



CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

JULY 2014 FRANK L SCICLUNA - LINKING MALTA AND AUSTRALIA

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RAYMOND FINN ON THE MARCH TO BEERSHEBA

Marching behind a riderless horse, Raymond Finn (right) added his own tribute to the Alice Springs ANZAC Day commemoration.

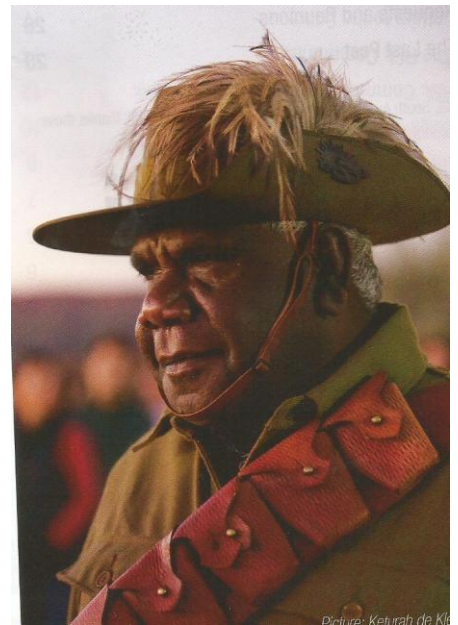
Raymond is a Wangkangurru man, formerly a stockman at **Anna Creek cattle station (see below)** - and a military history enthusiast with a passion for the deeds of the Australian Light Horse in World War 1.

He cut an imposing figure, with his polished bandolier and emu-feather plume. His interest, he says, was inspired by reading about the Aboriginal troop that served with distinction in the Jordan Valley. According to a squadron commander's reminiscences, published in a 1931 edition

of the RSL's Reveille journal: A reinforcement of 26Aborigines, mostly from some of the mission stations in Queens/and joined up with the 7 7th Light Horse Regiment in the early part of 7918 [they] charged through the Turkish lines in the Jordan Valley and rode about eight miles to their rear to cut the communication lines. I remember seeing some of the Aborigines well in the front line of the advance, and know that at least one of them vi/as wounded.

Like Raymond Finn, a number of them had worked as stockmen at cattle stations. His ambition now is to take part in the 2017 re-enactment at Beersheba, the centenary of the 4th Light Horse brigade's famous charge at the enemy. The brigade rode tull-pelt across more than three kilometres of open ground, in the face of Turkish artillery and machinegun fire, to capture the town.

At 54, Raymond thinks his own skill in the saddle today has lost a certain edge. "I'd be happy," he says, "if I could just give the order to charge, and then ride along on a slow old horse at the back." Nevertheless, he does have experience on his side. He began work as a jackaroo at the age of nine after running away from an enforced education in Adelaide.



Anna Creek Station is the world's largest working cattle station.¹ It is located in the Australian state of South Australia. Its area is roughly 6,000,000 acres (24,000 km²; 9,400 sq mi) which is slightly larger than Israel. It is 1,977,000 acres (8,000 km²; 3,089 sq mi) larger than its nearest rival, Alexandria Station in the country's Northern Territory and over seven times the size of the United States biggest ranch, King Ranch in Texas, which is 825,000 acres (3,340 km²; 1,289 sq mi). The nearest township is William Creek (which is surrounded by the Anna Creek station), but the nearest town for freight etc. is Coober Pedy.

EU COMMISSIONER AGAIN CALLS ON MALTA TO LET ALL ITS CITIZENS VOTE



EU Commissioner Viviane Reding

NEWS Last week EU Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding called once again on Malta to end the practice of stripping Maltese who live abroad of their right to vote in Maltese elections. She cited the issue as an integral part of the reform of the EU's justice policy.

Speaking at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels, Ms Reding stressed that Maltese citizens living abroad should be able to apply to remain on the electoral register and that they should be informed about how to retain the right to vote in national elections. "There are many EU citizens who are disenfranchised simply because they used their right to move to another EU member state. And they turned to the European Commission asking for help," Commissioner Reding said. "We listened – and acted. We asked the five countries that take away voting rights after a certain period of time spent abroad to show greater flexibility.

"We invited them to enable their nationals who make use of their free movement rights to retain their right to vote in national elections – if they demonstrate a continuing interest in the political life of their country. These citizens should have the option of applying to remain on the electoral roll and should be informed about the conditions for retaining their right to vote in national elections.

"This is about empowering EU citizens who feel strongly about their country and making sure they are not automatically denied the fundamental democratic right of voting. And it is about making sure citizens do not lose one right because they exercise another."

We believe that we, as citizens of Malta living abroad, are also citizens of the European Union and should enjoy the same rights, and privileges as those citizens who live in Malta.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER - LINKING MALTA AND AUSTRALIA

BUILDING BRIDGES

WE BUILD TOO MANY WALLS BUT NOT ENOUGH BRIDGES





IL-KAPPILLAN TA' MALTA

DETAILS

MANOEL THEATRE

VALLETTA MALTA

25 July 2014 - 01 August 2014

Producer: Malta Arts Festival / Stagun Teatru Malti / Teatru Manoel

Recommended Age: 16 yrs & over

Venue: Fort St. Elmo, Pjazza D'Armi

Price: €20 Concessions - €15 (students under 25 and kartanzjan at the door)

Kappillan ta' Malta is performed in Maltese.

Monsarrat's international best-selling novel finally hits the local stages. Adapted by award-winning author Immanuel Mifsud, *Il-Kappillan ta' Malta* is not only a story about Malta, but also of a unique, charismatic and driven priest, Father Salvatore - or Dun Salv, as his devoted parishioners call him. As bombs pound Malta to dust, he finds himself caught in the cataclysmic drama of World War Two. Directed by Peter Busuttil, the cast is led by Pino Scicluna in the title role and includes stage veterans Monica Attard, John Suda, Mario Micallef, Ray Calleja, Anthony Ellul and many others.

The story is set during the siege of the British possession of Malta from June, 1940 until August, 1942. He is the son of Baroness Celeste Santo-Nobile who reigns in aristocratic splendor despite the perils surrounding them. Lewis, his brother-in-law, is an Italian sympathizer whose allegiance will land him in prison before the war is over. But Fr. Salvatore remains a simple, lumbering parish priest serving the poor. When his church is bombed he establishes his congregation in the catacombs which now serve as a 24 hour air-raid shelter. In the fragile safety of catacombs revealed by the explosions, he tends to the flood of homeless, starving, and frightened people who sought shelter from the death that fell unceasingly from the blue skies, giving messages of encouragement and hope inspired by the brave history of the Maltese islands. His story, and that of the island, unfold in superbly graphic scenes during the siege.

During the course of the war, Fr. Salvatore is removed by his superiors because of the conduct of his flock in the primitive conditions of the caves and because his own role has grown too 'exalted'. At first he rebels against the discipline but finally accepts the chastisement in seclusion at a monastery in Gozo. To his people he remains a hero. The Daily Express described him as one of the most memorable characters of postwar fiction. Now, we will have him grace the Maltese stage during this years ARTS FESTIVAL, to be presented at the Pjazza D'Armi, Fort St. Elmo, Valletta on the 25, 26, 27, 30 July and 1 August.

SUMMER BUS SERVICES ANNOUNCED, AT LAST



TIMES OF MALTA *Wednesday, July 16, 2014,*

Malta Public Transport this evening announced several summer bus services, saying they had been discussed with various stakeholders.

This morning, Times of Malta reported how the summer schedule had still not been introduced. (See <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20140716/local/Buses-still-running-on-winter-schedule.527857>)

In a statement, Malta Public Transport said a number of bus services have been introduced to cater for demand during the summer. These services include extensions to some of the current routes such as services to Għar Lapsi, shuttle services for a number of localities, night services at the weekend and the deployment of additional 'extra' buses in a flexible and frequent way to meet increases in demands on various routes.

Some of the extensions to the bus services have already started operating, among them extensions to Routes 101 and 102 such that during these are now also serving Għajn Tuffieħa, Mġarr and Ġnejna. Route 109 has also been extended to Għar Lapsi. Route X3 connecting the airport to Buġibba has been extended to cater for demand later at night, with a trip departing at 10.35pm. A number of shuttle services have also been introduced, scheduled to leave in coordination with the arrival times of buses and offering extensions to the 'regular' bus services.

Among these shuttle services are Route 3A, which connects Kalkara Strand to Rinella and Smart City Centre with a service every 30 minutes Monday to Saturday and hourly on Sundays; Route 37A which connects hourly Ċirkewwa, Armier and Għadira Bay; and Route 71A which provides an hourly service from Żurrieq to Wied Iż-Żurrieq and Blue Grotto, Haġar Qim and Għar Lapsi.

As from Friday, Night Bus Services will be introduced. These will be providing bus services from St Julian's to various localities around Malta, and will be operating on Friday-to-Saturday nights and Saturday-to-Sunday nights, reflecting commuters' demands. Night Buses are all denoted by the letter 'N' and the services introduced recently are as follows: N3 (Cottonera), N21 (San Ġwann, Mosta, Naxxar, Għargħur), N31 (Burmarrad, Naxxar Mosta), N32 (Msida, Birkirkara, Lija), N52 (F'Attard, Rabat, Dingli), N61 (Msida, Blata l-Bajda, Hamrun, Birkirkara, Żebbuġ, Siġġiewi), N62 (Marsa, Qormi, Siġġiewi, Żebbuġ), N71 (Safi, Kirkop, Żurrieq, Mqabba, Airport), N81 (Paola, Tarxien, Żejtun, Gudja), N82 (Paola, Tarxien, Żejtun, Birżebbuġa).

Other night services such as Route N11 (Ċirkewwa to St Julians via Bugibba), Route N13 (Valletta to St Julian's via Sliema) and Route N91 (St Julians to Marsaskala) operate all year round and will continue to operate as usual during the summer months. Malta Public Transport said it will also be deploying a number of extra buses which throughout the day will cater for the fluctuations and spikes in commuter demand on various routes.

"Meanwhile, the remaining pending issues with the General Workers' Union (GWU) still need to be resolved before the full summer schedules cannot come into force," it added.

MALTESE AND HEBREW

By Lawrence Attard Bezzina

Maltese presents a fascinating case of a cultural survival recalling the days of Hannibal as well as demonstrating the dangers of rival foreign political and cultural influences on one of the smallest states in Europe to have its own language (only Iceland with its less than 300,000 speakers can be compared to Malta). These influences have already profoundly shaped the spoken vernacular and the written language. Maltese, like Hebrew, is a small insular remnant language spoken only in the homeland and a far flung diaspora. Both languages are living testimony to the pre-Christian and pre-Roman identity of the ancient world.

In both Malta and the State of Israel, independence was recreated along with a cultural revival in the face of great odds and massive doubts as to the viability of both states and languages. In both cases, a strongly based 'nativist, ethnic-linguistic nationalism evolved based on the pre-Roman Phoenician-Hebrew and Canaanite speaking city states and colonies that extended to Carthage and the Western Mediterranean civilisation of the ancient world.

Both Maltese and modern Israeli Hebrew face the danger of being swamped by 'high status' rivals, most notably English. Devotees of the Hebrew and Maltese revivals are afraid that their languages may eventually be reduced to the status of low-caste languages resigned to the home or workshop while a 'high-caste' language such as English will be used for all public functions, education, science, the arts, the press, parliament, etc. Something like this exists in Luxembourg today (a dialect known as Letzeburgish is spoken at home, while German and French are used for all official purposes) and is known as 'diglossia'.

This danger is much more apparent in the case of Maltese which had reached this level of diglossia vis-a-vis Italian by the beginning of the 20th century. The influence of Italian was manifest for centuries and is still very apparent in both the spoken vernacular and in the role it has played in the development of the arts, law and education in Malta.

Maltese is also the only Semitic language to have made the transition to full fledged use of a Romanized script with vowels. Guttural sounds are represented by individual superscript letters. This feature of the language is of particular interest to Semitic scholars who have debated the pros and cons of Romanization for Hebrew and Arabic.

The Maltese people are renowned for their continued devotion to the Catholic church, yet they share a linguistic kinship with the Arab world and feel no conflict in calling God the Father, 'Allah', an example which substantiates the old saying that the Maltese vernacular is 'Semitic material in a Roman mouth'.

Malta, like Ireland, is allowed to use English lyrics for the songs entered in the Eurovision contest -- an indication and admission that the 'native' languages are hardly more than a legal fiction or that anyone abroad could possibly find any lyrics worthy of recognition. Like the Irish, almost the entire Maltese population understands and is capable of using English for everyday purposes.

Even an introductory phrase book in Maltese for English residents, written by the wife of a former prime minister of Malta, admits that 'English people can literally spend a lifetime in Malta without finding it necessary to speak in the language of the people to whom God has given this tiny group of islands'.

It has been estimated that the proportion of Semitic to Romance entries in a Maltese dictionary is 65 per cent to 35 per cent but the Romance/ English proportion rises considerably and exceeds 80 per cent of the concepts relating to modern technology, abstractions, legal terms and parliamentary affairs.

Arabic speakers who have some knowledge of Italian or French are able to understand some Maltese but the average Maltese speaker is disadvantaged by inability to read Arabic or recognize common Semitic equivalents for many words which have been replaced by wholesale borrowing from Italian and English. The vocabulary of Maltese is riddled with loan formations that derive from Italian.

INHIBB DOK LI HIW TAGĦNE

Inhobb dak li huwa taghna



Illejle murna sal-Munxor. Ken hemm il-"Festival tad-Djaletti". Qett ma kint murt. Ġietnej il-kurżito wara li ċertiw Daphne (dejk li tiktib kwużuj kuntra kulħadd) kitbit [hekk](#): "there's a dialect demo in Gozo, should you be interested in this sort of minutiae of introspection". Mowr ġibe tgħejde bil-Multuj dejn il-kilme!

Don il-festival ken urganizzot mill-NGO VersAgħtini - Il-Kelma Maltija, sabex iġibu 'l quddem dok li jgħejdiwliw il-"linguistic heritage". Appuġġja din l-attivito' il-Kunsill Lukuluj tal-Munxor. L-organizzatriċej kienit Miriam Cassar li għandhe website li ta' min jaruha. Insumma jen murt ma' Mikielej Bajjuda. Ġet il-famulja tiegħew u ġet Miriam tiegħej ukill b'Savio..

Bide Ġużi taż-Żejtiwn jittellem bid-djelett Żejtuni. Dok ladarba jibde jithaddit, ħadd ma jweqqfiw, anzuj, jekk jisimgħek treddin x'hejn ikiwn jithaddit hiw, jgħejdlik li sa taqtagħliw il-bewle. Tkelllem fuq il-Multuj 'standard' u l-Multuj tar-ruħal.

Warajh tkelllem Mikielej bid-djelett tal-Munxor stess. Semme li f'dor fuq il-ġnen fejn kinne, ken trabba il-Professiwr Guze' Aquilina. Imbagħad qraw xi tfajlet minn ta' Sannot li wkill qraw bid-djelett tegħhim. Kien hemm uħra li malajr tintuna li mix-Xewkija għax kull kelme bil-Q tgħejde bil-K.

Tajba kinit ix-Xlukkajra li kienit bil-qiegħde ma' ġembej. Mhux biss tkelmit bix-xlukkajr imma kantot ukill bid-djelett tagħha. Isemgħewhe ftejt: Insejt ngħidilkim li Francesca (dejk li pprezentot) grot ukoll xi riċerke li għamlit fuq id-djalettej. L-organizzatriċej durut fuquj bex jen ukoll nitkellem nitfa bid-djelett tal-Għarb. In-nes ta' l-Għarb il-Għi iħissuha Ħ (bħal Għ(Ħ)arbi)

IL-GĦANA MALTI TAGĦNA ILKOLL

Kif inhu mqassam l-għana
Fissrulna it-taqsimiet.

Bil-pariri siewja tiegħu
Nisgħtu nsalvaw l-ambjent.

Il-Ġimgha 6 ta' Lulju
Ġewwa il-ġnien tal-kmandant
Saret lagħqa nteressanti
Minn tal-għana diletant.

Kellna minn qiegħed ipingi
Wahda mill-ikbar sigriet
Waqt l-għasafar fis jittajru
Sabiex jorqdu fil-bejtiet.

Kull minn għandu žigarelli
Jew ritratti tal-passat
Għandna sew nikkultivawhom
Inzommuhom fl-aqwa stat.

Mistiednin is-Sur Charles
Coleiro
Steve Borg ir-riċerkatur
Tkellmu fuq il-wirt intangibbli
Jekk l-għana għandux futur.

Wara kellna ftit xi naqqru
Kemm kien tajjeb fil-palat
Hobż biż-żejt anki fażola
Kollox kien urganizzat.

Steve hegġeg lil dawk prezenti
Biex jgħożžu kull materjal
Dmirna hu li niehdu hsiebhom
Biex igawdu t-tfal tat-tfal.

Magħhom kellna xi għannejja
Illi tawna xi għanjiet

Tant ħabrieq Ruben Abela
Ta' din l-għaqda president

Charles Seychell 7 ta' Lulju
2014

THE BEGINNING-MANOEL THEATRE



Following centuries of unrest and a myriad of conquerors, the rule of the Military Order of St. John brought about a period of unprecedented stability and development to the Maltese Islands. The newly constructed fortified capital, Valletta, administrative centre and home to the variety of nationalities forming the Order, witnessed a further development as the islands' cultural and entertainment hub. Throughout the 17th and early 18th centuries, the demand for operas, pageants, theatrical and dramatic productions boomed as the Maltese embraced what had previously been entertainment reserved solely for the Nobility. Shows put on by amateurs and theatre professionals were then housed at the Knight's Auberges around the city or in the open.

In 1731, António Manoel de Vilhena, Grand Master of the Knights of Malta, commissioned and personally funded the construction of this central building to serve as a Public Theatre. It was constructed in just ten months and cost 2,184 scudi. The Portuguese Grand Master built the theatre to keep the young knights of the Order of St. John out of mischief but also to provide the general public with "honest entertainment." This motto was inscribed above the main entrance to the theatre, which still reads today: "ad honestam populi oblectationem". The first performance on the 19th January 1732, was a classic Italian tragedy, Scipione Maffei's *Merope*. The players in that production were the Knights themselves, and the set was designed by the Knights' chief architect, Francois Mondion.

The management of the theatre and the censorship of the performances was in the hands of a knight who was called "Il Protettore". In those days, opera performed by professionals was performed at least as often as drama. Works by the great master of "opera seria" Johann Adolf Hasse were often performed during the theatre's early decades, but just as popular throughout the century was the rival "opera buffa" by leading composers like Nicolo` Piccinni, Baldassare Galuppi and Domenico Cimarosa. The continuous theatrical exchange between Naples, Palermo and Valletta made Teatru Manoel a natural stepping stone for aspiring artists to step up the ladder leading to La Scala or Covent Garden.

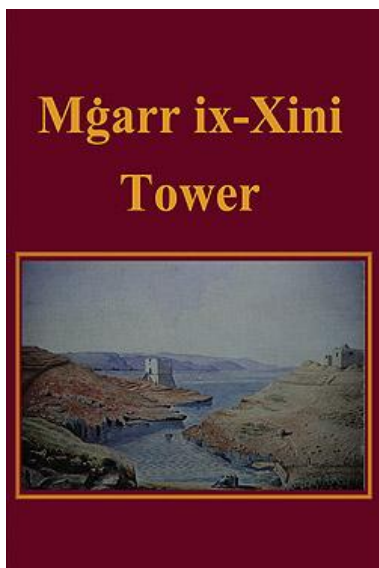
The first impresario of whom we have record was Melchiorre Prevost Lanarelli in 1736, and the last Giovanni Le Brun in 1866. From 1768 to 1770 the impresario was a woman, a certain Natala Farrugia. Grand Master de Vilhena fixed the rent to be paid by the Impresario at 320 scudi per annum, of which 80 scudi were paid for rent from Easter to August, 120 scudi for Autumn, and 120 scudi from Christmas to Carnival. From the records we learn that when dances or veglioni (masked balls) were held in the theatre, the pit was raised by scaffolding to the level of the stage, and we find that on August 22, 1778, regulations were passed for the lighting of the theatre and corridors. On these occasions the shading of lights, in any manner, was prohibited, so as to keep the entertainment in the theatre, as honest as possible !

The early decades of the 20th century saw the Manoel presenting the operetta and the musical comedy as well as some opera and plays, both amateur and professional, in Malta's three main languages. By the late Twenties, however, the cinema had such a following, that the Manoel began to present films much more than anything else, and this role it retained for around twenty years.

During the Second World War it escaped any serious damage. It served as a shelter for the homeless, victims of the same carpet bombings that sealed the fate of the Opera House, totally destroyed in 1944. After this war, the building needed a thorough refurbishment and some restoration. A decade-long restoration process by local traditional artisans and international experts saw the transformation of the building into a multi-functional theatre. The once lovely decoration of the atrium was restored from behind the grime and paint which had for so long hidden the theatre's beauty. Inch by inch, the great ceiling with its 22 carat gilding was restored; the dozens of tiny panels and paintings which decorated the tiers of boxes were brought to life again.

The theatre was bought back by the Maltese Government in 1957. The Grand re-Opening ceremony in December 1960, left the audience gasping with delight at this newly rediscovered jewel in Malta's National Heritage, and heralded the new beginning of the Manoel. Now officially the country's National Theatre, it has, over the years, hosted countless productions by both local talent and international stars, and has been the catalyst for the growth and appreciation of dramatic art in Malta. Since 1960, when it reopened with a performance of Coppelia by the Ballet Rambert, it has had an official Management Committee and it is no longer rented out for whole seasons to impresarios as in the past.

PUBLICATION: MGARR IX-XINI TOWER



In this publication, the author Dr. Stephen C. Spiteri, revises and updates the detailed study on the history of Mgarr ix-Xini Tower.

The tower, which had been left abandoned for many years and had fallen into a sad state of disrepair, was restored and given back much of its original form. The restoration work was carried out by Wirt Ghawdex, with the collaboration of the Ministry for Gozo and was funded mainly through a fund raising activity in which people were asked to sponsor 'a block of stone'.

The newly restored tower was officially inaugurated on July 3, 2009 and is now opened to the public by Wirt Ghawdex volunteers.

To order a copy contact info@wirtghawdex.org

Our Aims



"To Foster the Knowledge of and Safeguard the Natural, Archaeological, Historical and Anthropological Patrimony of the Islands of Gozo and Comino."

<http://www.wirtghawdex.org/en/index.htm>

MR. ALBERT AGIUS (MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA)

'Colourful Bus Trip into Nostalgia' by Albert Agius

By Agnes Cauchi

Guest speaker at the April 2013 MHA Event held on 16 April 2013 at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville was Mr Albert Agius, who took us through the years beginning in 1905 when the first bus route was established between Valetta and St Andrews. A year later, the route was expanded to St Julians with nine double-decker buses, but it soon stopped.

During WWI Malta had an influx of wounded soldiers. With them came doctors and nurses, and they all needed transport. By 1920, the British Motor Company (BMC) was manufacturing bus bodies in Malta. In 1921, a new bus route started between Valetta and the Cottonera, and a Valletta bus terminus was established.

Other routes opened up, eg, the Sliema and St Julians route, the Zebbug and Birkirkara route. At this time all busses were owned by the drivers. It was felt that the public transport needed organisation. It was proposed that all bus transport should be:

- (a) nationalised,
- (b) the number of buses to be increased,
- (c) all the buses should work in a single company.

The latter was favoured by the driver-owners.

In 1930, the Traffic Control Board was formed and it was decided that the drivers' cabin be cut off from the passengers. It is to be noted that in 1928, Joe Gasan appeared on the scene. He imported 42 new buses and obtained 10 licences.

The colourful Maltese busesMost of us remember the various colours for each bus route. That was in the 1950s. The reason for this was that because of illiteracy the colour served a purpose for identification.

In 2011 there was a dramatic change. All the old buses were either scrapped or put to other uses. The new buses were taken over by Arriva. The fleet was new, more comfortable, and the number of seats was increased. The bus stages were modernised, and the bus times were electronically shown. Arriva created other bus routes, and the timetable improved. That is not to say that everything ran smoothly: they had teething problems.

The gathering for the presentationWhat happened to the old buses, one might ask? Some of them found themselves in London where they were converted and used for the London Olympic games of 2012. Others were salvaged and pushed in a hangar close to Gudja, waiting for a bus museum. Another one is being used as a souvenir shop.



ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Mr Albert Agius is well known to members of the Malta Historical Association as he frequently attends talks or presents lectures. He was instrumental in the formation of the association when, even before its inception, he encouraged his brother-in-law Chev. Joseph C. Sammut to give two talks (one about Maltese coins and another about Maltese and British cartoons on Malta) to groups of people at the Maltese centre. Albert migrated to Australia in

1978 and quickly took an interest in the various activities of the Maltese community.

Mr Agius was correspondent for the 'Times of Malta' for some 25 years reporting on different events taking place within the community. He was the senior journalist in the Maltese Language programs on SBS radio between 1987

and 1989. He also contributed feature articles and news stories in the 'Malta Cross' and 'Il-Maltija'. His full-time job was as an Administrative Officer in the Department of Health with the Commonwealth Government of Australia.

In September 1993 Mr Agius was seconded by the Australian Government as a Consultant to the Parliamentary Secretariat for the Care of the Elderly in Malta under the auspices of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). In 1997 Albert became a Member of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta. In May 2000, Albert published 'It-Tezawru' the first thesaurus published in the Maltese language. Last year he published the second Tezawru. Other publications by Albert Aguis are 'Qwiel, idjomi u Laqmijiet Maltin' as well as 'Building a Community' and 'Fears, Tears and Cheers' two books in the series 'Maltese Settlement in Australia'

Maltese Historical Association (Australia) Inc.



The Maltese Historical Association has now been going strong for more than twenty-five years. It was founded in 1987 following a meeting attended by a number of local enthusiasts, some of whom remain active members of the Association.

Its objectives are to promote interest in the study of all aspects of the history – social, cultural, economic, political and religious – of Malta and the Maltese people, and to encourage and support research in Maltese history.

Elections are held every year in September.

Committee Members for 2013/14

President – Mr Joseph Borg

Vice President Mr George Portelli,

Secretary Mr Charles Gatt

Treasurer Mr Mario Bonnici

Members: Mrs Agnes Cauchi, Mr Charles Portelli and Mr Lewis Zammit

Association Objectives

The purposes for which the Association was formed are as follows:

- To promote interest in and the study of the history of Malta and of the culture of the Maltese people;
- To encourage and support research in Maltese history and in the history of Maltese settlement in the Commonwealth of Australia and in other countries;
- To develop and maintain contacts with similar organisations; and
- To organise Educational, Cultural, and Social Activities which exclude activities of a gambling nature.

In pursuing the attainment of these objects, The Association organises and conducts regular meetings, lectures, study groups, and other activities for members and will make, keep and preserve records and/or materials relevant to the activities of The Association.

MHA Constitution

The Maltese Historical Association is incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (Vic). Its constitution was last amended on 18 May 2009

BASTILLE DAY 2014 COMMEMORATES WW I IN FRANCE



Monday, July 14, 2014

PARIS --

Soldiers carrying the flags of 76 countries marched Monday down the Champs-Elysees in Paris, as France's traditional Bastille Day military parade commemorated the centenary of World War I.

France invited all countries that were involved on the battlefields - former allies and enemies, former colonizers and colonies, participating altogether in the

ceremony as a symbol of peace.

"Ten million soldiers were killed or died of their injuries on countless battlefields. We owe them gratitude," President Francois Hollande said in a message ahead of the march. The message took on special meaning amid renewed violence in Gaza and Iraq, and as French troops fight extremists in Africa.

MARCH OF MEMORY

Three soldiers of each of the 76 countries marched along the cobblestones in their national dress uniform. Surrounding them were rows of French troops in sky-blue period uniforms of the "Poilus," the name given to French infantrymen of World War I.

The ceremony echoed the first celebration of Bastille Day after the end of what was then known as "The Great War," in 1919. "The war's wounded were at the forefront of the parade in their wheelchairs ... We celebrated the greatness of the French military by putting first the most visible victims," recalled historian Antoine Prost.

A French army choir interpreted two popular songs of the Poilus - one telling the story of soldiers flirting with a pretty waitress in a tavern - before raising their voices in the national anthem, "La Marseillaise."

When did migration start?

"Since the day that Adam and Eve had to leave the Garden of Eden in search of a new home, members of the human race have been forced to wander about the earth in search of new lands or better societies".

ABOUT ADRIAN GRIMA (MALTA)

Photo by Haim Bresheeth



Maltese writer and academic **Adrian Grima** teaches Maltese literature at the University of Malta. He has written and edited a number of academic works, and has published poetry collections and short stories in Maltese for both adults and adolescents. His work has been translated into over 16 languages.

His first book of poetry, *It-Trumbettier* (The Trumpeter, 1999), placed second in the Premio Tivoli Europa Giovani 2000 prize for books of poetry published in Europe in 1999 and the book of poetry he co-authored with Immanuel Mifsud, *Riġ min-Nofsinhar* (2008) (Wind from the South) won the special prize for Most Creative Book awarded by the National Book Council of Malta in

2009. His short story “Triq il-Mediterran” published in the Italian bilingual literary journal *Storie* (June – September, 62/63, 2008) won the *Premio Storie 2009 per la scrittura momentista (sezione straniera)*.

Other books he edited or co-edited won prizes in the Malta National Book Awards. In 2006 he published his second poetry collection in Maltese *Rakkm*. Collections of his poetry in translation have appeared in English (*The Tragedy of the Elephant*, Inizjamed and Midsea, 2005, various translators), German (Hochroth, Berlin, 2010), Italian (*La coda della freccia / Denb il-Vleġġa* 2011, with translations mainly by Mimmo Grasso) and French (*Ici arrivent les mouettes / Hawn Jidħol il-Gawwi*, Fondation de Malte, 2012, with translations by Elizabeth Grech).

In November 2012, Klabb Kotba Maltin published two books of his poetry and short stories for adolescents, *Vleġġa Kkargata* and *Din Mhix Logħba*. Visit also <http://adriangrima.com>.



MALTESE CITIZENS (AND OTHER NATIONALITIES) FROM ALLOVER THE WORLD ARE RECEIVING, READING AND ENJOYING THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER.

The countries we know of are:

MALTA, GOZO, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA, PERU, AUSTRIA, CANADA, BRAZIL, ITALY, BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS AND SOUTH AFRICA.

MORE MALTESE MIGRANTS IN AUSTRALIA PARTICIPATED IN WORLD WAR 1

ALBERT AGIUS AND CARMELO AQUILINA (1916)

The image shows two original enlistment forms from the Australian Imperial Force, dated 1916. The left form is for Albert Agius, service number 1401, and the right form is for Carmelo Aquilina, service number 1052. Both forms are titled 'AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE. Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.' and include a list of 15 questions to be put to the person enlisting before attestation. The forms are filled out with handwritten details, including names, birth dates, places of birth, and signatures of the persons enlisting and the attesting officer.

Albert Agius (Service Number 1401):

- Name: Albert Agius
- Unit: 33rd Battalion
- Joined on: 3 Feb 1916
- Place of birth: Malta
- Next of kin: Carmelo Agius

Carmelo Aquilina (Service Number 1052):

- Name: Carmelo Aquilina
- Unit: 33rd Battalion
- Joined on: 3 Feb 1916
- Place of birth: Malta
- Next of kin: Victoria Aquilina

The enlistment documents of Albert Agius and Carmelo Aquilina

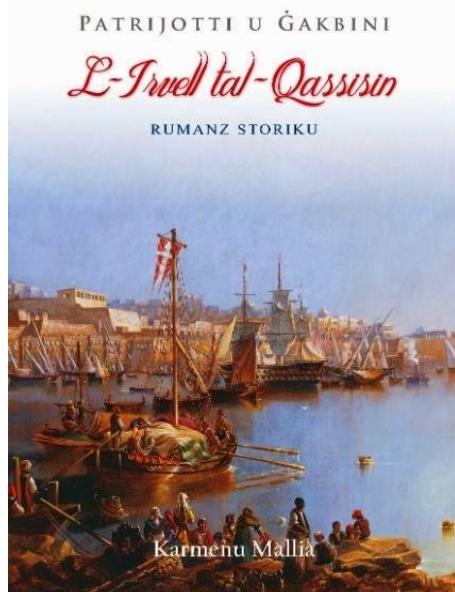
Service number **1401** Place of birth : **Malta** Place of Enlistment: **Kempsey NSW Australia**
 Next of kin: **Agius Carmelo (father)** WW1 file: **B2455, Agius Albert**

Service number **1052** Place of birth **Malta** Place of Enlistment: **Kempsey NSW Australia**
 Next of kin: **Aquilina Victoria (mother)** WW1 file: **B2455, Aquilina Carmelo**

Source: Malta – The Nurse of the Mediterranean
 Author: Frank L Scicluna Adelaide 2014

TIEQA FUQ IL-KTIEB MALTI

Wednesday, July 16, 2014



L-IRVELL TAL-QASSISIN ta' Karmenu Mallia, BDL 2012. STRUTTURA U STIL

Dan huwa rumanz storiku ta' 280 paġna u li jinqasam f'27 kapitlu. Huwa t-tieni wieħed minn trilogija bl-isem ta' "Patrijotti u Ġakbini". B'hal kull rumanz storiku hawn insibu taħlita b'bilanċjata bejn fatti storiċi li seħħew fir-realtà (fejn jissemma fost l-oħrajn Dun Gejt Mannarinu, u anki Matthew Callus li sefa vittma ta' La Vallette bosta snin qabel) u fatti mistħajlin. F'kapitlu 26 jissemma Napuljun, imma anki Mikiel Anton Vassalli b'hal wieħed mill-Ġakbini li hejjew it-triq għall-general Franċiż, u Bosredon, il-kmandant u ex-kavallier li ħalla warajh Napuljun. Hawn ningħataw tagħrif storiku dwar it-Terrur Franċiż, ir-Rivoluzzjoni, Robespierre u Nelson. Dan kollu biex Mallia jdaħħalna dejjem iktar fl-ispiritu taż-żmien.

Il-lehen narranti f'ċerti każijiet hu dak ta' Pupull Barbone, iben familja ta' barunijiet. Mallia jintroduċi l-idea tad-djarju li jikteb Pupull stess. Dan il-lehen narranti spiss jieqaf biex jirrifletti dwar aspetti differenti. Hemm drabi oħrajn meta l-awtur, permezz tal-vuċi narranti, jipprepara lill-qarrej għal dak li jista' jseħħ fil-gejjieni, fosthom f'rabta mal-persunaġġ ta' Mannarinu. Dan in-narratur iħares lejn spazji u persunaġġi differenti biex fl-aħħar jerga' jorbot kollox haġa waħda. Intant, xejn ma jaħrab l-attenzjoni tiegħu - huwa narratur onnixxenti -, lanqas dak li qed iseħħ fuq livell ta' mikrokożmu: hekk, per eżempju, waqt li Mina (bint il-baruni) u Kris (li jingħad għandu demmu Franċiż) jinħabbu għal waqtiet qosra fil-ġnien, il-ħarsa tan-narratur taqa' fuq żewġ bebbuxiet li donnhom waqfu jaraw x'qed iseħħ (Kap. 3, p. 38). Hemm drabi meta n-narratur jipprova jidhol f'moħħ il-kavallieri preżenti (eż. Kap. 8, f'San Ġwann) u fl-istess ħin jiddeskrivi xi wħud mill-opri tal-arti li hemm fil-kattidral. Hawn jissemmew Mattia Preti u Giuseppe Mazzuoli.

Xi haġa simili ssir f'kapitlu 13 meta n-narratur onnixxenti jidhol f'moħħ l-Isqof Pellerano u anki f'moħħ Dun Gejt u l-vuċi narranti donnha ssir il-lehen tal-kuxjenza. Dan jinġieb permezz ta' parti stampata fil-korsiv. Hija wkoll silta mimlija b'punti esklamattivi u interrogattivi, rifless tal-istat emozzjonali u psikoloġiku li fih jinsab Pellerano qabel ma jitlaq minn Malta għal Ruma. Il-korsiv jerga' jidher f'kapitlu 15: wieħed jistaqsi ta' min huwa l-lehen? Huwa tan-narratur onnixxenti li jindirizza direttament lil dawk preżenti fil-knisja ta' San Ġorġ? Hawn – waqt id-deskrizzjoni tal-purċissjoni tal-vari – is-sagru u l-profan jithalltu flimkien. Dan kollu jagħti iktar haġja lil dak li qed jiġi deskritt. Anki hawn però, dak li naqraw hu biss tal-wiċċ, u jservi b'hal passatemp: fil-qiegħ jinħass dejjem iktar li daqt tinqala' waħda kbira, mela hemm it-tensjoni drammatika. Anki l-istil kif inhu miktub kapitlu 16, minkejja li jispiċċa b'nota ta' ottimizmu, iġiegħel lill-qarrej iħoss ċerta tensjoni u biża' minn dak li jista' jgib miegħu l-jum ta' wara, jum ir-rewwixta. Il-korsiv b'hal lehen il-kuxjenza jerga' f'kapitlu 17: naqraw dwar l-umiljazzjoni tal-poplu fqir taħt il-Kavallieri.

AQRA IKTAR FUQ DAN IL-KTIEB IMPORTANTI FUQ

<http://pagnawarapagna.blogspot.com/2014/07/l-irvell-tal-qassisin-ta-karmenu-mallia.html>

MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA (AUSTRALIA) History

The **Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc. (MCCV)** is a non-profit organisation which provides social, cultural, recreational and welfare support to all members of the Maltese Community in the State of Victoria. The MCCV is an umbrella organisation for some thirty Maltese associations which are currently affiliated to it.

The MCCV was established on Saturday 6 July 1958 on the initiative of the Austral-Malta Association. There were one or two delegates from the Austral-Malta Association, Maltese Settlers Association, Malta Migrants Catholic Association, Melita Social Club, Melfare Club, George Cross Soccer Club, Melita Soccer Club, St. Fidelis Soccer Club, Ex-service Association, 17th Melbourne 1st Malta Boys Scouts Group, Star of the Sea Dramatic Company, and the monthly publication "Malta".

The first meeting was held in St. Mary's Mission House in Parkville, Melbourne, which was the home of the priests of the Missionary Society of St. Paul (MSSP). The Superior of the Order and Spiritual Leader of the Maltese community in Melbourne, Fr. Onoratus Galea, MSSP, generously made the venue available for the meeting. Together with several other priests of the Society, Fr Galea was among those who strove for the establishment and the success of the MCCV. Among those present at the inaugural meeting were the High Commissioner of Malta, Captain George Stivala OBE who attended as an official observer and was elected Patron by acclamation. The agenda for the first meeting included the selection of a name for the new organisation, the establishment of a Maltese cultural and recreational centre, a Maltese radio program and general elections.



**The foundation members of
the MCCV in 1958.**

The first officials elected on the MCCV Executive Committee were: Mr. Paul Paris, President; Major J.M. Vella and Mr. J. Galea, Vice-Presidents; Mr. F. St. Angelo, Secretary; Mr. D. Puli, Treasurer; Mr. W. Esposito, PRO; Mr. J. Zammit, Assistant Secretary; Mr. P. Madiona, Assistant Treasurer; and Mr. J. Briffa, Asst.. PRO; while Messrs.

B. Busuttill and G. Deguara were declared Auditors.

Read more about the MCCV on <http://www.mccv.org.au/mccvhistory/>

NEW CITIZENS TO CALL AUSTRALIA HOME DURING AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE MULTICULTURAL ROUND



It will be a very special day for 23 people who have chosen Sunday 20 July to make a Pledge of Commitment to their newly-adopted country.

The Australia Day Council of South Australia, in partnership with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection and Port Adelaide Football Club will host a Citizenship Ceremony for candidates from Sri Lanka, Vietnam, India, the UK, Brazil and Afghanistan on the grounds of Adelaide Oval before the

Port Adelaide v Melbourne Game. "This is a memorable occasion for the candidates that have chosen Australia as their new home. We are extremely proud to be hosting this ceremony with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection and Port Adelaide Football Club and we warmly welcome our new citizens." Matthew Miles, Chief Executive of the Australia Day Council of South Australia said.

For Suzana Rodrigues Peixoto (pictured with her family), she saw Australia as a very beautiful country "Everything is so organised here and since the beginning, Australians were very welcoming. We also feel blessed by the opportunity of being in Australia and we are very proud to say we are now part of this incredible community". This is a very important milestone for us! After four and a half years we feel honoured to be Australians and happy to participate on the very first citizenship ceremony at the Adelaide Oval (before an AFL game). We are looking forward to starting this new chapter of our journey here as citizens and grateful for the opportunities Australia has given us".

This year also marks the celebration of a significant milestone for all Australians – the 65th anniversary of Australian citizenship. Since 1949, more than 4.5 million people from across the globe have become Australian citizens.

Other Multicultural Round activities occurring at Adelaide Oval include up to 50 young primary students from around the globe playing their first game of Aussie Rules at Adelaide Oval.



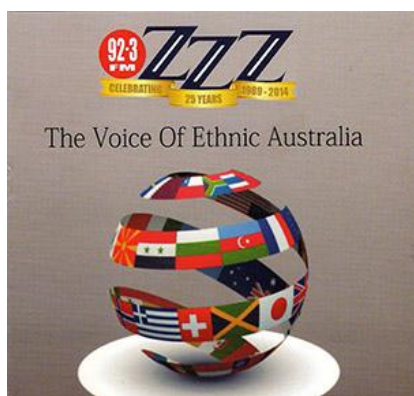
ITALIAN DIRECTOR TO SHOOT FIRST FILM ABOUT POPE FRANCIS

ROME - An Italian director best known for telling complex on-screen love stories will begin shooting the first film about Pope Francis in Argentina later this year, Italian radio has reported.

An Italian director best known for telling complex on-screen love stories will begin shooting the first film about Pope Francis in Argentina later this year. Daniele Luchetti said he would start filming the biopic in October, after he had become fascinated by the pontiff's openness on various issues. 'I want to tell the story of (Francis) before he became pope,' Luchetti told Italy's RAI2 public radio.

Asked which actor could play the pope, Luchetti mentioned Argentine star Rodrigo de la Serna, who played Che Guevara's friend in the biopic *The Motorcycle Diaries*. The director is most famous for his film *My Brother is an Only Child*, a story of two working class brothers growing up in the 1960s that was shown at the 2007 Cannes film festival. His short film *Portaborse* (The Bag-Carrier) was about political corruption in Italy.

The 57-year-old said he also plans to make a television series about the pope.



LARGEST ETHNIC COMMUNITY STATION IN AUSTRALIA RADIO 3ZZZ CELEBRATES 25 YEARS JUL 2014

Radio 3ZZZ, the largest ethnic community station in Australia Radio broadcasting from Melbourne, celebrated its 25th anniversary with a multicultural concert and book launch on Sunday 6 July 2014 held in the hall of Alphington Grammar in Alphington.

Among the distinguished guests present were: the Hon. Inga Peulich MLC, Cabinet Secretary representing the Premier of Victoria; the Hon Jenny Mikakos MLC, Shadow Minister for Community Services representing the Leader of the Opposition; Councillor Trent McCarthy, representing the Leader of the Victorian Greens; Mr Peter Bachelor, President of the Community Broadcasting Foundation; Ms Marion Lau, Member of the



Victorian Multicultural Commission; and Mr Eddie Micallef, Chairperson of the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV).

Maltese language group at 3zzz: from left: Mari Stafrace, Lewis Stafrace (broadcaster), Salvina Vella, Paul Vella (broadcaster), Gejtu Deguara (committee member), Mary Deguara, and Mario Sammut (broadcaster)

The second revised edition of the book titled *From 3ZZ to 3ZZZ – A Short History of Ethnic Broadcasting in Australia* was launched by MCCV Vice President and former ECCV

Chairperson Mr Victor Borg, who was one of the pioneers and trailblazers in community radio as a foundation member of the original Radio 3ZZ in 1975 and in the establishment of Radio 3ZZZ in 1989.

Taħżiż

TAĦŻIŻ, il-programm ta' *empowerment* li jiffoka fuq il-kitba kreattiva, daħal fit-tieni sena tiegħu. Din is-sena l-programm huwa magħmul minn tliet seminars residenzjali, b'qari pubbliku bejn seminar u ieħor, u publikazzjoni fl-aħħar. It-tieni seminar ta' din l-edizzjoni qed jiġi organizzat bejn il-25 u s-27 ta' Lulju, u matulu l-parteċipanti se jkollhom iċ-ċans jgħixu flimkien għal tliet ijiem f'ambjent li jhegġeġ il-kitba.

Permezz ta' eżercizzji tal-kitba huma jiġu mħarrġa f'tekniki differenti filwaqt li l-laqqgħat individwali mal-kordinaturi jgħinuhom jorqmu l-kitba tagħhom aħjar. Il-laqqgħat u l-ħidma fi gruppi ma tonqosx, u dawn jgħinu wkoll lill-parteċipanti sabiex għal ftit jidhlu fiż-żarbun ta' kritiċi u jitgħallmu mill-kitbiet ta' sħabhom.

Il-parteċipanti għal din is-sena huma: Beverly Agius, Dorianne Bonello, Sylvana Bugeja, Francesco Grech, Stefan Magri, Joseph Paul Muscat u Matthew Schembri. Għal aktar tagħrif dwar il-parteċipanti u l-andament tas-seminars, tinsewx iżżuru l-blogg ta' *Taħżiż* <tahziz.wordpress.com> u l-paġna ta' Facebook <facebook.com/tahziz>.

TAĦŻIŻ2 hu programm tal-Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, b'kordinazzjoni tal-Għaqda tal-Malti. Università u l-Fondazzjoni AWL.





AUSTRALIAN FAMILIES GREET MH17 BODIES

Relatives have met the first arrival of MH17 bodies at a solemn ceremony in the Netherlands.

Australian relatives and friends of MH17 victims were among those on hand in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, to meet the arrival of the first 40 bodies from the Ukraine. A solemn ceremony on Wednesday marked the landing of the Dutch C130 Hercules and the Australian RAAF C17 transporter just before 4pm local time (12am AEST), with the flags of the 17 countries impacted by the tragedy flying at half mast. Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove were part of the dignitaries, which included the

Dutch king and queen. They stood in close

proximity to approximately 1000 grieving family and friends of the 298 people killed almost a week ago, when Malaysia Airlines flight 17 was downed over rebel-controlled territory in the Ukraine.

Following the ceremony, Ms Bishop told journalists she was planning to meet relatives and friends of the victims who were in the hangar, including Australians. 'I hope to meet the Australians that are there and reassure them that the whole country is behind them. The whole country is supporting them.' The last post was played followed by a minute's silence, before caskets were moved by military personnel one at a time into 40 individual hearses parked on the tarmac.

AUSTRALIANS MARCH IN TO AC/DC

Australian athletes march in Glasgow
Photo Source: Getty Images



COMMONWEALTH GAMES – GLASGOW SCOTLAND

AC/DC's Back in Black is hardly a marching tune, but it just seemed to fit when Australia's head banging athletes strode into Celtic Park to the rousing anthem as the Commonwealth Games officially got underway.

Anna Meares led the Australian contingent of around 375 athletes and officials into the home of Celtic Football Club to a welcoming ovation from the 40,000 crowd as loud as any AC/DC number.

And in case they needed any more pumping up for the Games opening ceremony, the raucous entrance tune lifted the Australians even higher.

"Just before we went into the stadium I turned around and did the 'Aussie, Aussie, Aussie,' chant and the whole team followed along," Meares said.

"That was incredible. Standing there, waiting to walk in and then being welcomed in hearing AC/DC, the vibe in there was just electric.

"So happy, so colourful - lots of Aussie flags and boxing kangaroos around the place as well, I can't stop smiling."

Pope Francis appoints Maltese Theologian as Consultor

Pope Francis appointed Rev. Dr Hector Scerri to be one of the Consultors of one of the Dicasteries of the Holy See – the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity.



Fr Scerri, 48, is Head of the Department of Dogmatic Theology at the University of Malta where he has been lecturing for the last sixteen years.

He is currently President of the Theological Commission of the Maltese Episcopal Conference and President of the Ecumenical Commission of the Archdiocese of Malta. He is also Chairman of “Christians Together in Malta” (Malta Ecumenical Council). Fr Scerri is active in ecumenical dialogue among Christians on the local scene.

Special Hand Postmark – Relikwa Insinji ta’ driegh San Gorg Martri



For the occasion of the 175th Anniversary of the statue of St. George found in St. George’s Basilica in Victoria Gozo, **the Holy Relic of St. George’s arm** housed at the Benedictine abbey of San Giorgio Maggiore in Venice, Italy, will be brought in Malta and Gozo for the first time.

MaltaPost notifies that for this occasion, a special hand postmark will be used on Saturday, the 19th of July 2014 at the Victoria, Gozo Post Office.

Orders for this special hand postmark may be placed online at maltaphilately.com or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Triq Hal Qormi, Marsa, MTP 1001 –

Telephone 2596 1740 – e-mail: info@maltaphilately.com



MALTESE EX SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA AUSTRALIA

Postal address: C/- 48 York Street, Airport West, Victoria 3042

Date founded: 1956

Association Objectives. The purposes for which the Association was formed are:

- to bring together ex-services members,
- to celebrate national festivities within the Australian context,
- to liaise with similar associations within Australia,
- to provide social activities for its members, and
- to raise money to make donations for patriotic, charitable or community purposes.

Association History

The Association was formed in 1956 mainly through the efforts of Major Michael Vella, DSO and Charles Madiona. After a period where it was inactive, it was re-formed in 1978 through the interest of Emmanuel Bugeja, Major Michael Vella and Nicholas Chircop. It became affiliated with the MCCV in 1958, as one of its original founding affiliated associations.

Among the current activities organised by the Association are the celebration of special commemorative days, including the ANZAC Day March to the Shrine of Remembrance on April 25, the award of the George Cross to Malta, the formation of a guard of honour at Our Lady of Victories church services, and, from time to time, social functions for its members and their friends.

Originally the Association's membership was restricted to veterans of World War II and any other conflict. However, due to the ageing membership of the Association, it has been opened to anybody mainly of Maltese descent. To join, contact the President Emmanuel Spiteri on 03 9338 3526 or Vice President Frank Bugeja on 03 9337 7258. Membership fee is \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a couple or family

Committee Elections. Elections are held every year in November. The last elections were held in February 2014.

Committee Members for 2014/15

President Mr Emmanuel Spiteri

Secretary Mr Joseph Sammut

Treasurer Mr Joseph Stafrace

Members Mr Alfred Asciak, Mr Alfred Gatt, Mr Alfred Farrugia

Membership. Originally the Association's membership was restricted to veterans of World War II and any other conflict. However, due to the ageing membership of the Association, it has been opened to anybody mainly of Maltese descent. To join, contact the President Emmanuel Spiteri on 03 9338 3526. Membership fee is \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a couple or family.

Newsletter. The Association produces a quarterly newsletter which is sent to all members.

Events. The Association holds the following annual activities and events:

- *April (Sunday closest to 15th):* The George Cross Commemorative Church Service and wreath laying at George Cross Memorial
- *25 April:* ANZAC Day March
- *11 November:* Remembrance Day Church Service

Angela's Kitchen

Paul Capsis. Photo: Michael Corridore



ANGELA'S KITCHEN folds its audience into the bosom of the sprawling Maltese-Australian family of the singer Paul Capsis.

Angela is Capsis's late grandmother, who left war-shattered Malta with her five children in 1948 to join her wharfie husband in Sydney. Her kitchen is in pre-gentrification Surry Hills, and it's from here that Capsis flits to and fro, in space and time, beginning with his impressions of his own first visit to Malta and his search for the house in which his mother was born.

We're taken on a brief tour of the island: into the warren of bomb shelters dug into the bedrock, into the massive domed church of St Mary in Mosta, into ancient temples that predate Stonehenge. The Sydney sites of significance are more prosaic by comparison - the Surry Hills post office Angela used to clean every night, the smoky bingo hall she frequented - but Capsis, seeing them through the eyes of a child, elevates them to similar status.

Developed with associate writer Hilary Bell and director Julian Meyrick, *Angela's Kitchen* is a warm and well-made narrative that balances the universal and the particular, the sentimental and the wryly humorous.

Many will have experienced Capsis as a performer in extremis, in works directed by Barrie Kosky in particular. Here, his performance is contained and conversational. He addresses the audience directly, frequently making eye contact as he slips in and out of a dozen or more characters, using simple costume pieces and that extraordinary voice of his to conjure up the deadpan drone of a bingo caller, the pinched drawl of his aunty Doris, an occasional bellow from his taciturn granddad. His use of items belonging to Angela adds greatly to the story's poignancy.

There's no shortage of migration narrative but the story of the Maltese in Australia is one I haven't heard, despite the fact that more than 80,000 left the island for these climes in the half-century following World War II. In part, it fills that gap. It also pays respect to the massive resilience of the Maltese, who suffered grievously in the war, when the island was all but hammered flat.

Above all, though, it's a deeply felt tribute to Angela's fortitude in particular - and by extension, to all those who take special care of us as children and profoundly affect the people we become

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/theatre/angelas-kitchen-20101111-17pbp.html#ixzz38H9TTknn>

SAHHA U SLIEM
See ya later, alligator