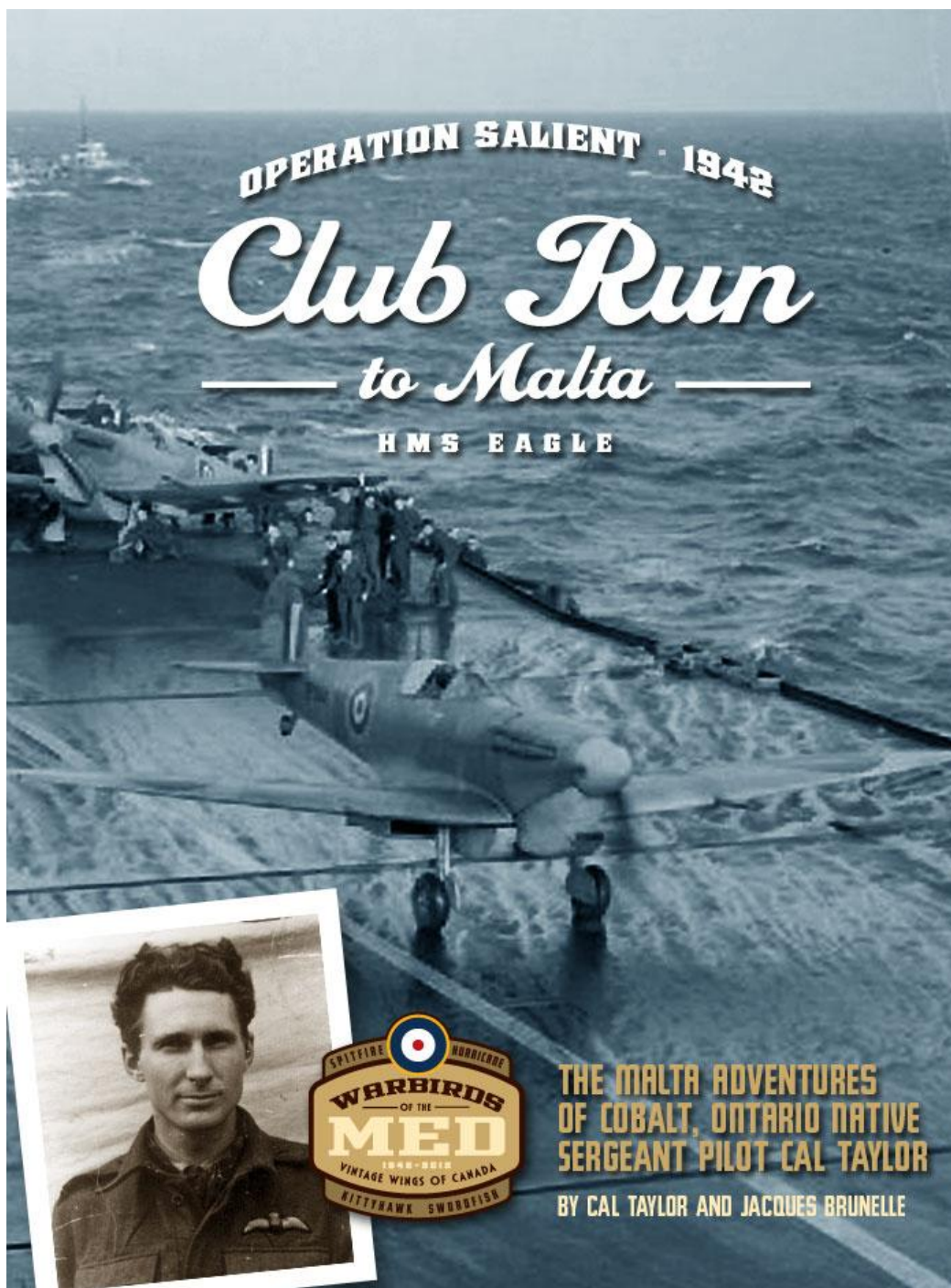
## FORT MANOEL

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This is another of the great fortifications of Malta. Fort Manoel stands on Manoel Island in Marsamxett Harbour, north-west of Valletta. Built by the Knights of Malta between 1723 and 1755, it was an active military fortification. It was passed to British control in the 18th century and also played an important role during World War Two.





The "Club Run" was an informal name for aircraft supply operations to the besieged island of Malta during the Second World War. During the interminable ordeal that was the siege, the Royal Navy and the merchant navy put together almost non-stop convoys to resupply the island with food, materiel and weapons. This included most importantly the supply by aircraft carrier of combat aircraft such as Albacores, Fulmars, Swordfishes, Hurricanes and Spitfires. These aircraft were flown off when they were in range, escorted by experienced Malta hands. Starting with Operation Hurry in August of 1940, the Royal Navy

(including USS Wasp) made 28 "Club Runs", ending with Operation Train in October of 1942, attempting to deliver more than 750 aircraft. Not all aircraft were launched or made it to Malta if they were, but enough were delivered to make the difference in the Malta air war. Here is the story of on such "Club Run", Operation Salient, told through the eyes of Flight Sergeant Calvin Taylor, a Canadian who was one of the 32 Spitfire pilots on HMS Eagle who made it to Malta on June 9th, 1942.

## MALTESE WOMAN WINS INTERNATIONAL CHEMISTRY COMPETITION

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Tessa Fiorini

Tessa Fiorini, a former student of the University of Malta and currently working as a casual teaching assistant in the Departments of Chemistry and Built Heritage, won the international Chemistry World Science Communication Competition, organised by the UK's Royal Society of Chemistry.

Now in its second edition, the competition attracted almost 100 entries from all over the world, with the quality of the entries being described as outstanding. The theme of the competition was 'openness in science'. Ms Fiorini's entry was entitled 'Connecting the Dots; The Birth of Modern Chemistry through Openness'.

She based her entry on Antoine Lavoisier, who lived in the eighteenth century and is considered to be the father of modern chemistry. He debunked a false, but predominant theory at the time known as phlogiston and replaced it with oxygen theory. Ms Fiorini's article shows that Lavoisier actually connected the dots between the experiments of others, who were too blinded by phlogiston theory to interpret their own discoveries correctly.

The competition involved a written entry, and a pitch to a large audience of academics, press and industry representatives. The full article is to be published in the May edition of Chemistry World.

## **60 AD - THE SHIPWRECK OF ST. PAUL ON MALTA**

*The experience with the storm convinced the ship's captain and its owner that they should not venture out to sea again until the spring. So Paul spent the next three months on Malta.* Below, satellite view of Malta showing the location of the bay where Paul is believed to have been shipwrecked; now named St. Paul's Bay in the apostle's honor. Malta, known to the Romans and Greeks as Melita, was located 58 miles south of the much larger island of Sicily and it possessed one of the finest harbors in southern Europe. With the defeat of Carthage in 218 BC, it became part of the Roman Empire.



Saint Luke relates two miraculous incidents that occurred on Malta. The first happened when the islanders built a fire for the shipwreck survivors to warm them against the rain and cold. As Paul placed a pile of brushwood he had gathered on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. The islanders saw the poisonous

snake hanging from his hand and assumed Paul was murderer. But when Paul shook the snake off into the fire, suffering no ill effects, the Maltese changed their minds and said he was a god.

"Islanders," literally "barbarians," the Greek name for all non-Greek speaking people. Far from being uncivilized, they were of Phoenician ancestry and spoke a Phoenician dialect, but were thoroughly Romanized.

The second incident occurred when Publius, the island's chief official, invited everyone to his home. Publius' father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery.

"Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him." Afterward, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured."



## Malta after Paul



After the time of Paul: In 870 AD, the Arabs took the island. In 1090, Malta was conquered by the Normans, and in 1530 it was acquired by the Knights of St. John (Hospitallers). The knights transformed the island by extensive building, and in 1565 they successfully resisted an Ottoman attack.

The knights continued to rule Malta until 1798, when it was taken by Napoleon Bonaparte. The British in turn captured it in 1800, and it became the headquarters of their Mediterranean fleet.

During World War II, Malta was subjected to heavy bombing by German and Italian forces, and in 1942, King George VI awarded it the George Cross for valor. Malta became self-governing in 1947; it was

revoked in 1959 and restored in 1962. Full independence was achieved in 1964, and Malta, which also includes the islands of Gozo, Comino, and the uninhabited rocks of Comminotto and Filfla, became a member of the Commonwealth of Nations and later became a member of the European Union. To this day, Malta reveres Paul's Name

## NOSTALGIA - IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE LATE DANIEL CARUANA OF ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### TRIBUTE TO THE QUEEN OF VICTORIES BAND - ZURRIEQ, MALTA



A group of Maltese/South Australians supporters of the Zurrieq Carmelite Society donated an Australian Flag and the South Australian 'Piping Shrike' to the Queen of Victories Band Zurrieq in July 1983. Mr Daniel Caruana was appointed the representative of the Zurrieq Society in South Australia

The photo above shows the flag and the emblem.

[From left] J. Schembri, A. Abdilla, Fr. Edward Zammit OFM, D. Caruana, Z. Caruana, T. Camilleri, E. Camilleri, C. Caruana, J. Briffa and T. Abdilla



## NOSTALGIA – FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS

### MALTESE COMMUNITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

#### MISS MALTA UNITED AND MISS PERSONALITY

The Malta United Soccer Club organised for the first time a Grand Ball in 1973 during which the Miss Malta United and Miss Personality were chosen. The function was held at the Greek Hall, Port Adelaide and was attended by over 600 guests. Miss Malta United was crowned by the then Premier of South Australia Hon Don Dunstan.



Miss Personality J. Zammit and Miss Malta United Doris Desira (Photo: J Darnenia)

### **SOCCER IN ADELAIDE**

#### George Cross Soccer Team 1953/55



Back Row: Joe Darnenia, F. Micallef, R. Flores, J. Mangion, T. Cremona  
Front Row: F. Seal, J. Micallef, P.Parris, R. Buhagiar, L. Monsigneur, T. Micallef

## HOW ABOUT A MALTESE MONOPOLY GAME!!!



Sabrina Mulligan, who came up with the idea of creating a local edition of Monopoly, with the first games that arrived in Malta in 2008. Photo: Chris Sant Fournier.

The first 5,000 boards of the Maltese version of the Monopoly game arrived in time for Christmas 2008.

The popular game immortalises Maltese people's habits on cards allowing players to buy popular localities, including Valletta and Mdina, and try their luck with customised Chance and Community cards.

The local game will feature several Maltese localities - including Mdina in Mayfair's place -

and four ports.

The customised SENDUQ **community chest** and IX-XORTI **chance** cards are featured Maltese traditions, including the age-old custom of carrying the statue during the village festa for which players will have to pay €100.

The localities and cards were chosen by a board made up of people from various sectors, including tourism, the environment, culture, the media and the property market.

The local edition has also a first for the Monopoly series: a special message dedicated to the Maltese people on the back of the box, Ms Mulligan said.

"The message is one that Maltese people or visitors understand," she said. The game is placing 22 familiar localities, including two in Gozo, on the table for make-believe property moguls to buy. The board game was translated into Maltese by author Trevor Zahra.

"We are proud to have created Malta's first board game and will keep making exciting offers and promotions to entice people to be part of this memorable experience and own a game," Sabrina Mulligan, the creator of the local game, said.

Here are a few examples of the **Ix-Xorti** (Chance) and **Is-Senduq** (Community Chest) cards;

- ✳️ Xtrajt rigal tat-tiegħ lill-kuġina. Ħalles €20. = Buy your cousin's wedding gift. Pay €20.
- ✳️ Mur In-Nadur. Jekk Tgħaddi minn fuq "IBDA" ħu €200. = Advance to 'In-Nadur'. If you pass "Go" collect €200.
- ✳️ Tat-taxxa jagħtuk lura €50 bħala benefattur tal-YMCA. = Receive a tax refund of €50 as a YMCA benefactor.
- ✳️ Ħallas €100 biex terfa' L-vara Tal-Festa. = Pay €100 to carry the 'Festa' statue.

The **properties of this Malta edition** are from **IBDA/Go** onwards:

**L-Imsida** - Is-Senduq/Community Chest - **Haż-żabbar** - **IL-Port Tal-Imġarr** - **Marsaskala** - Ix-Xorti/Chance - **Hal Qormi** - **Marsaxlokk** - Il-**Habbs**/In Jail - **IL-Mosta** - Tad-Dawl/Electric Company - **Birkirkara** - **In-Naxxar** - **Ix-Xatt Tal-Belt** - **Victoria** - Is-Senduq/Community Chest - **Haż-żebbuġ** - **IL-Birgu** - Free Parking/Tipparkja B'xejn - **IL-Mellieħa** - Ix-Xorti/Chance - **Hal Gharghur** - **In-Nadur** - **Ix-Xatt Tal-Kottonera** - **San Ġiljan** - **Tas-Sliema** - Tal-Ilma/Water Works - **Hal Balzan** - Go to Jail/Mur-IL-**Habs** - **Portomaso** - **Tigné** - Is-Senduq/Community Chest - **IL-Wardija** - **IL-Port IL-Kbir** - Ix-Xorti/Chance - **Valletta** and **L-Imdina**.

**DAN KOLLU GHAL LUM NISPERA LI HADT PJACIR TAQRA DAN IL-GURNAL – SAHHA U SLIEM**

**THAT IS ALL FOR TODAY WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED READING THIS NEWSLETTER – BYE FOR NOW**