



**JOURNAL FOR MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD**

**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**

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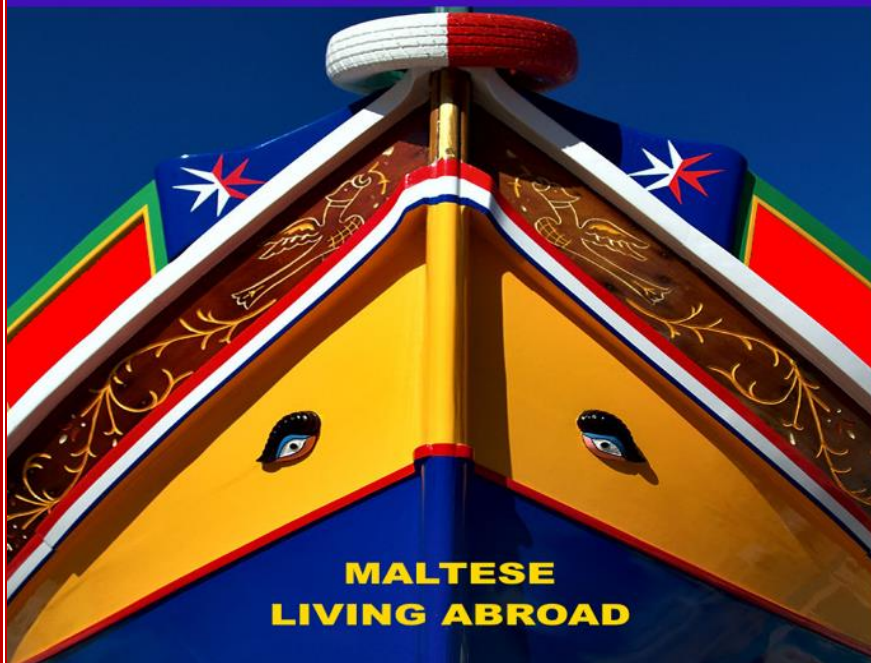


ANZAC CENTENARY 2015

## MALTA AND THE ANZACS THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

FRANK L SCICLUNA OAM  
HON CONSUL FOR MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**STRENGTH IN UNITY**



**MALTESE  
LIVING ABROAD**

## Women's Gippsland Netballers MALTA'S NATIONAL TEAM



Georgia Zammit  
Judy Buhagiar and Sienna Blair

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Mariella Baldacchino



Nicole Borg







The Order of Malta is expanding its projects in Ukraine to support the population. Since the beginning of the war one year ago, international and national entities and partners of the Order of Malta have distributed half-a-million hot meals to IDPs, provided 19,000 beds in shelters, as well as generators, trained 13,000 people in first aid, and transferred 16 ambulances.

Malteser International, the Order of Malta's worldwide relief agency, has announced it will increase programmes for psychosocial support and delivery of relief supplies, especially to the east of the country.

"Children all over the country are suffering from the war. Their psyche is changing. They can no longer think freely in a childlike way," notes Pavlo Titko, Head of Malteser Ukraine. The aid organization has been offering psychosocial support programmes in Ukraine since 2014. Because school attendance is not possible or only possible to a limited extent throughout the country, children and young people learn much less and less effectively.

Distributing generators, power banks, blankets, sleeping bags, hygiene items and food in villages and towns directly affected by shelling also means the highest risk to the lives of aid workers. "Something can happen with every transport to the war zones" Titko says. "But the will to support the particularly affected population is very strong throughout the country," he says.

In view of the first anniversary of the war, the Grand Hospitaller of the Order of Malta, Fra'

## War in Ukraine: The Order of Malta expands its support programs

Alessandro De Franciscis will pay a visit to Poland and Ukraine over the next few days. The Grand Hospitaller will meet staff and volunteers of the Order of Malta who have been implementing the many humanitarian projects.

In the first year of the war, Malteser International delivered 8,700 tons of relief supplies from Germany to Ukraine or neighbouring countries. Logistics hubs in Germany, Poland and Ukraine ensured reliable temporary storage and delivery of the relief supplies where these are most needed. The presence of the Order of Malta in Hungary, Romania, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania is ensuring round the clock assistance for refugees through medico-social projects, psychological support, delivery of healthcare and hygiene products, food, and shelter. The efforts made by the Order of Malta's Grand Priorities and Associations in collecting and transporting necessities also from outside Europe are also worthy and made possible by the Order of Malta's diplomatic network, which from the beginning of the war has been active both on the operational level to facilitate assistance projects and on the diplomatic level with appeals to the international community.

**"Unity cannot be built on fighting, insults, disrespect, and threats. This brings division, exclusion, and abhorrence".** Dr. George Vella Conference **"Hate Speech: Challenged in Schools"** organised by the Office of the President in collaboration with the University of Malta.



**Fr. Nicholas Dillon in Malta 2015**

## Revealing Jack's Gallipoli sacrifice

Michael Otto  
NZCatholic  
Dec. 2015 by  
**Fr Nicholas**  
**Dillon**  
**Victoria**  
**Australia**

As a child growing up in Winton, it was always a big deal to go on holiday to Dunedin.

*Fr Nicholas Dillon at the*

*Santa Maria Addolorata Cemetery, Malta — the final resting place of his Great Uncle Jack.*

We would stay at my grandparents' house in Kenmure Rd. In the spare bedroom hung a picture over the chest of drawers. It was a sombre image of a large stone cross in what looked to me like public gardens. I had no idea what it was, but the image remained in my memory.

In the same room hung an old photograph of my Great Uncle Jack — John Joseph Bryant. It pictured him in uniform and was a quiet reminder that he had gone to the First World War and never returned. John Joseph Bryant was the son of Joseph and Eliza Alves Bryant of Kenmure Rd. He had been a lieutenant in the Hibernian Defence Cadets and then a trooper in the Wellington Mounted Rifles. He embarked from Wellington on April 17, 1915, to join the New Zealand forces in the First World War in the campaign at Gallipoli. It turned out to be a one way trip. There, on the other side of the world, at the age of only 24, Uncle Jack died. The date was December 3, 1915. He had become ill and the medical records state that he died of enteritis.

Not much was said about Uncle Jack's death — at least, not much that I remember from my childhood. All I knew was that he died during the First World War and was buried in Malta. Many years later, I was researching the location of his grave. It turned out to be the Santa Maria Addolorata Cemetery. When I found some photos of the cemetery, I was suddenly transported back to my childhood, as one picture showed the exact image of the large stone cross surrounded by trees that had hung in my grandparents' house. It was then that I realised the photo was to commemorate the place where John Joseph Bryant had been buried — his resting place so far from home.

In January this year, 2015, I was in Rome to attend a clergy conference. Following the conference, I had

planned to go with other priests to spend a week on holiday in Sicily. It occurred to me that Sicily is close to Malta and, having realised that this year would be 100 years since the death of J. J. Bryant, I thought it opportune to make the trip to visit his grave.

On January 16 I caught an evening flight from Catania to Malta. The trip is so short that I spent longer checking in my luggage than actually in the air! As we descended into Malta, knowing that a relative lay buried on the island I had a deep sense that part of me was already there. The next day I made my way to the Addolorata Cemetery and searched for the grave. Eventually I came across the large stone cross marking the Commonwealth War Graves. It was quite an extraordinary sensation to stand before this very spot, so close to where John Joseph Bryant is buried, seeing in reality what I had seen in a photo as a child. I searched the tombstones and finally found Uncle Jack's grave. I knelt and said some prayers and pondered on how many family members never had the chance to say a proper farewell to him. On Monday January 19 I returned to the Addolorata Cemetery and at 11am in the cemetery chapel offered a requiem Mass for Uncle Jack's soul. It was a great privilege to be able to visit his grave; an even greater privilege to offer the true sacrifice of the Lord's Body and Blood for the soul of one who sacrificed his life for the good of others.

That evening, my last night in Malta, I attended a concert performance of J. S. Bach's St John Passion in St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta. I had lined up before the concert hoping I would be able to purchase one of the limited tickets. As it happened, a very kind lady came and offered me a spare complimentary ticket, meaning I got in for free and early enough to get a good seat.

Sitting in the beautiful co-cathedral, savouring the wonderful musical meditation on the Lord's Passion from St John's Gospel, seemed the perfect conclusion to my visit commemorating John Joseph Bryant. The translation of the final chorale was particularly appropriate:

"O Lord, let thy dear angels carry my soul when my end comes to Abraham's bosom; let my body in its resting chamber gently repose, without pain or grief, till judgment day! Awaken me from death, that my eyes may behold thee in all joy, O Son of God, my Saviour and my Throne of Grace! Lord Jesus Christ, hear my prayer, I will ever praise Thee!"

*Fr Nicholas Dillon is a priest of the diocese of Dunedin, New Zealand on loan to the archdiocese of Melbourne, where he serves as parish priest of St Philip's Parish, Blackburn North, Victoria, Australia*



Photo: Maria Stella Micallef

## MALTA IS NO LONGER A SAFE HARBOUR FOR THE MEGA-RICH

Over the generations Maltese harbours have been the sites of great conflict and action, used by pirates to launch raids on their prey, as a bloody battle site in the great siege and the destination of a life saving convoy. In recent years the harbours, surrounded by their medieval battlements, have become the favourite destination for owners of super yachts. Instead of a safe harbour for the mega-rich owners, who have become the target of European sanctions, Malta has become a dangerous base for the fleet of luxurious vessels moored in the waters of Malta's marina.

Malta has courted these wealthy one percent via the issuing of the *Golden passport*; the citizenship via investment scheme via an outlay of €1 million. American applicants have now overtaken the Chinese and Russian citizens applying for Maltese citizenship, but it is largely Russian oligarchs who moor their super yachts in the marina, under the battlements of Fort St Angelo. These luxurious vessels, which cost in the vicinity of €100m, have become the visible sign of wealth, by the holders of the special passports, who also own expensive real estate on the island.

Welcomed by Malta, as the government has sought to build its maritime business, Malta, which was once ranked in the top ten registries for maritime vessels, has moved into the top three, since the economic impacts of Covid-19 have flowed throughout the world. The transport minister announced a record increase that the register was the world's largest in 2022. An increase of over 51% in the registration of superyachts measuring over 24 metres, has resulted in over 1,030 such vessels, which now fly the Maltese flag.

This has led to owners with questionable business practices using Malta's maritime expertise and services. Tracking data found that the Mediterranean, including Malta, was a hotspot for the Russian oligarchs' superyachts, before Russia invaded Ukraine. Once the sanctions, arising from the war on Ukraine, posed a

. By Sean Richardson

threat to the oligarchs, several directed their ships to flee for safer destinations, keeping them at arm's length from the European authorities.

A superyacht, Ragnar, linked to a Russian oligarch, the former KGB agent Vladimir Strzhalkovsky, left Norway headed for Malta. If the EU decides to sanction Strzhalkovsky, it could put the Ragnar at risk of being seized by Maltese authorities.

A superyacht belonging to a Russian oligarch who purchased a

Maltese passport in 2018 recently docked at the Vittoriosa marina. The 70-metre Polaris, which is flagged in Malta, belongs to multi-millionaire Maxim Shubarev, head of one of Russia's largest financial and industrial associations. When the first sanctions went into effect, Polaris, which was then docked in Malta, abruptly pulled anchor and headed for Turkey. It is not only the Russians who like to sail their ships into Malta.

A €80m superyacht, owned by Indian multimillionaire Vijay Mallya, a co-owner of the Force India Formula One team, was impounded in Malta in a dispute over the businessman's failure to pay the crew of 40, more than \$1m in wages. Mallya abandoned the vessel and was arrested in London over allegations he supported his F1 team with money-laundered cash.

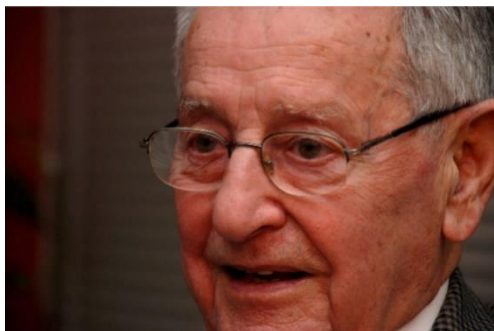
Several other lavish super yachts associated with Malta, either flying under the Maltese flag or being docked in Malta before hurriedly leaving, have recently been in the news. Super yachts have been seized in Gibraltar and the Caribbean, where they are in the process of being auctioned off.

Go to Marsaxollok to see the colourful luzzu, ride a dgħajsa on the grand harbour or visit Birgu marina to witness the wealth personified by the super yachts. But be quick as the super wealthy move their expensive toys to safer waters





## Karin Grech's Father Edwin Dies at 94



**PROF. EDWIN GRECH**, the former Labour minister and father of murdered teenager Karin Grech, has passed away. Edwin Grech, the former Labour MP and father of murdered teenager Karin Grech has passed away at the age of 94.

The announcement was made by Grech's nephew, Opposition leader Bernard Grech, on Facebook.

"A person who left everything behind and who not only gave his knowledge but also his family because he believed in an ideal... a person who only did good and this was paid back in the worst possible way, the murder of his beloved daughter Karin," Bernard

Grech wrote in a tribute to the gynaecologist.

Prime Minister Robert Abela also saluted Edwin Grech's memory, saying that what he did for the country will never be forgotten. "A person who gave everything for his country and his patients... he did this in his profession and as a politician. He made big sacrifices and because he put others before his own interests ended up paying the price with the murder of his daughter Karin."



**Karin Grech was killed in December 1977**

**Who was Karin Grech and what happened on that fateful day?**

Karin Grech was born in London in 1962 to Edwin Grech, a Maltese gynaecologist who had migrated to the UK, and Pearl Grech nee Bryant, his English wife. Her brother Kevin was born five years later.

In August 1977, Prof. Grech travelled to Malta for a summer holiday with his family but the political climate in the country was anything but peaceful at the time.

Malta's government passed a law that obliged all newly graduated doctors to work in the public health service for two years before receiving their warrant and setting up a board to vet new doctors.

It was during this time that the government asked Prof. Grech to head the obstetrics and gynaecology department at St Luke's Hospital. He agreed to remain in Malta and carry out this role until the industrial dispute came to an end.

On 28th December 1977, at 12.30pm, a brown envelope containing a package in Christmas wrapping was posted to Prof. Grech at his San Ġwann home. Karin spotted it, assumed it was a late Christmas present, and opened it up.

**The 'present' turned out to be a bomb, which exploded in Karin's face in front of her brother's eyes. She died in the hospital half an hour later.**

Another of the few Maltese doctors who refused to strike, then Labour MP Paul Chetcuti Caruana, also received a bomb parcel at his house on the same day but it failed to detonate. Unfortunately, no one was ever charged or convicted of Karin's murder.

**The policy of the Maltese journal is to stay away from politics. If you want to read about Malta politics go to the newspapers on line.**

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**THE HISTORY OF MALTESE EMIGRATION IS A SPECIAL PART OF THE HISTORY OF MALTA**





Together with the SCJ Teenage Boys Singers, Henn Ghalina features the male section of Schola Cantorum Jubilate.

Schola Cantorum Jubilate consists of four different choral groups. One of these is the Schola Cantorum Jubilate Teenage Boys Singers (SCJTBS) which emerged from the SCJ Children's Choir (SCJCC) founded in 2017.

As the children grew, their voices changed, requiring more specialist training to safeguard and strengthen their singing abilities.

Together with the SCJCC, the Teenage Boys Singers participated successfully in various performances, including Joseph Vella's opera for children, Bo Peep, Once upon a Song, and Tisbit with young percussionists from the Clef House and the Box.

Henn Ghalina is the first concert specifically curated for the Teenage Boys Singers and promises to be a true showcase of their talent and choral technique. On Friday, the 24th of March, they will bring to life well-known and newer compositions written or arranged specifically for them.

The deep and rich basses, the powerful tenors, and the smooth baritones will all come together in a special performance and concept that's new to SCJ "and you, our beloved audience!"

The choir will be accompanied by Gino Mulè Stagno on the organ, Anna Magrin on the piano and Fiona Murphy on the cello, all under the direction of SCJ Choir Conductor Marouska Attard.

"Lent has been and still is an inspiration for many composers," notes Marouska. This means that there are many wonderful works to choose from, making developing a repertoire even more challenging."

She added that, "the programme we curated has at its core passages from the Holy Scripture, sung as motets and Gregorian chants. We included hymns many of us hear and sing during Lent, like O Gesu tal-Akbar Hniena, treated with great care by SCJ's

## Henn Ghalina – Lenten Concert with Schola Cantorum Jubilate choirs

gozresident composer Paul Portelli to make it accessible for the choir."

The repertoire features additional pieces focused on penitence, prayer and in exalting God, including Crux Fidelis, O Bone Jesu, Adoramus Te, In Monti Oliveti, Pie Jesu, and This Cross, penned by various composers, including Mummert, Lightfoot, Behnke, Pergolesi, Martini, Ravello, Grancini, Hutchings, Nelson and Patterson.

The concert also fittingly includes Henn Ghalina composed by Fr Albert Borg with lyrics by Oliver Friggieri and adapted for this concert by Portelli. Additionally, Baritone Albert Buttigieg will sing the prayerful aria It is Enough! O Lord from the oratorio Elijah by Mendelssohn.

Marouska explained that "the idea behind this concert was to provide our young aspirants and enthusiastic male singers with a platform to sing sacred music. Lent is the perfect time to indulge in this type of music and an opportunity to weave in the Word, helping our audience explore it through a carefully curated repertoire."

The concert goes even further in placing the limelight on an often-overlooked Church, that is in itself also a work of art. In this case, the location is not simply a geographical marker – it is as equally important as the music and the choristers.

The tranquillity and architecture of the Ghasri Parish Church, built in 1903 and dedicated to the Corpus Christi, add depth and meaning to a concert held under the contemplative gaze of Lazzaro Pisani's The Last Supper.

Join SCJ at Ghasri Parish Church at 7.30pm for a powerful Lenten experience with hymns, Gregorian chants and contemporary choral pieces intertwined with selected passages from the scriptures, poetry and literature. Entrance is free and no booking is required.

Henn Ghalina concert is being organised in collaboration with the Ministry for Gozo.

*Photos: Top – Seized Moments Photography by Christian Balzan - GOZO.NEWS*



### ***MALTA AND THE NSW UMBRELLA BOD***

The history of Maltese settlers dates back to 1811 when two former private soldiers of the Royal Regiment of Malta named Farrugia and Spiteri, who were convicted of desertion and transported to Sydney on the Admiral Gambier. Over time and mostly in the 50's immigrants from Malta embarked on numerous ships travelling to Australia. Many Maltese born settled in NSW, working and raising their families and making a new life in Australia. In the 1960 's many groups and associations were formed as Maltese felt

more settled, celebrating their town feasts and culture. Some of them were established to preserve and teach the Maltese language, history and culture. It was imperative back then that a channel between Malta and Australia was required as to convey information and changes with the assistance of the diplomats who were appointed by the Maltese government.

In 1967 a community council was formed "with the primary aims to promote and lobby for the interests of the Maltese community of NSW".

This is an important connection as rules and conditions changed over time between the Maltese and Australian Government. Some associations that were formed by several members of the community are not affiliated with the Council and this notion raised some questions recently. How are we to benefit when this non-profit organisation is an umbrella for affiliated Maltese association? Then one asks how are these associations and groups not affiliated with the Council are best served?

In recent times an inclusive movement was formed with the primary aims to promote and lobby for the interests of the wider Maltese community of NSW.

This Group clear agenda is to help and assist anyone seeking assistance and to open an effective dialogue between the communities and the diplomatic corps and the Maltese Government.

Where too from here? And how critical changes are needed?

Best outcome will be holding a meeting of all stakeholders, coming together at a neutral place to formulate a plan going forward before more harm is done. Who is going to push the button first?

Correspondent. NSW, Australia

*Once again, you have produced an amazing newsletter. It is one full of colour, interesting articles and photos, giving so much news and information about our wonderful people. It also has its very sad and sobering articles about things which should never have happened. Mostly the newsletter is always one of joy and happiness and good things that people do and say so it is sad to read some disturbing articles as well. The thing is – they are real - they did happen and the long-lasting effects have changed and saddened many lives. Thank you so much for all the hard work you put into these newsletters. I am sure they are read by so many readers around the world and appreciated as I do. My very kind regards from Queensland, Australia Marion*

What a magnificent journal. This is the only link that binds all the Maltese living abroad. We are very grateful to you for keeping us connected. I wish your journal would every success and may it be officially recognised by the authorities in Malta. Keep on sending information that is of interest to us Maltese living abroad. I learn so much from your journal and read information that I have never knew before. It's colourful and superbly present and non-political. Everybody loves it. John Galea – USA.

*We are sorry we have never written to you before. We have been receiving this journal for over 4 years without fail. I thank you wholeheartedly for your great and continuous support. You are a friend of all Maltese living abroad and you always praise and acknowledge the successes of the Maltese organisations and individuals and I have never read any criticism or any unkind word about others. We always look forward to receiving THE MALTESE JOURNAL. God bless you - Mary and Peter Anderson – Victoria, Australia*





## SENDING KOREA A MEOW FROM MALTA

Starting a fresh week with some happy news.

Cats of Malta is an Official Selection at the [20th SEOUL International Eco Film Festival](#) and will enjoy its Asian premiere in Korea come June. The feline focused doco is screening as part of the Dear Our Animal Friends section (non-competition).

There is no set date for the screening as yet, but there will be soon.



The Cats of Malta film festival run is almost at an end, an oddly enough the European story has had no festival screenings in Europe.

By June the festival run will all be over and we will continue to simply focus on the release and partnerships for the live and virtual screening options. Has this been the slowest feature film release ever? It sure feels like it!

Until we have more news, take care out there. Sarah Jayne & Ivan Malekin



## MALTESE CYCLING FEDERATION

Recently the senior officials John Zammit, Joe Bajada, and Daniel Borg Olivier, President, General Secretary, and Treasurer respectively of the Maltese Cycling Federation attended the 35th Congress of the UEC in Prague, in the Czech Republic. Among others, they had a private meeting with the senior officials of the European Cycling Union where it was established the visit among us in the coming weeks of Enrico Della

Casa and Alasdair MacLennan, President and Secretary General of the UEC. During their visit, they will see how the same UEC can help to improve the BMX Outdoor Track sports facilities so that international competitions can be held in Malta.

Apart from their participation in the Congress, Joe Bajada, as President also led a meeting of the Commission of Small Countries of the UEC where he was assisted by the President Enrico Della Casa (Italy) and the Secretary-General Alasdair MacLennan (Great Britain). All other members Walter Baldiserra (San Marino), Camille Dahm (Luxembourg), and Bjarni Mar Svavarsson (Iceland) also took part. Bajada presented a program full of strategy, goals, training, creating more international cycling races, as well as many other recommendations. This program was highly appreciated and complimented.

Meanwhile, in the coming days, the UCI-WCC Mechanic Course Level I (online) will be held, which course will be financed by the Solidarity Commission of the UCI and this with the initiative of the same Bajada which is also a member of this same International Commission.



## Photos of early British sports in Malta



Maltese men and women pose in tennis gear, 1930s.



Winners of the Holman Shield - Malta 1914



Cricket team in Malta 1920s



Cricket in Malta in the 1880s

British tennis rubbed off on the Maltese too – it remains as popular today as it was with the garrisons in the Victorian era

**Giovanni Bonello**

Maltese men and women pose in tennis gear, 1930s.

During the colonial era, thousands upon thousands of British servicemen lived in Malta, many with their families. Soldiers, sailors and, later, airmen spent interminable periods here. No surprises that many found comfort in sports – those familiar from home. This feature focuses on three: polo, cricket and tennis.

British tennis rubbed off on the natives too – it remains as popular today as it was with the garrisons in the Victorian era. The manicured garden planted by the grand masters in the upper courtyard in the Palace, Valletta was vandalised to turn it into a tennis court for the delectation of the governor's guests. The first formal Maltese Tennis Federation saw the light in 1920.

Polo enjoys a distinguished heritage and Malta claims the second oldest club in the world,

*All images from the author's collections.*

[Photos of early British sports in Malta \(timesofmalta.com\)](http://timesofmalta.com/photos-of-early-British-sports-in-Malta)

[http:// timesofmalta.com/articles/view/early-british-sports-malta.1018944](http://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/early-british-sports-malta.1018944)

founded in 1868, possibly as the result of the British cavalry regiments stationed on the island. The Prince of Wales, later Edward VIII, played polo at the Marsa in 1921, so did King Alfonso XIII of Spain in 1927 and Prince Philip during his long stays here.

Polo gave rise to a nasty diplomatic incident before Independence. Lord Louis Mountbatten missed some horses for his polo team and wanted to help himself to those in the stables of the local mounted police. When prime minister George Borg Olivier came to know, he put his foot down. That earned him Mountbatten's everlasting enmity.

The most British of all sports, cricket, flourished in Malta, mostly among empire servicemen who built pitches in Marsa, Floriana, Kalafrana, Pembroke and Ta' Qali. Nelson's sailors played cricket here, it is claimed, in 1800. In the game's heyday, Maltese stars like Victor Miller, Harry Samuel and Tommy Costa distinguished themselves.

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## Korea-based Maltese filmmaker touring islands with new film



**Michaela Pia Camilleri**

-Photos: Franco Rizzo - newsbook.com

Franco Rizzo, a 35-year-old Maltese expat and indie filmmaker, will be touring the islands and showcasing his new film 'Night Owl' – the last film in his series 'Seoul Stories'.

The **series** comprises of a set of stories on Seoul, the capital of South Korea, which has been the artist's home for the past three years.

His latest film 'Night Owl', shot in Seoul, tells the story of a Maltese expat on his last night in Seoul who is extremely hesitant to return home, as he is anxious and uncertain about his future in Malta. He is forced to make a crucial decision – will he stay in Seoul or take his flight back to Malta?

The film features Maltese dialogue with English subtitles, and songs by Maltese artists Djun, Kym Pepe, 1905, Michael Azzopardi and Eddie Fresco.

Asked whether the film reflected his own personal experience, Franco Rizzo described the film to this newsroom as "semi-biographical", going on to quote South-Korean director BongJoon-Ho who says that "the most personal is the most creative."

Rizzo said that in the making of his film, he was certainly inspired by the anxiety he felt when coming back home, and the prospect of losing all that he had built back on the Korean peninsula. Rizzo said that he hopes that his film creates some discussion, particularly on the problems that are driving away people from the very country they were born in.

The filmmaker will be discussing the issue of brain drain in the country following one of his upcoming screenings on 10 February at Moviment Graffiti's premises in 67, Strait Street, Valletta. More information may be found [here](#).

[www.facebook.com/events/1246093712783095?ref=newsfeed](https://www.facebook.com/events/1246093712783095?ref=newsfeed)

Other screenings are planned in the coming months.



### MALTA HIGH COMMISSION IN CANBERRA *CONSUL-ON-THE-MOVE*

The High Commission of Malta is preparing for this year's COTM visits for Australia and New Zealand.

Applicants who wish to receive consular service(s) during COTM need to fill in the form using this link by not later than 14 April 2023 - <https://rb.gy/1fcswr>

Please note that dates have not been established yet! Dates will be published at a later stage, once the High Commission establishes enough interest in COTM services. If you find any difficulties filling up the form, kindly contact us on [consul.canberra@gov.mt](mailto:consul.canberra@gov.mt)





## Gippsland netballers to try out for Malta's national team ahead of European Netball Championships

ABC Gippsland By Madeleine Spencer

Latrobe Valley netballers to try out for the national Malta team (*Madeleine Spencer*)  
When Sienna Blair first started playing netball for an under-11 team in Victoria's

Latrobe Valley, she never imagined she could one day play on the world stage.

But now at 18, she and her cousin, Georgia Zammit, have the opportunity of a lifetime to try out for Malta's national netball team and potentially play in the European Netball Championships in May. "I can't wait to soak it all up and be able to ... be in the vicinity of elite athletes. "It's going to be a very good experience," Ms Blair said.

Both young women from the Latrobe Valley in the state's east play A-grade netball for Morwell East in the Mid Gippsland Football Netball League, with Ms Zammit captaining the team.

Ms Blair said she's been doing more training, gym work and running in preparation for the try outs. (*ABC Gippsland: Madeleine Spencer*)

While playing for Malta's national team was not something Ms Blair ever dreamed of, her mum has always been always a big supporter. "She was always saying, 'Oh, if you keep going with your netball, you never know you could play for Malta'. But I [didn't think] I would ever get to that stage. But here I am," she said.

**Family connection** The women qualify to try out for the team due to their family connection to the country.

Ms Blair's grandparents are originally from Malta and Ms Zammit's dad is Maltese.

"It's huge in terms of family, I know my nanna will be sitting at home cheering us on if she can watch virtually and ... from a family point of view it's something that everyone [is] excited by," Ms Zammit said.

Georgia Zammit says she's excited to meet people and develop friendships as well as learn more about the sport she loves. (*ABC Gippsland: Madeleine Spencer*)

"[It's] amazing [to have] the opportunity to be able to play not just for my country, but also to be able to meet new people and learn and grow as a netballer."

Ms Zammit said she hoped to bring some of the skills and training she would get overseas back to her home club in Gippsland.

"Predominantly, I'm excited to be able to meet people, develop friendships, but also to be able to grow and understand from a different perspective how they play the game," she said.

She also hoped the experience might open doors for other players to pursue netball overseas.

"I think there's a real opportunity [here to] expand opportunities and pathways for other young Maltese women who are playing that may not have been considered for an Australian team but may be able to explore other avenues."

Judi Buhagiar says she has had these girls in mind for a while to potentially play on the Malta side.

### Meet the brains behind the plan

Traralgon resident Judi Buhagiar, who mentors Malta's head coach, raised the idea of bringing girls with Maltese heritage from Australia over to the national team.

"They're sacrificing quite a bit, they've taken personal leave from work, as I will be if I go over so they'll be gone for about six weeks [if they make the team]."

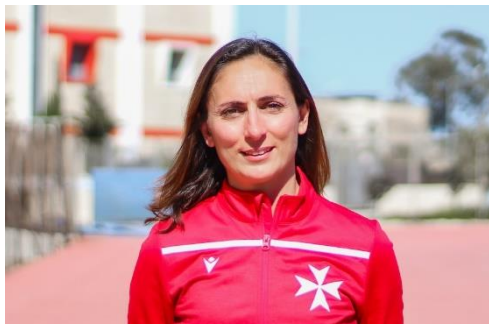
Ms Buhagiar said if the girls were selected for the team, she would be ecstatic.

"This is my family's culture, my family's country, it's the family in the country of these two players as well," she said. "I don't know of a Maltese person that I've ever met here in Australia, that is not incredibly proud of where their family comes from."

Ms Buhagiar said she was hopeful the Maltese team, which is now ranked 33rd in the world, would continue to climb the ranks. "The Australian Diamonds are the number one team in the world. They won't be at that level. Can they get close to that level? Maybe," she said. "Nobody ever thought that Malawi was going to get to where they got and look at them now. They're continually in that top six in the world."

#### **Bid to boost popularity of the sport**

After a five-year hiatus, Malta's national team reformed in 2021 and coach Mariella Baldacchino said she was



hoping some international players would add some "spark" to the side. Malta's head coach Mariella Baldacchino says she's hopeful the team will secure a few wins at the European National Championships. *(Supplied: Nicole Borg)*

"[We'll have] a mix of culture, a mix of mentality. I think it's a positive move, it's a move towards growth and if we don't try to grow or move forwards, we get stagnant," Ms Baldacchino said.

She said the different training background of the Australian players could help the team develop.

Malta Netball Association president Nicole Borg believed having a national team would encourage more young people to engage with

the sport. Nicole Borg said it will be an "uphill battle" rejoinign International netball after such a long period without a team. *(Supplied: Nicole Borg)*

"We're starting back at reintroducing the sport back in schools, it was taught in a number of schools previously ... so we are trying to get back into this system.

"For the time being, we're focusing on how we can use our limited resources and how we can eventually improve. "Our pool is very limited on the number of players ... so we're focusing on the basics."



## **Missionary Society of St Paul in Toronto 1999-2023**

Sent by Fr. Norbert Bonavia mssp

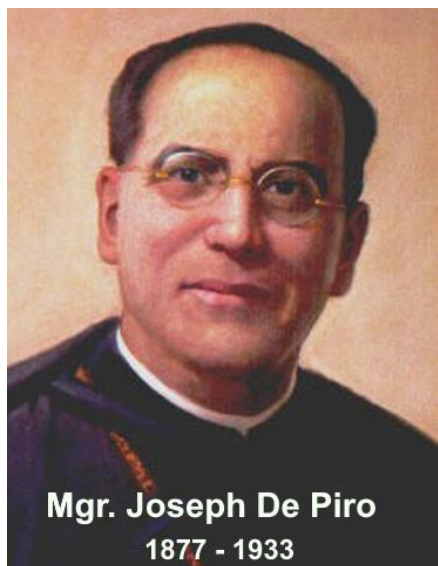
For us members of the Missionary Society of St Paul it is very sad to note that, after ministering among the Maltese community from St Paul's church in Toronto Canada since 1999, at the end of January 2023, we have concluded our ministry there. We

thank all the members of the Maltese community in Toronto for their support during these years.

Our Missionary Society of St Paul was founded in 1910 by the Servant of God Joseph De Piro, whose Cause of Beatification and Canonisation is currently being studied by the Vatican and we hope that one day, by the grace of God, he will be listed among the Saints of the Church.

We invite you, in your prayers, to pray through the intercession of the Servant of God Joseph De Piro. As we know, we can approach God to assist us in difficult and challenging moments in our life. We can pray with the intercession of the Servant of God for people going through hard times, people looking for jobs, broken relationships, or illness.

When you feel that you have received a grace you have been asking for, kindly inform the vice-Postulator, Fr Mario Zammit mssp, on [postulator@josephdepiro.com](mailto:postulator@josephdepiro.com). You can also use the same email address to request more information about the life and writings of the Servant of God. Thank you.



**Mgr. Joseph De Piro**  
1877 - 1933



# CHAPELS OF MALTA IN RABAT

Christians living in the archipelago turned caves and pre-existing catacombs into chapels that could accommodate a growing community of believers, resulting in a series of churches that appear to have formed naturally out of the beautiful Maltese underground landscape. As explained by Dr. Charlene Vella to the website [Guidememalta.com](http://Guidememalta.com) (the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Malta), **cave churches** also took a symbolic meaning as they were seen as a “figuration of the Entombment and Resurrection” of Jesus Christ.

## SAINT MARY MAGDALENE



This circular cave church, featuring a bench carved out of limestone, is the only surviving example of a series of cave churches that were once found in this part of Rabat. Its crypt-like appearance is owed to the fact that this was once a catacomb that was eventually turned into a chapel. The church is reached down by a flight of steps with walls that are stuccoed with a cement mixture of ground pottery and lime, perhaps intended for paintings, of which no evidence survives. Similar to other cave churches, St. Mary Magdalene is connected to and once served as an early Christian catacomb.

Entrance to the subterranean cave church of St. Mary Magdalene. The inscription above the door says: “Church of St. Mary Magdalene – Penitent – IV century | Courtesy of Martha Borg

Mgr. Pietro Dusina’s report of 1575 records that it was used as an ossuary for the cemetery above it, as well as having a mural that was meant to be a terrifying reminder of death. In 1647, Gian Francesco Abela noted and recorded an “*innumerabile quantità di ossa*” (innumerable quantity of bones) as well as rubble in the church. Limestone-cut bench and 19th century altar, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, within apsed niche | Courtesy of Martha Borg

Abela G. F. “*Della Descrittione di Malta Isola Nel Mare Siciliano Con le Sve Anthichita, ed Altre Notitie*” In Malta per Paolo Boncato. 1647 - Borg M. *The Cave Churches in Malta and their Paintings: An Art Historical Gazetteer*.

## THE SANCTUARY OF OUR LADY OF THE GROTTA IN RABAT



Around the year 1400, the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to a hunter in a cave. In a short time, the cave became a chapel, and then a church, and then a priory. Through the centuries, the devotion of the Maltese to their Madonna of the Grotto never faltered. Devotion to Our Lady of the Grotto gathered momentum when, around 1450, three Dominican friars from the Sicilian Province founded the Order in Malta and requested to be given the cave where the Blessed Virgin appeared. Over the centuries all sorts of graces were granted through the intercession of Our Lady of the Grotto. Only volumes can include them all. In *Our Lady of the Grotto Weeps Tears of Blood* (by Fr. Michael Fsadni O.P.), we can find a repertoire of graces granted and amazing events – healings, lifting of plagues, protection of children and

**pregnancies, and the list goes on.** The most recent extraordinary happening is that of the statue of the Madonna weeping blood.

The altar of the underground grotto of the Madonna of Rabat. The statue above the altar is the old image of the Madonna and Child | Courtesy of the Dominican Priory, Rabat



**On May 6, 1999, devotees noticed red liquid trickling down the cheeks of Our Lady's image.** They expeditiously notified the Dominican Superiors. When the Archbishop of Malta was informed, at the time Mgr. Paul Cremona, he **immediately commissioned an inquiry under the supervision of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF).** This also included forensic studies. On December 12, 2003, The Archbishop's Curia issued a press release in which it was recommended that the members of the Church should keep alive and strengthen their traditional love for Our Lady, and that in the light of the report by the experts, and advice of the CDF, it would be worthwhile that this love of the Maltese towards the Madonna continues to embrace, in a worthy and authentic manner, the age-old devotion towards the image of Our Lady of the Grotto.

A closeup of the image of the Madonna weeping blood. This is a new image sculpted in 1980 in Italy, and arrived in Malta in 1981. It is located in a dedicated above-

ground chapel in the priory | Courtesy of the Dominican Priory, Rabat

Fsadni M. *Our Lady of the Grotto Weeps Tears of Blood.* Priory of Our Lady of the Grotto Rabat, Malta. 2005

## OUR LADY OF VIRTUE (SANTA MARIJA TAL-VIRTÙ)



The Santa Marija tal-Virtù site, in the easternmost extremity of the Rabat plateau, has archaeological significance and is rich in Phoenician and Romano-Punic tombs, some of which have yielded important finds. One such find was a paleo-Christian hypogeum, which seems to have consisted, rather uncharacteristically, of locular graves. The hypogeum most likely dates from the end of the 5th or the beginning of the 6th centuries. Seventeenth- and 20th-century historians associated it with a rock-cut crypt, beneath the Rotunda church of tal-Virtù, which was possibly formed by the recutting and fusion of several burial chambers of the hypogeum. The crypt has a lobed plan roughly

resembling a Latin cross with three apsed recesses. All around it ran rock-cut benches, and the walls were stuccoed to make them waterproof and, possibly, to receive murals.

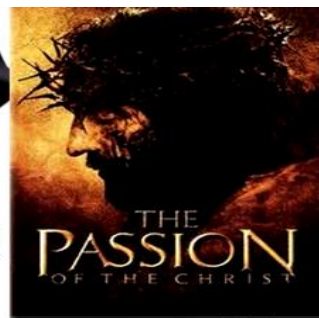
The Rotunda church of Our Lady of Virtue, Rabat. Located on private property | By NickGeorge1993 – Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0 (cropped)

Two pilasters supported the ceiling and light was filtered through two skylights. The facade of built masonry is stylistically datable to the 15th century. **It has a low, slightly pointed, arched doorway with large voussoirs round which runs a Gothic dripstone with end rosettes which is beautifully decorated with acanthus leaves.** Both voussoirs and jambs have relief carvings of zig-zag patterns between which leaves meander and intertwine. **The crypt is reached down through several steps, and accounts from 16th-century apostolic visits indicate it had several altars.** However, only one altar is mentioned in subsequent reports and in Gian Francesco Abela's 1647 *Description of Malta*. A church seems to have been built above the crypt by 1438. The decision to replace the old church by the rotunda, standing today, was apparently taken around 1717. The rotunda, which was a very popular shrine, was modeled on the 1678 Sarria rotunda at Floriana, dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

Buhagiar M. *The Crypt and Church of S. Marija tal- Virtù at Rabat.* *A Journal of Maltese History.* 1979. (accessed in January 2021)



## F'dan iż-żmien għażiż tas-sena



Żmien sabiħ qed jerġa' magħna –  
jiem gheżież tal-Ġimgħa l-Kbira  
illi fihom aħna naghmlu  
tal-mewt il-Mulej tifikira!

'Il fuq minn elfejn sena ilu  
Kristu ssallab għall-bnedmin,  
ċarċar demmu, halla hajtu,  
biex le nibqgħu midinbin.

It-tbatija illi sofra  
ma tfissirha bl-ebda kliem;  
għuda tqila ġarr fuq spalltu  
li wasslitu lejn it-tmiem.

Fuq salib safa mdendel  
qisu l-aqwa kriminal;  
lil Missieru minn hemm talab  
biex jaħfrilhom dan l-iżball.

Ghaddew, tgerbu das-snin kollha –  
lill-Mulej għadna nwarrebuh,  
u lil qalbu nfieru, inweggħu,  
dispjaċir wisq kbir nagħtuh!

Tafu xejn li bl-aġir tagħna  
mill-ġdid qegħdin insallbuh  
u fuq l-għolja tal-Qorriegħa  
qegħdin nerġgħu nwassluh!

Ejjew nidhlu fina nfusna  
u naraw li jisgħobbina;  
nibdlu r-rotta, lilu nwiegħdu,  
li naħarbu t-triq hażina.

Halli wkoll nitfgħu harsitna  
fuq Marija Addolorata  
li mxiet it-triq ma' Binha  
b'rieda soda daqs ta' blata.

Iżda min jista' ifisser  
it-tbatija li batiet!  
L-ebda pinna m'hi ser tfisser  
il-mumentu li sofriet.

F'dan iż-żmien qaddis tas-sena  
inwiegħduk, Mulej Divin,  
illi lilek qatt ma nonqsu –  
ma nħallukx bi dnuhna tnin!

Aħfrilna, Mulej, htijietna  
u fis-sieġha ta' l-hemm tagħna,  
Halli nħaddnu lil salibek  
biex henjin dlonk int tarana!



**Kav. Joe M. Attard**  
Victoria-Ghawdex

## TRADITIONAL MALTESE FIGOLLI

Lent is the perfect time to try new and different recipes, so I welcomed the challenge to find a new Easter cookie from somewhere the island of Malta. After searching I found these traditional Maltese Figolli Cookies, which are tasty pastry filled with almond paste.



### Ingredients

- 500 g** (3⅓ cups) plain flour, sifted
- **320g** (2 cups) pure icing sugar, sifted
  - **1½ tsp** baking powder
  - **2** lemons, zested
  - **250g** cold unsalted butter, chopped
  - **3** egg yolks
  - **2 drops** orange blossom water (see Note)
  - **250g** marzipan (see Note)
  - **10 small** Easter eggs

### Royal icing mixture

- **2** egg whites
- **640g** (4 cups) pure icing sugar, sifted
- Red and black food colouring (optional)

### Cook's notes

Oven temperatures are for conventional; if using fan-forced (convection), reduce the temperature by 20°C. | We use Australian tablespoons and cups: 1 teaspoon equals 5 ml; 1 tablespoon equals 20 ml; 1 cup equals 250 ml. | All herbs are fresh (unless specified) and cups are lightly packed. | All vegetables are medium size and peeled, unless specified. | All eggs are 55-60 g, unless specified.

### Instructions

**Chilling time** 2 hours 30 minutes      **Resting time** 2 hours 30 minutes

Place flour, icing sugar, baking powder and lemon zest in a food processor and pulse to combine. Add butter and pulse until mixture resembles fine crumbs. Add egg yolks and orange blossom water and process until mixture just comes together. Turn out onto a clean work surface, shape into a disc and wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for 2 hours.

Divide pastry in half. Roll out one sheet between two pieces of baking paper to 2 mm thick. Using a 10 cm decorative biscuit cutter, cut out 10 biscuits. Repeat with remaining pastry to create 20 in total. Place on lined oven trays and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 170°C. Roll out marzipan to 1 mm thick and, using the same biscuit cutter, cut out 10 shapes. Place marzipan on top of 10 of the pastry shapes, then cover each with a remaining pastry shape. Press gently to seal. Return to lined trays and place in the oven. Bake for 15 minutes or until golden. Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

To make icing, whisk egg whites and icing sugar together until thick and smooth. If desired, remove ½ cup icing, divide into two bowls and colour with food colouring, mixing until evenly coloured. Spoon into a piping bag fitted with a 2mm plain nozzle and pipe around outside of biscuits to create an outline. Set aside for 30 minutes to set. Spoon plain icing onto biscuits to fill inside outline. Alternatively, just coat biscuits in plain icing. Press an Easter egg in centre of biscuit and set aside for 2 hours to set.

### Notes

- Orange-blossom or Rose Water is available from specialist and Middle Eastern food shops.
- Marzipan is a sweet, firm almond paste available from supermarkets.







**Charles Gauci**  
**Bishop of Darwin - Australia**  
[www.facebook.com/darwindiocese](https://www.facebook.com/darwindiocese)



In today's Gospel Jesus cures a man who was blind from birth. As well as physical blindness there are also other forms of blindness. We all have some blind spots: There are things others can see about us that we cannot see about ourselves.

It is a loving thing to

do when we lovingly point out to someone these types of blind spots. Once they become aware they may wish to do something about it.

Our upbringing, our cultural conditioning or some experiences can also contribute to an inability of seeing things about ourselves or others objectively.

We can also be in denial about our own shadows or even sins. Jesus enabled the man born blind to physically see again. He can also help liberate us and enable us to see. Lent is a special time focused on relationships. It is a time of reflection on all of our relationships. Lord help me to see!

## FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MALTA



Press Release in Maltese

**STEDINA GĦALL-KATTOLIĊI KOLLHA F'MALTA**

Biex jiċcelebra d-diversità fl-għaqda tal-fidi Kattolika, l-Arċisqof Charles Sciclun se jiċcelebra quddies a bl-Ingliż flimkien mal-Kattoliċi kollha li jikkellmu ling

differenti, izda kollha jqisu lil Malta bħala darhom, biex jiċcelebraw is-sbuhija tad-diversità tagħhom waqt jaqsmu bejniethom l-għaqda tal-Ewkaristija.

Il-quddies se ssir fil-25 ta' Marzu fil-6:30pm fil-Katidral ta' San Pawl, l-Imdina. Wara jkun hemm riċevime żgħir biex dawk prezenti jkunu jistgħu jkomplu jiċcelebraw din l-għaqda.

Għal aktar tagħrif ibgħat email fuq [evangelizzazzjoni@maltadiocese.org](mailto:evangelizzazzjoni@maltadiocese.org).

Press Release in English

**A CALL FOR ALL CATHOLICS IN MALTA**

As a way of expressing the unity in diversity of the Catholic faith, Archbishop Charles Scicluna is celebrating Mass in English for all Catholics who speak different languages but make Malta their home to celebrate the beautiful diversity while sharing in the unity of the Eucharist.

Mass will be on March 25, 6:30pm at St Paul Cathedral, Mdina. Light refreshments will be served after so present can continue celebrating their fellowship.

For further information kindly contact [evangelizzazzjoni@maltadiocese.org](mailto:evangelizzazzjoni@maltadiocese.org)

**READ, HELP, SUPPORT AND SHARE THIS MALTESE JOURNAL. THE LINK BETWEEN THE MALTESE LIVING ABROAD AND THEIR HOMELAND**

I'm a hairstylist who's tried every colour out there – here are the five I'd have again and the trend to try right now [Claudia Jackson thesun.com](https://thesun.com)



Maltese content creator, hairstylist and influencer Stella Cini recently had one of her videos featured in the US Sun.

The US Sun [article](#) promoted one of Cini's latest videos – which has now been watched more than 1.9 million times – in which she outlined the top five dyes she would love to try again after experimenting with "every single hair colour out there".

Hair whizz Stella Cini revealed the colours she'd try again and why they're so great.

Her first choice, eggplant purple, is perfect if you want something a bit different but don't want to commit to anything too wild.

"I actually tried this quite a few times this winter alone," Stella told viewers.

"It was dark enough that it could look black in darker lighting, but when the sun hit it, it was just the right amount of this gorgeous eggplant purple."

Not only that, but the colour was a winner in Stella's books because of the way it faded overtime to a burgundy shade. Copper blonde also makes the hair pro's top five colours, mostly because it was a great middle ground between classic blonde and trendy copper.

"It was supernatural and overall it was just one of the most subtle, soothing hair colours out there," she said.

Another show-stopping shade for Stella was gunmetal grey, which was one of the first "experimental" hair colours she ever tried.

The dark grey shade is another stunning choice for anyone who wants something different, but not too bright.

"It was mysterious, it was smoky," she raved.

That said, if you are wanting to stand out from the crowd, Stella's second favourite colour is the perfect pick.

Stella dyes her hair emerald green every year, and who can blame her? The sleek style is a fan favourite and looks great on all skin tones.

Discussing the unique colour she said: "It is super vibrant but it's not in your face blue, it's more like a subtle is it blue is it green?"

Above all, Stella's favourite hair colour she can't get enough of was coral.

Although she's yet to actually dye her natural hair this colour, she has used it on wigs her clients.

She raved: "It's that gorgeous mix between orange and pink, but it's so vibrant."

## MALTESE CANADIAN MUSEUM TORONTO

Joseph Sciberras and his wife Ursula



Joseph and Ursula had immigrated from Gozo, Malta to the Toronto Junction in the 1910s. Joseph was given the honour by Fr. Alphonse Cauchi O.S.A., to dig the first shovel of earth for the foundation of the first St. Paul The Apostle Church in Toronto in 1930. He lived on Maria Street with his family since the early 1920s. He also had 2 children, John Sciberras (1925-) and Mary Sammut. Joseph passed away in 1946, because of cancer. His great-grandson is local historian Trevor PS, from the West Toronto Junction Historical Society.

**THE HISTORY OF MALTESE  
EMIGRATION IS A SPECIAL  
PART OF THE HISTORY OF  
MALTA AND GOZO**





## Mużika Mużika - 23, 24, u 25 ta' Marzu 2023

Festival Kanzunetta Maltija huwa pjattaforma prestigjuża għallkanzunetta Maltija f'generi differenti ta' mużika bħal ballads, rock, pop, r'n'b, jazz, blues, country u ħafna iktar. Edizzjonijiet passati ta' dan il-festival tilfu triqathom matul iż-żmien, b'kanzunetti miktubin minn awturi u kompożituri internazzjonali, lirika bil-lingwa Ingliża u mużika rrekordjata. Bis-saħħa ta' dan il-festival aħna ser nergħu

naġhtu għeħ lil-lingwa Maltija u lill-artisti tagħna, billi noffru spazju fejn tista' tindaqq, u tiġi apprezzata ilmużika Maltija. Permezz ta' Orkestra live u proċess ġust u roġorūz għall-għażla tal-partecipanti, dan il-Festival qed jagħti żbokk ta' livell għoli għall-Kanzunetta Maltija. Tlett iljieli ta' mużika, b'celebrazzjoni tal-lingwa nazzjonali tagħna u tat-talent lokali li tant huwa abbondanti; spazju ferm xieraq għall-Kanzunetta Maltija.

**BIDU UMLI** Il-'Malta Song Festival' jaf il-bidu tiegħu minn grupp żgħir fl-1960, fejn il-Żgħażaġġ Haddiema Nsara (ŻHN) organizzaw l-ewwel festival tal-mużika fil-gżejjer Maltin. Ftit wara, festivals oħra għamlu l-istess, bit-tneġija tas-'Song for Europe'; bir-rebbieħ tiegħu jirrapreżenta lil Malta fil-'Eurovision Song Contest'. Dan ġie segwit bl-'Għanja tal-Poplu', sponsorjat mill-'Youth Travel Circle' (YTC), li għadu qed jittella' kull sena sal-ġurnata tal-lum. Dan il-festival addotta stil differenti, u sa 2016 serva ta' vetrina għal kompożizzjonijiet Maltin ibbażati fuq temi soċjali.

**IT-TWELID TAL-MUŻIKA MALTJA** Il-'Festival Internazzjonali tal-Kanzunetta Maltija' twieled uffiċjalment fl-1981, bl-idea li l-mużika Maltija, flimkien ma' kantanti, awturi u kompożituri lokali, tilhaq rikonoxximent internazzjonali. Il-kuncett ewlieni ta' dan il-festival kien biex jinkoraġġixxi kantanti minn pajjiżi oħra biex jippartecipaw b'kompożizzjonijiet Maltin addattati għall-istil ta' mużika u l-lingwa tagħhom. Apparti minn hekk, il-festival fetaħ bibien lil bosta artisti lokali, għax l-ewwel, it-tieni u t-tielet post dejjem kienu jiġu mistiedna jikkompetu f'festivals internazzjonali. Kien hemm drabi fejn anke kantanti mhux rebbieħa ntaġħzu, u xi artisti barranin saħansitra ziedu kompożizzjonijiet Maltin fuq ic-CD tagħhom.

**WAQFA HESREM** Wara għoxrin sena konsekuttiva, Il-'Festival Internazzjonali tal-Kanzunetta Maltija' ġie mwaqqaf hesrem fl-2002, b'sorpriza għal ħafna delettanti tal-festival.

Wara ħdax-il sena dan il-festival irritorna fl-2013, u għalkemm kellu baġit minimu, xorta ġie milqugħ tajjeb minn awturi, kantanti u kompożituri lokali. Dan ir-ritorn kien wiehed qasir, għax il-festival ma kompliex wara dik is-sena, ħlief darba f'Lulju tal-2016 taħt l-isem ta' 'L-Għanja tal-Poplu – Festival tal-Kanzunetta Maltija'.

Minn dakinhar 'l hawn kompożituri, awturi u kantanti baqgħu jittamaw li l-Festival Internazzjonali tal-Kanzunetta Maltija jirritorna.

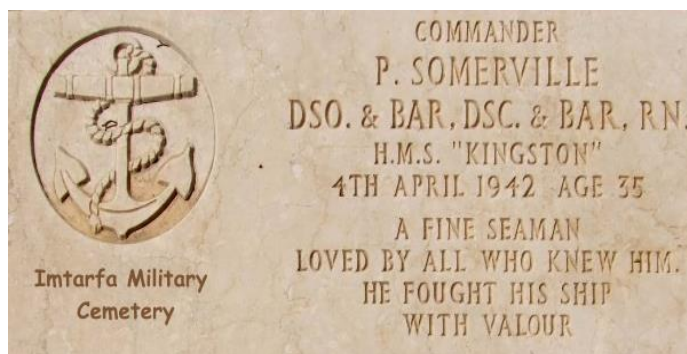


**RITORN GRANDJUŻ** Fl-2021, permezz tas-sapport tal-Prim Ministru Dr Robert Abela u l-Ministru għall-Wirt Nazzjonali, L-Arti u L-Gvern Lokali Hon. Dr José Herrera, l-festival ha żvolta oħra u rritorna bil-kbir. Taħt il-kappa ta' Festivals Malta, il-festival bl-isem il-ġdid ta' 'Mużika Mużika - Festival Kanzunetta Maltija' fl-aħħar qed jingħata l-preġju li tant jixraqlu.

Mużika Mużika jirritorna għat-tielet sena konsekuttiva. Organizzat minn Festivals Malta, dan il-festival prestigjuż ser jerga' jirritorna bejn it-23 u l-25 ta' Marzu b'20 kanzunetta originali bil-Malti.

Festivals Malta ħabbar li din l-edizzjoni ta' Mużika Mużika ser tiġi pprezentata minn Keith Demicoli, Clare Agius, u Moira Delia, tul it-tliet serati. Din is-sena il-festival ser ikun qed jospita lil Kantera, filwaqt li għall-finali bħala mistiedna speċjali ser jospita lil Kurt Calleja u Ira Losco. Apparti minn hekk ser ikun hemm il-parteċipazzjoni ta' diversi artisti stabbiliti fis-serata tal-klassiċi li ser jidwettaw mas-semifinalisti.

## The Bombing of HMS Kingston IN Malta Dockyard



Visiting a military cemetery always evokes a certain feeling of sadness, even in the absence of any connection to those buried there. Despite the uniformity of the gravestones, each one of them represents a different life; a father, husband, son, usually taken far too soon. But at the same time, what makes those gravestones interesting, is that each one of them normally corresponds to a specific episode that can be traced back.

### The Imtarfa Military Cemetery

One such gravestone is that of Commander Philip Somerville RN, located at the Imtarfa Military Cemetery, which recalls his death in Malta at the age of 35 on 4th April 1942. Born in Castle Townshend, in County Cork, Ireland, Philip came from a distinguished family with a long record of service in either the British Army or the Royal Navy; his father was Vice-Admiral Hugh Gaultier Coghill Somerville CB, DSO. Philip was commissioned in the Royal Navy in 1927 and had risen to the rank of Lieutenant Commander when in July 1939 he was given command of HMS *Kingston*, one of the new K-class destroyers. Over the next few years he would be awarded the Distinguished Service Order twice, and the Distinguished Service Cross also twice. Shortly after her commissioning in September 1939, HMS *Kingston* joined the 5th Destroyer Flotilla, Home Fleet, for convoy defence and anti-submarine duties in the North Sea. On 29th November 1939, together with the destroyers HMS *Kashmir* and HMS *Icarus*, she attacked the German submarine U-35 with depth charges off the Shetland Islands, forcing her to be scuttled by her crew.



### The crest of HMS Kingston

In May 1940, *Kingston* was transferred to the Red Sea, and the following month was involved in the sinking of the Italian submarine *Evangelista Torricelli*, which was forced to the surface and sunk off Perim Island by the guns of *Kingston* and accompanying destroyers. In March 1941, *Kingston* supported landings at Berbera, the capital of British Somaliland, which was recaptured after a six-month Italian occupation. On 5th April 1941, *Kingston* found the Italian Leone-class destroyers *Pantera* and *Tigre* in the process of being scuttled by their crews, south of Jeddah. *Kingston* accelerated the process with her guns and torpedoes.

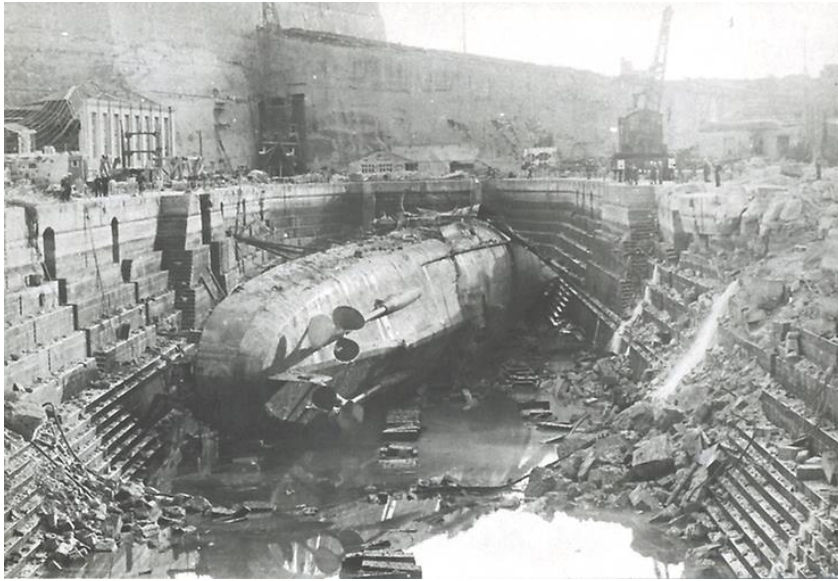
Later that month, *Kingston* was deployed to Alexandria to join the Eastern Mediterranean Fleet. She was involved in the evacuation of Allied troops from mainland Greece, and in the subsequent Battle of Crete, where, as part of Force C, she helped intercept a number of troop transports heading to the island. Force C became the target of fierce airstrikes, with *Kingston* suffering splinter damage from three near misses. On 22nd May, together with HMS *Kandahar*, she was dispatched to pick up survivors from the destroyer HMS *Greyhound*, while later that same day the cruisers HMS *Gloucester* and HMS *Fiji* were also lost to air attacks. Once again, *Kingston* and *Kandahar* returned to pick up 523 survivors between them.

### HMS Fiji under air attack, shortly before her sinking during the Battle of Crete

*Kingston* returned to Alexandria for repairs in late May 1941. For the next few months, she was mainly tasked with convoy duties to Tobruk and Malta, as well as covering sorties by Malta and Alexandria-based cruiser forces against Italian convoys heading to Libya. On 21st March 1942, she sailed from Alexandria as part of the escort for the ill-fated convoy MW10, destined for Malta. The following day, the convoy ran into a powerful *Regia Marina* squadron, resulting in the so-called Second Battle of Sirte. While turning away following a failed torpedo attack, *Kingston* was hit amidships by a 15-inch shell from the battleship *Littorio*, which killed fifteen crewmen and resulted in a flooded boiler and a fire in one of the engines. Although



*Kingston* temporarily went dead in the water, she was eventually able to continue to Malta for urgent repairs. The Second Battle of Sirte was a naval engagement between the Royal Navy and the Regia Marina on 22nd March 1942



On 4th April 1942, whilst the destroyer was in dock to repair the damage from the naval encounter, a bomb fell directly at the entrance of the Corradino Tunnel, where part of her crew had taken shelter. Fourteen crewmen were killed by the blast, including Commander Somerville. *Kingston* was again attacked by German aircraft on the following day, resulting in further damage from a near miss, while on 8th April, another bomb struck the forward section. Although it failed to explode, it passed all the way through the ship's bottom, forcing *Kingston* into dry dock repairs. On 11th April 1942, while she was in No. 4 dock, *Kingston*

was hit again, causing her to roll over on her side and sink in the dock. The ship was declared a constructive total loss.

HMS *Kingston* was declared a constructive total loss after her latest bombing on 11th April 1942 whilst undergoing repairs in No. 4 dock

It was not until January 1943 that the dock was dried-out, and the hulk of HMS *Kingston* was eventually towed to St. Paul's Bay and scuttled as a blockship between Selmun and St. Paul's Island, while some years after the war, the remains were scrapped in situ. Today, only a few pieces of metal still remain. As for the men, twenty-one members of HMS *Kingston*'s crew are buried in Malta, either at the [Imtarfa Military Cemetery](#) or at the [Capuccini Naval Cemetery](#), Kalkara. This figure includes some of those who were killed at the Second Battle of Sirte, as well as the fourteen who died as a result of enemy bombing whilst in Malta. Commander Philip Somerville DSO & Bar, DSC & Bar, RN is buried in Plot 1 Row 1C Grave 3 at the Imtarfa Military Cemetery.



The High Commissioner of Malta H.E. Mario Farrugia Borg attended the Commonwealth Day 2023 event organised by Governor-General of Australia and Mrs Hurley who welcomed Heads of Mission of Commonwealth countries and members of the Royal Commonwealth Society to Government House



## George Cross Falcons Community Centre Cringila NSW

at the Dapto Ribbonwood Centre State of the Art Complex  
WOLLONGONG NSW

15 APRIL 2023 from 6 pm

TICKETS ON SALE - \$22.00

Full bar available - Nibbles on the tables

**FATHER AND SON ELVIS SHOW**

**Anthony and Paul Fenech**

Show not to be missed



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APRIL  
2023 | CANADA**

## Maltese Community Gathering



Register your interest on:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/577521240577>

Venue to be confirmed in coming days

**BINGO!**

SUNDAY  
MARCH 12th  
1:30 pm

AT THE  
MALTESE CENTER  
NY

WIN!  
WIN!  
WIN!

The Maltese Center  
at the Lower Hall

RSVP [www.themaltesecenter.com](http://www.themaltesecenter.com)

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Maltese Community  
in New York

1982-2022  
40 Years

MARCH 25 2023 at 7.00pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE [WWW.THEMALTESECENTER.COM](http://WWW.THEMALTESECENTER.COM)

Please join us for an unforgettable event on Saturday March 25th, 7:00 pm at The Maltese Center Lower Hall. Please RSVP and purchase tickets in advance. Seating is limited. Tickets will not be sold at the door. If you require help with booking please contact us. The Maltese Center is always in need of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer with set-up, clean-up, cooking or baking traditional Maltese food, traditional singing/music, acting etc. or underwriting a part of the event please contact us for further details how you can help.

2720 Hoyt Avenue South, Astoria, NEW YORK 11102, USA

**KIDS  
Easter  
PARTY**

APRIL 2nd at 2 pm

TICKETS ONLINE ONLY  
[www.themaltesecenter.com](http://www.themaltesecenter.com)

Maltese Center - New York

**EASTER  
Prayer Service**

Fr. Anthony Saliba will lead an Easter prayer service reflecting on the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus. Confessions before service.

The Maltese Center

APRIL 1ST, SATURDAY AT 7 PM  
ALL ARE WELCOME







## THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Published in Adelaide,  
Australia since 2013  
free, bilingual and non-political  
The editor and team  
produce this journal mainly  
for Maltese living abroad.



OUR AIM IS TO INFORM,  
SHARE, CONNECT  
AND EMPOWER MALTESE  
LIVING AROUND THE WORLD

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Today we will be discussing a very unpleasant topic: ***hate speech***. In my opening speech, I pointed out that this subject worries me quite a bit, and I have spoken about it several times, even in terms of national unity.

While I appreciate that mutual respect should be taught from birth within the family nucleus, I firmly believe that education is the core of the solution to 'hate speech'.

**Dr. George Vella**  
**PRESIDENT OF MALTA**

## St Sebastian Seniors Association Membership Benefits

The St Sebastian Seniors Association is committed to providing a year full of exciting events for members and non-members. We give out presents on Mother's Day and Father's Day regardless of membership status. So, why become a member of our club?

### 2023 Members will now get:

- Discounts on main events  
(Mother's Day, Father's Day, Annual Dinner Dance and Christmas)
- Discounts on all bus trips and our weekends away
- The ability to vote for your committee members, as long as you are a financial member
- Free light refreshments at our Annual General Meeting (A.G.M)

### Membership Cost:

\$10.00 for individuals  
\$20.00 for families

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Membership must be paid by 31/03/23

Mary Gatt: 9366-3985

Mary Barbara: 9364-4141

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## MMG CONCERT BAND OF VICTORIA

**Saturday 27th May 2023**  
**6pm - midnight**

**LAKESIDE BANQUET & CONVENTION CENTRE**  
65 Melfon Hwy, Taylors Lakes 3038

**ADULTS**

**\$80**

**CHILDREN**

**\$55**

**INCLUDES**

4 course meal, beer, wine & soft drinks

**DJ**

Thomas Ormond

**ENQUIRIES / TICKETS**

Joe: 0438 500 121

Amie: 0404 894 576

