



CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

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A REFUGEE APPOINTED NEXT GOVERNOR OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



**Hieu Van Le
the new Governor of SA**

On Thursday, 26 June 2014, South Australia Premier the Hon Jay Weatherill MP announced that Her Majesty the Queen has approved the appointment of Mr. Hieu Van Le AO as the next Governor of South Australia. Mr. Weatherill said Mr. Le's appointment heralds an historic moment for South Australia.

"It is a great honour to announce that Mr. Hieu Van Le will be South Australia's 35th Governor — the first Asian migrant to rise to the position of Governor in our State's history," Mr. Weatherill said.

Mr. Le said that his appointment sends a powerful message affirming South Australia's inclusive and egalitarian



**The newly-appointed governor of SA
with Mr Frank Scicluna during the launch
of the book - Maltese-SA Directory 2009**

society. At the same time, it represents a powerful symbolic acknowledgement of the contributions that all migrants have made and are continuing to make to our state.

Mr. Le strongly believes that this appointment sends a positive message to people in many countries around the world, and in particular, our neighbouring countries in the Asia-Pacific region, of the inclusive and vibrant multicultural society of South Australia. In preparation for assuming his new office, Mr. Hieu Van Le AO has resigned as Chairman of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission. Mr. Le said it had been an honour and a privilege to be a member of the Commission since 1995 including his terms as Deputy Chairman from 2003 to 2006 and subsequently as Chairman since January 2007.

"My years at the Commission have been immensely rewarding, and I want to thank the communities and their leaders for travelling with me on the exciting journey which has seen multiculturalism come to be acknowledged as one of South Australia's greatest achievements and most precious assets." "Nevertheless, all good things come to an end and as I move on to my new role, I look forward to many new challenges and opportunities. I will never forget the many friends and supporters of the Commission, and my commitment to multiculturalism will never wane," he said.

Mr. Le is a personal friend and supporter of the Maltese community of South Australia

REMEMBERING THE WEST GATE TRAGEDY 44 YEARS ON MALTESE AMONG THE DEAD — MELBOURNE - AUSTRALIA



Just before midday on 15 October 1970, a 120 metre span of the half-built West Gate Bridge collapsed into the Yarra, Melbourne, killing 35 workers. A royal commission to investigate the cause of the collapse attributed the failure to a litany of errors in the

structural design and method of erection of the bridge. The commission's findings paved the way for the strengthening of occupational health and safety laws in Australian workplaces.

The workers were killed when a section of the West Gate Bridge collapsed during construction. What is not so well known is that the surviving workers were sacked four days later and offered no assistance or support. When they returned to work almost two years later, the builder refused to re-hire the union shop stewards so their workmates went on strike for seven weeks. Health and safety have come a long way since 1970 but only after too many lives were lost and thanks to the role of unions.

IT WAS the morning the world fell from under their feet as they worked atop the West Gate Bridge.

Workers, from the supervisors to the riggers and the welders, heard bolts pop from their sockets like exploding light globes. Steel groaned in a futile effort to resist and maintain its integrity as gravity pulled hard. The section of bridge span in question was 128 metres of concrete and steel. The steel changed colour as it tried to hold on. The concrete cracked and exploded. The bridge's skeleton shook and trembled. Then, in the blink of an eye, span 10-11 of the construction phase, weighing in at 2000 tons, broke away and dropped 50 metres.

The two Maltese workers were two of the unfortunate victims - Tony Falzon, 32, also a carpenter, who had emigrated from Malta seven before and Victor Gerada – ironworker.

In those interminable seconds before the huge span plummeted 45 metres (150 feet) into the mud and waters of Melbourne's River Yarra, a young Maltese migrant, boilermaker's assistant, **Charlie Sant**, had the presence of mind to sit down on a box and await the worst and he was of the survivors.



WESTGATE BRIDGE AS IT IS NOW

[The Cultural Legacy of Malta & Gozo](#)

July 15 · Edited

Italy's most prestigious archaeology magazine, ARCHEO, has our Neolithic Temples as it's main story (32 pages!) in this month's issue.

This came about after the editor saw the second CLOMAG book about the same subject. Most of the photography in the story is from the book.

The beauty and grandeur of the prehistoric temples were highlighted in a 32-page feature and the cover of popular Italian archaeological magazine Archeo, which also included Malta in its specialised trips by the publication's travel agency. The magazine's editor describes Malta as an "essential destination" for those who wanted to fully understand the ancient and modern history of the Mediterranean.

Festival Mediterranju tal-Letteratura ta' Malta - 2014 edition



The IXth edition of the **Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival** organized by Inizjamed will be held on Thursday 4th, Friday 5th and Saturday 6th September, at the Msida Bastion Historic Garden, in **FLORIANA**, with the participation of **Noria Adel** (Algeria), **Clare Azzopardi** (Malta), **Antoine Cassar** (Malta), **Marc Delouze** (France), **Abdulrazak Gurnah** (UK), **Walid Nabhan** (Malta), Bel Olid (Catalonia, Spain), **Marlene Saliba** (Malta), **Peter Semolič** (Slovenia), **Giacomo Sferlazzo** (Lampedusa), and **Anna Szabó** (Hungary).



Clare Azzopardi (1977) lives in a 400 year old house. When she isn't teaching, she spends most of her time reading and writing. She has written award-winning books for both children and adults. Her work has been translated into several languages and has appeared in a number of collections including *Transcript*, *In Focus*, *Cúirt 21* and *Skald*. Her play *L-Interdett Taht is-Sodda* was published in French (Éditions Théâtrales, 2008) and in Arabic (I-ACT, 2009). She has just published a book of short stories for adults *Kulhadd halla isem warajh* and is currently working on her first novel.

The 2014 edition of the Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival and LAF workshop are being held in collaboration with the Malta Arts Fund, Valletta 2018, Din l-Art Helwa, Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, Reel Festivals, the European Commission Representation in Malta, Għaqda tal-Malti – Università, the Small Initiatives Scheme under the Voluntary Organisations Fund, and Institut Ramon Llull.

Antoine Cassar is a Maltese poet, translator, editor and cultural organiser, currently based in Luxembourg.



His composition *Merħba, a poem of hospitality* was awarded the *United Planet Writing Prize* in 2009. *Passaport, a long poem published in nine languages*, has been adapted for the theatre in Malta (awarded *Best Production* and *Best Actress* at the 2010 MADC One Act Play Festival) and in France (by *Compagnie D'Autres Cordes*, on tour during the 2014-15 season). Cassar's latest publications are the collection *Bejn / Between* (Ed. Skarta, 2011) and the booklet *Mappa tal-Mediterran* (Għaqda tal-Malti, 2013), a long poem describing the shapes of the Mediterranean Sea as seen from all four cardinal directions, in relation to the history of its peoples, including ancient and

contemporary migrations. <http://www.antoinecassar.info>,

The Facebook page for this year's Festival is "Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival 2014".

A 1903 photo of a Maltese School in Egypt from "Kulluna Kulturali" series book
"Emigrazzjoni Maltija: Is-Seklu Dsataz u Ghoxrin" by Lawrence Attard (1999)



Malta celebrates 72nd Anniversary of Ohio convoy - 1942



Malta is celebrating the 72nd anniversary of the arrival of the convoy codenamed Operation Pedestal, commonly known as the Santa Marija Convoy, on August 15 of that year.

During the summer of 1942 Malta was heading towards starvation and by August was in reality just days away from surrendering to the non-stop bombardment by German planes.

Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill called for a convoy to take essential supplies to the beleaguered island fortress. Code-named Operation Pedestal, the convoy entered the Mediterranean on August 10th, 1942 and then faced one of the most sustained and ferocious attacks of the war.

German and Italian planes, submarines and torpedo boats launched attack after attack in a bid to destroy the convoy and prevent its cargo reaching Malta.

Aircraft carriers, naval ships, tankers and supply ships all were sunk in the following days and nights.

Five days later, the Ohio, battered and on the verge of sinking, limped into Grand Harbour, kept afloat by two other ships supporting her on each side. Her precious cargo of oil meant that Malta could survive. Malta did survive thanks to the bravery and courage of the Royal Navy and the men of the merchant ships.

The people of Malta had earlier been rewarded for their bravery when King George awarded the island the George Cross in April of 1942.

These are probably the two most important dates highlighting Malta's role during World War II, which determined the outcome of the North African campaign and the war in the Mediterranean, and the surrender of Italy nearly a year later, on September 8, 1943.

PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS CAN BE VIEWED ON
www.ozmalta.page4.me

KANTILENA



From left: Albert Garzia, Drinu Camilleri, James Baldacchino, and Alessandro Lia. Photo: Elaine Bugeja

Kantilena is a band from Malta playing a brand of modern and contemporary folk with traditional roots. “We have a love of traditional music and of the Maltese language. At the same time we want to create something that is contemporary, and that is how the band came to be”, explains Drinu Camilleri, one of the founding members.

The band consists of four core

members: James Baldacchino on violin, Albert Garzia on accordion, Alessandro Lia on voice and piano, and Camilleri on voice and guitar. The line-up frequently also includes Manuel Pulis on drums and percussions.

“Our music is fundamentally Maltese. It is written and sung in Maltese, many times using a traditional Maltese music vernacular; the lyrical content often alludes to local elements”, explains Baldacchino. “However we are also inspired by various sources, including music from other countries and cultures. We’ve been told that our music at times reminds people of Jewish, Balkan, or Sicilian music. It’s exciting that and flattering that, in a way, people get to travel in their minds while listening to our music.”

The band was formed in 2009 by Camilleri, Baldacchino and Lia with the aim of creating original music grounded on folk. At the same time, they did not want to remain in the past. “We have no interest in acting as a sarcophagus”, says Camilleri. “Yes, we do love tradition, but we also love living in the 21st century. We would like to create stuff that grabs hold of people’s imagination and drags it the way a book, a painting, or a film does. We want to take people places, physical and otherwise; out to sea on a rickety boat, say, or to the gallows, but also inside their own or someone else’s consciousness. Some places will be familiar; others, not so much. But that’s the beauty of any adventure, no?”

The name **Kantilena** derives from the first ever recorded writing in Maltese, a poem estimated to have been written by Pietru Caxaro in the 1470s. “We chose the name for various reasons, among them being a heartfelt tribute to a very beautiful and ground-breaking poem”, says Camilleri. “Caxaro wrote his piece in Maltese at a time when, as far as we know, Maltese was looked down on. As a band we also feel that we are part of a growing cultural and social interest in the Maltese language, which can be as powerful and articulate a language as any other.”

INQUISITION IN MALTA - GIRGENTI PALACE SIGGIEWI

Close to Siggiewi, at the western end of the island, is the fertile little valley of Girgenti. At its head is a flat, rocky ledge, from which the ground falls sharply below what it is - a precipice in miniature. At the foot of the ledge is a grove of poplars, medlars, lemon, orange and pomengaranate trees; all sorts of shrubs grow with a luxuriance rare in Malta besides running water that irrigates the farms below. On the ledge, when even in summer is cool and in winter is buffeted by every wind that blows, stands a little gem of a house - plain harmonious, restrained.

Girgenti was built by Inquisitor Onorato Visconti in 1625 and commands a superb view of the surrounding country. Its gardens are watered by a number of springs, the main one being that of Ghajn il-Kbir, which also irrigates the valley of Girgenti below. Its chapel, dedicated to San Carlo Borromeo, was built by Inquisitor (later Cardinal) Angleo Dorini in 1763.

The facade consists of three blocks which lie in one continuous face with recessed panels and plain projecting strips marking the vertical and horizontal divisions. The window surrounds consists of similar plain strips whilst the central axis is accented by a balustraded balcony over the door and a high semi circular-headed French window in the first floor. Good proportions, a clear articulation and an interesting broken skyline produce a pleasant effect so that, although plain, the facade is neither monotonous nor preceptibly severe. It is worth noting the effectiveness of the single top windows in the two wings.



The ground floor plan originally consisted of seven rooms built in a row overlooking the beautiful valley. Three of these rooms, to the right of the entrance hall, now form what is called the Long Room, the principal reception room. At the back of this is a narrow passage which is connected by a graceful loggia to the charming little chapel, which is now the Dining Room. To the left of the entrance hall is a small study and a serving room which leads to the old kitchen.

The first floor extends over the whole of the ground. It includes the Library which is a beautiful high ceilinged room with windows in three of the four walls. This floor also contains the main bedroom with its private terrace, as well as a secondary bedroom and Reading room. The second floor only extends over the right wing and contains two bedrooms. What appears to be a second floor over the left wing has been taken up by the Library's high ceiling.



From 1625 to 1798, when the French regime suppressed the Inquisition, Girgenti was the summer residence of Malta's Inquisitors. Of the 41 Inquisitors who used this house, 26 later became Cardinals and two became Popes, reigning as Alexander VII and Innocent XII respectively.

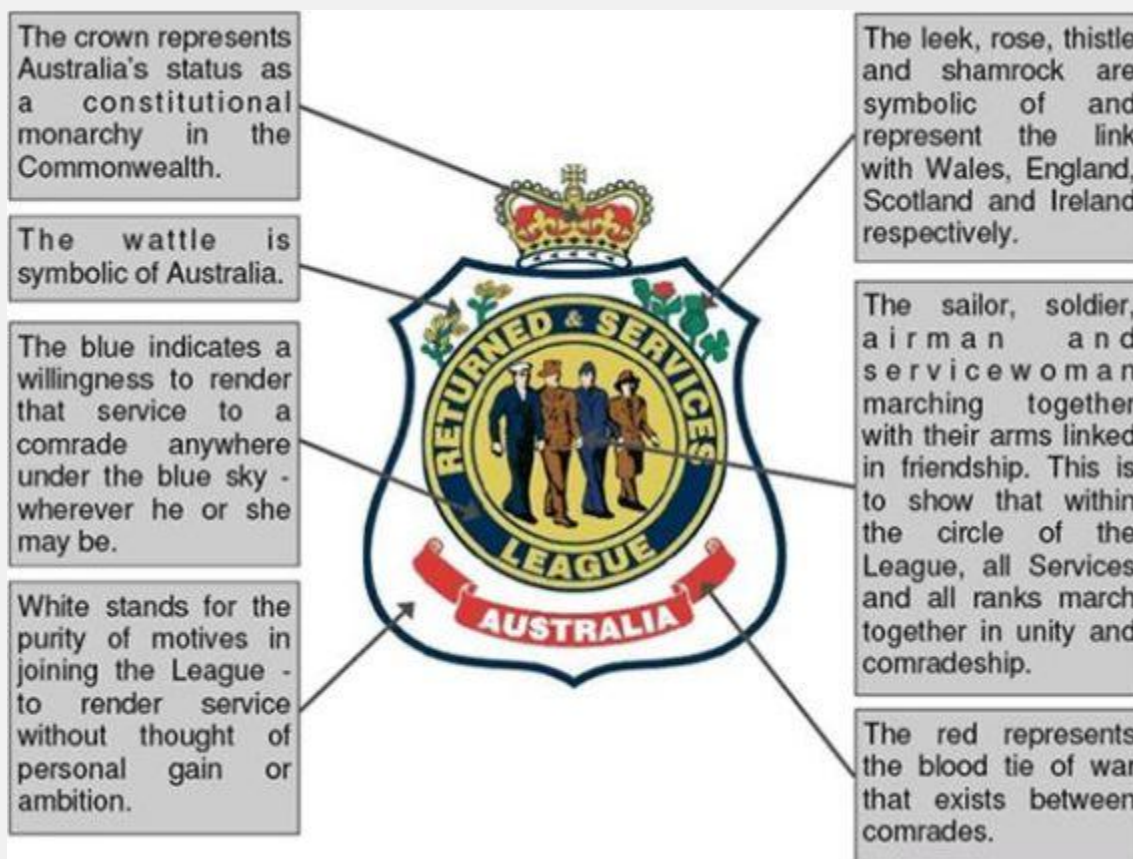
During the British period Girgenti served initially as the summer residence of the Lieutenant Governors of Malta. In the second World War it was used as one of the stores for the National Museum's collection. It fell into total despair after the war and was partially restored in 1966 and 1967. It again fell into despair in the 1970's and was fully restored between 1988 and 1990, when it became the country residence of the Prime Ministers of Malta.

RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

RSL BADGE

The badge is a symbol of readiness at all times to render service to Queen and country, and to former comrades. The wattle is symbolic of Australia. The leek, the rose, the thistle, and the shamrock are symbolic of, and represent, the link with Wales, England, Scotland and Ireland respectively.

It is a time-honoured emblem, one that has been worn with a deep sense of pride by the most revered in our land, and one that glorifies the coats of all privileged to wear it. Neither wealth, nor influence, nor social standing can purchase the badge, which may be worn in honour only by those who have rendered service in the Armed Forces of Australia and her allies.



The three colours in the badge represent different things:

- The red represents the blood tie of war that exists between comrades;
- White stands for the purity of your motive in joining the League - to render services without thought of personal gain or ambition; and
- The blue indicates your willingness to render that service to a comrade anywhere under the blue sky wherever he or she may be.

Depicted in the centre of the badge, and encircled by the name of the organisation, you will see a sailor, soldier, an airman and service woman marching together with their arms linked in friendship. This is to show that within the circle of the League, all services and all ranks, march together in unity and comradeship. It challenges RSL members and those who see it to good citizenship, cherishing it as a symbol of all that is best in our national organisation is based..

Australia's Vinnies spokesman says welfare to work threatens vulnerable

St Vincent de Paul spokesman John Falzon has said that the entire welfare to work legislation takes away dignity from disability pensioners and single mothers in the workforce and that new workplace laws will exacerbate the problem.

From July, disability pensioners and single mothers who fail to comply with welfare rules could lose their benefits for up to eight weeks. Those considered "extremely vulnerable" will be referred to charities for payments up to \$650.

Speaking to Channel 10's *Meet The Press* on Sunday, Mr Falzon, whose charity will not participate in the Government's new scheme, said the welfare to work regime strips away human dignity and "does not offer hope to the people who really need the opportunities to be able to engage in the workforce and in society."



Dr. John Falzon

He said it is "immoral" to subject vulnerable people to threats of income suspension, particularly where there are children involved. "To take away 100 per cent of their income for up to two months is not a way to enable people to engage productively or meaningfully in the labour market," he said. Mr Falzon warns that with the Government's new workplace laws which came into effect last month, Australia could see the rise of a US-style "working poor" where people living in poverty turn to charities, their extended family and illicit work to survive.



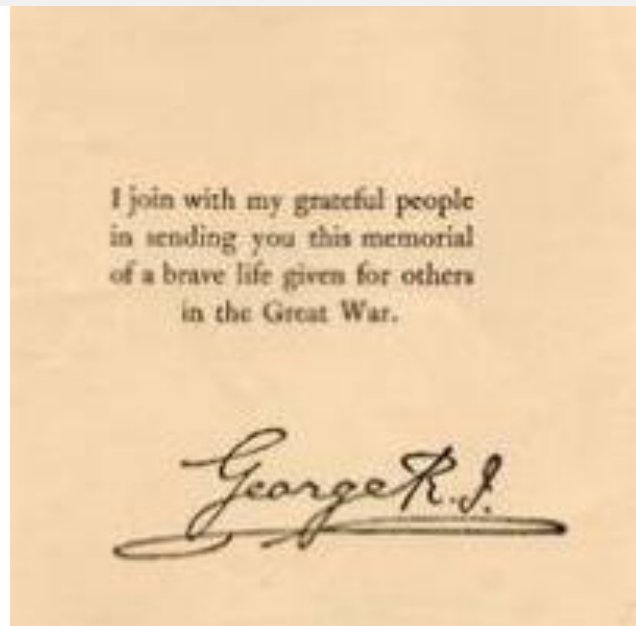
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE THIS TREE IN FRONT OF YOUR HOUSE

1914-1918 MEMORIAL PLAQUE - 'DEAD MAN'S PENNY'



The next of kin of soldiers, sailors and nurses who died while serving in the AIF and RAN during the First World War were presented with a Memorial Scroll, and later a Remembrance Plaque, a 'Dead Man's Penny', 'as a solace for bereavement and as a memento'. The memorial plaques were issued to commemorate all those who died as a result of war service from within the British Commonwealth.

Each plaque had the name of the soldier commemorated individually embossed as part of the design. The full name was given without any indication of rank or honours to show the equality of sacrifice of all those who had lost their lives. The first plaques were distributed in Australia in 1922.



Source: Malta: Nurse of the Mediterranean – FL Scicluna 2014



THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF MELBOURNE

Melbourne- The Capital City of Victoria

The most liveable city in the world



The City of Melbourne
Coat of Arms

The **City of Melbourne** is a local government area in Victoria, Australia, located in the central city area of Melbourne. The city has an area of 36 square kilometres (14 sq mi) and had a population of 93,625 people at the 2011 Census. The city's motto is "*Vires acquirit eundo*" which means "She gathers strength as she goes."

Melbourne City Centre (sometimes referred to as "Central City", http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melbourne_city_centre_-_cite_note-2 and colloquially known as simply "The City") is an area of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. It is the

area in which Melbourne was established in 1835, by founders John Batman and John Pascoe Fawkner,^[3] and its boundaries are defined by the Government of Victoria's *Melbourne Planning Scheme*. Today it comprises the two oldest areas of

Melbourne; the Hoddle Grid and Queen Victoria Market, as well as sections of the redeveloped areas of Docklands and Southbank/Wharf.^[4] It is not to be confused with the larger local government area of the City of Melbourne.



It is the core central activities district (CAD) of Melbourne's inner suburbs and the major central business district (CBD) of Greater Melbourne's metropolitan area, and is a major financial centre in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. The Hoddle Grid is home to Melbourne's famed alleyways and arcades and is renowned for its distinct blend of contemporary and Victorian architecture as well as expansive parks and gardens which surround its edges. The City Centre is home to five of the six tallest buildings in Australia. In recent times, it has been placed alongside New York City and Berlin as one of the World's great street art meccas, and designated a "City of Literature" by UNESCO in its Creative Cities Network. Melbourne has retained its status as the world's most liveable city for a fourth consecutive year, outscoring three other Australian cities in the top 10

according to the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index.

NATIONAL PERSONIFICATION – MELITA



Melita is the personification of Malta or the Maltese people. The name originated from the Roman town of that name which was destroyed and rebuilt several times by the Fatamids, Normans and Knights of Saint John and eventually renamed Mdina or Città Notabile. The personification of Melita first appeared on 4 February 1899 on a postage stamp. Since then, Melita has been portrayed several times on both postage stamps, revenue stamps and banknotes of Malta. The design currently in use was designed by Edward Caruana Dingli in 1922, which was featured on a set of postage stamps commemorating Malta's self-government. The design shows Melita wearing a garment over a breastplate showing the Maltese Cross, a helmet and sandals. She is holding a rudder representing the Maltese in control of Malta's destiny. The last banknotes issued by the Central Bank of Malta, which were issued between 1989 and 2000 and valid until 2008, featured Melita from the design by Edward Caruana Dingli made for the 1922 stamp set.

JET2 TO OPERATE GLASGOW – MALTA ROUTE STARTING FROM SUMMER 2015



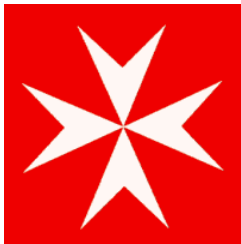
Jet2.com and Jet2holidays have announced further expansion plans at Glasgow Airport, including new routes, an additional aircraft plus even more seats for summer 2015. Malta is included in one of four new destinations announced, with seats already on sale.

The introduction of these routes along with the addition of a sixth aircraft will see Jet2.com operate its biggest ever flying programme from Glasgow Airport next year.

JET2.com employs more than 3,000 people and has carried more than 30 million passengers, travelling to 65 destination, with another three

destinations from Glasgow announced besides Malta, of Prague, Antalya and Larnaca. Jet2holidays said that it is also continuing to see an increase in customer numbers, with bookings up 32 per cent year on year. Steve Heapy, CEO of Jet2.com and Jet2holidays said, "It has certainly been four years of development at Glasgow Airport and we are thrilled to be announcing further growth plans for summer 2015. For more information see the Jet2.com WEBSITE.

MALTESE CROSS (SINCE 1530)



The Maltese cross, also known as the Amalfi cross is the cross symbol associated with the Knights Hospitaller (the Knights of Malta) and by extension with the island of Malta. The cross is eight-pointed and has the form of four “V”-shaped elements joined together at their tips, so that each arm has two points. Its design is based on crosses used since the First Crusade. It is also the modern symbol of Amalfi, a small Italian republic of the 11th century. In the mid 16th century, when the Knights were at Malta, the familiar design now known as the “Maltese Cross” became associated with the island.

The first evidence for Maltese Cross on Malta appears on the Copper coins of the Grand Master Jean Parisot de la Vallette (Grand Master 1557–1568). The 2 and 4 Tari Copper coins are dated 1567. This provides a date for the introduction of the Maltese Cross. The Maltese cross was depicted on the two mils coin in the old Maltese currency and is now shown on the back of the one and two Euro coins, introduced in January 2008. In the 15th century, the eight points of the four arms of the later called Maltese Cross represented the eight lands of origin, or Langues of the Knights Hospitaller: Auvergne, Provence, France, Aragon, Castille and Portugal, Italy, Baviere (Germany), and England (with Scotland and Ireland). The eight points also symbolize the eight obligations or aspirations of the knights:

to live in truth to have faith to repent one's sins to give proof of humility to love justice to be merciful to be sincere and wholehearted to endure persecution

Both the Order of Saint John (in German, the Johanniterorden) and the Venerable Order of St John teach that the eight points of the cross represent the eight Beatitudes. The Venerable Order's main service organisation, St John Ambulance, has applied secular meanings to the points as representing the traits of a good first aider: **Observant Tactful Resourceful Dexterous Explicit Discriminating Persevering Sympathetic**

The Maltese cross remains the symbol of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, of the Order of Saint John and its allied orders, of the Venerable Order of Saint John, and of their various service organisations. In recent centuries, numerous other orders have adopted the Maltese cross as part of their insignia (the Order of Saint Lazarus, for example, uses a green Maltese cross). In Australia, the Maltese Cross is part of the state emblem of Queensland.



Fr. Michael Camilleri O. Carm with a group of Maltese migrants on their way from Malta to Australia in the 1950s

THE MALTESE CONNECTION: THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH EX-SERVICES LEAGUE (RCEL) MEETS ON A SYMBOLIC WWII ISLAND

September 8, 2012 by Jennifer Morse



Malta.

ILLUSTRATION: JENNIFER MORSE (2012)

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

The Mediterranean island is also unwavering in her bravery. So much so that she is the only country to have ever been awarded the George Cross—the highest civil decoration of the United Kingdom. Imagine, for two years the inhabitants of this tough little island stayed resolute while 30,000 bombs pulverized her buildings, and enemy submarines surrounded her shores and watched as people starved and died from warfare and disease. Between Jan. 1 and July 24, 1942, there was only one 24-hour period when bombs did not fall on the island.

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

Just as the Maltese have remained loyal to the ideals of service and care, the RCEL has moved forward with exactly the same principles.

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

Commonwealth countries contributed greatly during both world wars, providing armed forces personnel and essential materiel. Millions of men and women became casualties, and those fortunate enough to survive returned home to face new realities. Many moved on with their lives, but others continued to suffer from wounds, deteriorating health and abject poverty. The need for assistance was enormous partly because some of their countries considered the care of commonwealth veterans the responsibility of the United Kingdom. Unfortunately, this kind of thinking left thousands destitute. But the league responded, and continues to do so

today. It was created in 1921 as the British Empire Services League, but in the late 1950s the charity changed its name to the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League and in 2003, by royal assent, to the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League. It has 56 member organizations in 48 commonwealth countries where today 65,000 eligible veterans are identified.

With so many countries in the league, this is the first time delegates have met in Malta. Flying in low over the sea, the ancient city of Valletta suddenly appears like a now-arid Atlantis risen from the deep. Building after building is piled up from the water's edge with not an inch of green anywhere. Other than the narrow streets laid out by the Knights of St. John 600 years ago, there is no break in the mass of stone.

The strategic importance of the islands makes for a colourful history. Prehistoric settlements date from the Stone Age and temples more than 1,000 years older than Stonehenge still stand. Legend has it that St. Paul was shipwrecked here and, while building a fire, was bitten by a viper. He shook the deadly snake off with no ill effect after which the people of Malta believed him a God. He lived in a cave, preached and healed until he succeeded in converting both the island of Malta and the island of Gozo to Christianity. All that in three months.

It seemed everyone wanted a piece of Malta: the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Normans, Aragonese, the Knights of St. John, Germans, Italians and British. In the 16th century, the Maltese islands were given to the Knights of St. John. They built forts, hospitals, churches and palaces and their impressive architecture still graces the cities today.

A little over 30 years later, 48,000 Turks attacked. There were only 8,000 Maltese to defend the island, but those 8,000 fought like savages. They shot the heads of the Turks out of cannons, while the Turks cut the bodies of the Maltese in half and floated them on crosses to the island's edge—gruesome water lilies. Reinforcements arrived from Sicily and the Turks were repulsed.

Then, in the First World War, Malta was nicknamed the Nurse of the Mediterranean, and served as a base to hospitalize the wounded. During the Second World War, from 1940 until 1942, Malta lay under siege. Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany did their best to starve the Maltese into submission, but eventually Allied troops got through to feed the starving people and reinforce the islands. By then thousands were killed and injured and piles of rubble were everywhere. On April 15, 1942, King George VI awarded the George Cross to the Maltese people for their courage. In granting the honour he said, "...to the Island Fortress of Malta to bear witness to a heroism and devotion that will long be famous in history."

Today, the rubble is gone and the ancient city is clean and orderly. The RCEL conference was in Portomaso, next to Valletta, from May 5 to 10, where delegates gathered for the first time in four years to reacquaint.

Sunday morning the group boarded minivans for a service of thanksgiving and Remembrance at St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral, Valletta. There, delegates placed wreaths to honour those who gave up their lives with a special note to remember those who have died in recent years in conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The 31st RCEL conference was officially opened with a welcome address from the prime minister of Malta, who spoke proudly of his country. *"You can travel from 40 to 60 minutes from one end of Malta to the other and in that time travel over 7,000 years of history... One of the smallest nation states...it is the fifth densest in population."* The prime minister continued, *"We share the values that inspire your work—charity, assistance and care... Malta through its long history has proved its worth. We have been charged with turning nice words into action..."* But he also reminded delegates that, sadly, there will always be veterans in need, *"witness what was happening originally in Tunisia, then in Egypt, then in Libya... Look what is happening in Syria...we need to keep our eyes open and our ears open to what's happening around because that is a lesson for us to continue to do our utmost to safeguard what we enjoy today."*

AIR MALTA SUPPORTS THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Tuesday, 24 June 2014



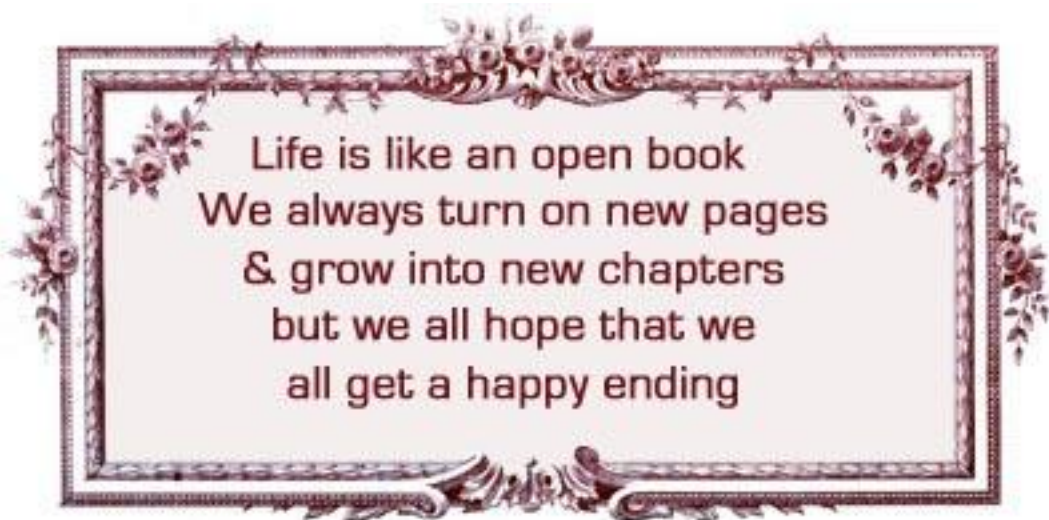
Air Malta has assisted the Royal British Legion by carrying a shipment of red poppies wreaths from London to Malta.

The Royal British Legion supports all current and former British military personnel by distributing small artificial red poppies in return for donations to their 'Poppy Appeal'.

"We are delighted to support causes such as the Poppy Appeal, which help raise awareness and funds for people who have sacrificed so much," said Air Malta's Chief Officer Cargo Systems, Manuel Agius.

The Royal British Legion helps the whole Armed Forces community through welfare, companionship and representation as well as being the Nation's custodian of Remembrance.

The remembrance poppy has been used since 1920 to commemorate soldiers who have died in war.





MALTA CUBA SOCIETY

This year is surely to be considered as a memorable one for the members of the Malta Cuba Society. Back in January 2012, the new Cuban Ambassador to Malta Her Excellency Mme Milagros Carina Soto Agüero, visited our country on a three-day stay, to present her credentials to His Excellency Dr. George Abela, President of Malta.

Elio Gamez Neyra (left), Vice President of ICAP giving a Certificate of Recognition to Mario Mifsud (right), Secretary of the Malta Cuba Society, on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the Malta Cuba Society.



Members of the Malta Cuba Society had the opportunity to meet the Ambassador, residing in Rome, during a number of meetings. The Society also organized a reception on Thursday the 26th of January, in honour of Her Excellency. Here she had the occasion to meet with a number of politicians, government officers, representatives of the cooperative sector, the voluntary sector and other non-government organisations. With them she has discussed a series of possible collaborations between the two countries. During this event, the Ambassador also addressed all the guests present, to express her gratitude to the members of the Society and

all those Maltese who promote the friendship between the two peoples.

On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the foundation of the Malta Cuba Society, a delegation from ICAP, the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples, visited Malta between the 15th and the 18th of April 2012. The delegation consisted of Elio Gamez Neyra, Vice President of ICAP and Roberto Rodriguez Dicks, Director of the European Department of ICAP. They were accompanied by the Political Counselor of the Cuban Embassy for Malta, Dr. Fidel Vladimir Perez Casal. The delegation also had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Maltese Civil Society, including those from the cooperative, the business, the cultural and the trade union sectors, as well as those from the main political parties. The delegation also held a number of talks with Government officers and Ministers during their stay.



Michael Camilleri, President of the Malta Cuba Society, offering a gift to Her Excellency Mme Milagros Carina Soto Agüero, during the reception held in her honour.

The 30th anniversary of the Malta Cuba Society was celebrated with a reception held at the Workers' Memorial Building in Valletta on the 17th of April, in which the Malta Cuba Society was given a Certificate of Recognition to mark this important occasion. During a short speech in which Mr. Elio Gamez Neyra addressed the guests present for the reception, he thanked the Society for its hard work to promote the friendship between Malta and Cuba on both a cultural as well as on an economic level, and said that the Cuban people appreciate the solidarity which comes from a small and distant island such as Malta.



REMINISCING WW2 - A CARMELITE PRIEST WAS DECAPITATED BY A PIECE OF SHRAPNEL

John Terribile, 84, vividly remembers the ships limping into Grand Harbour, but his wartime recollections start in 1940, when Italy declared war on Malta. He was ten years old. "We lived in a small house in Charles Street in Valletta. I lived there with my parents, my four sisters and my brother."

One of the earliest experiences of the war was when a stick of bombs hit the Regent Cinema, the Law Courts, Piazza Regina and the Casino Maltese. Scores of British servicemen and Maltese civilians were buried under the rubble. "I remember the air raid sirens suddenly went off and the bombs rained down. I think a Tyrone Power film was showing at the time. Many inside the cinema died."

Not all the victims were strangers to Mr Terribile. "The Carmelite Prior was beheaded by a piece of shrapnel. Another man lost half his arm. Another boy we called 'Ginger, whose father owned a wine shop, was also killed a bit further down the road."

Later on during the war, John worked with a contractor who was tasked with supplying Valletta grocers with food items that were then distributed in exchange for ration coupons. "We delivered sugar, milk, pasta and other food items by horse carriage."

As time passed, food became scarcer and families were feeling the pinch. "Many families were suffering from hunger but thanks to my job I always managed to get my hands on something to eat. I used to take something home as well."

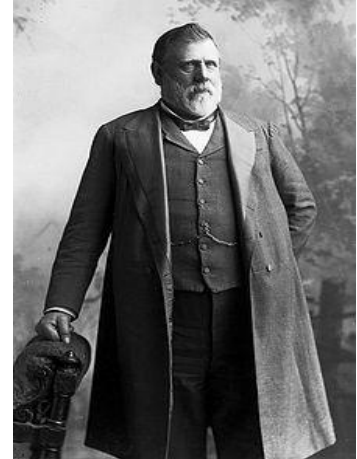
On one occasion John almost got arrested. "I remember seeing a crate of corned beef that had fallen into the sea in Grand Harbour. I jumped into the water and retrieved a tin, but when I went back ashore a policeman grabbed my arm and took me to the station. In the end, the sergeant felt sorry for me and let me go home."

Getting hold of some food could also be an adventure. "My friends and I used to forage for wood in bombed out homes. We would then trade the firewood for two loaves of bread at the baker's. Then we would go to the grocer's and trade one of the loaves for a tin of corned beef. It may not sound like much but I can assure you it was like a feast, in the circumstances."

COMMEMORATING THE ANZAC CENTENARY -1914-1918 2014-2018

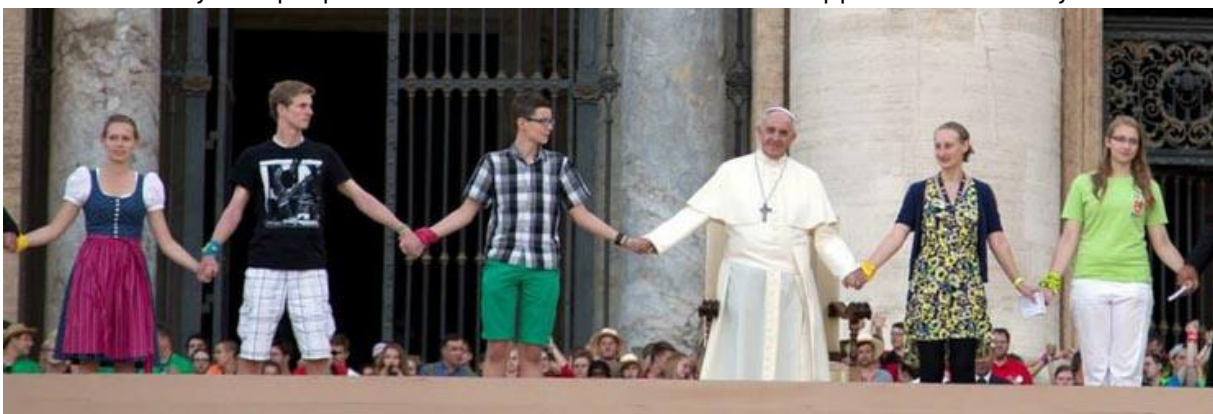
NEW ZEALAND AND WORLD WAR 1

The population of New Zealand responded to Britain's entry into World War One with a great deal of positive energy. Unlike South Africa where the population was split into factions oriented around being pro-British or anti-British, the population of New Zealand was almost pro-British to a person. In 1916 New Zealand adopted compulsory overseas military service. It was not a contentious issue within the nation.



At the start of World War One, New Zealand was experiencing a process of political transition. The dominance of politics by Richard Seddon, pictured, had ended and the recently created Reform Party was becoming more and more important and formed its first government in 1912 with William Ferguson Massey as Prime Minister. He remained Prime Minister for the next 13 years. In the immediate build-up to World War One, only 6 Labour politicians spoke out against the war. New Zealand promised to feed British forces and there is little doubt that some in New Zealand saw the war as a way to make large sums of money. Wool, grain and dairy produce were sold off at high prices.

There was little doubt in New Zealand that she would join the war once war was declared in August 1914. New Zealand was the first dominion to provide troops for the European cause. In 1909 compulsory military service had been introduced for all of those over 12 years of age. Throughout World War One, New Zealand "maintained a pro-British sentiment and she was considered to be more British than her Australian neighbour" [Christopher Falkus]. Altogether 120,000 New Zealanders saw active service. 17,000 were killed, many at Gallipoli. "Despite the smallness of her population and her distance from Europe, New Zealand's contribution to the Allied victory was far from negligible. [Falkus]. If in August 1914, New Zealand was just another member of the British Empire – even with dominion status – by November 1918 she had seen a growth in identity that propelled her towards a nation state as opposed to a colony.



Pope Francis dancing with German Youths

ARMED FORCES OF MALTA AT @ EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO



The band of the Armed Forces of Malta has performed before hundreds of people in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Those present also included AFM commander Brigadier Jeffrey Curmi, the chairman of the Malta Tourism Authority, Gavin Gulia, and officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs. The band was accompanied by the Ellipsis dancers.

Thanks for including me in the distribution of your newsletter, and I hope you don't think it very cheeky of me to give you a little baking lesson :-). In the pastizzi article, it says that filo pastry is used. However, whilst both filo and puff pastry make acceptable substitutes for pastizzi dough, the correct, traditional dough is flaky pastry. There are articles at the websites below on the differences between filo, puff and flaky pastry, and there is also a set of 4 short youtube videos showing how a Maltese nanna makes the dough.



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filo>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eim385OfILo>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flaky_pastry
kind regards Rosanne

Thank you for your vibrant and informative newsletter. I do so much enjoy the variety of its contents.
Best regards, Rita Camilleri Australian-born of Maltese pre-WWII migrants

My parents keep sending your newsletter to me and I've got to say I'm finding them interesting reading - excellent reading actually. I particularly like the blend of general news and information you provide not only about Malta, but what's also happening in Oz. Thanks and look forward to the next edition. Cheers Jeff Lofaro

I thought I will drop you a line to say thanks for keeping me on your list of readers of your Newsletter. I always enjoy reading it as it is always full of useful information. Keep up the good work. Joseph Borg (MHA)

Thank you, Frank. I am Senglea born and bred. Enjoyed your article on my city. Keep well,
Dolores Cristina.

Once again many thanks and a hundred "PROSIT" for the wonderful and interesting newsletter that you produce. God bless. Lina Brockdorff

Thanks so much for your wonderful and interesting newsletter to keep the Maltese together. The only word I can say is marvellous. Thanks. Bless. Fr. Norbert

Qatt ma kont nobsor li Malta ghandha daqshekk storja sabiha –daqs tikka f'nofs il-Mediterran. Grazzi tal-informazzjoni kollha li tikteb fuq il-Maltese Newsletter. Kulhadd ghandu jkun kburi li huwa Malti/Maltija. Komplix-xoghol siewi u sabih tieghek. Napprezza - Sam Buhagiar

I Dear Hon. Consul Frank Scicluna. As looking on the last picture of the Grand Fleet in Malta I Notice that the other four Funnel Battleship is got to be HMS Defence of which my Grand Father lost his life on it as a Bandsman on 31st.of May 1916 at an age of 36. In my possession I hold his Medals and also I got a Photo of 26 Italian & Maltese Bandsmen of both HMS Black Prince & HMS Defence of which I'm so proud of. Thank you for the time and for the so informative News Letter, Regards Alfred Alessandro.

*We hope to
see you soon!*

Marawkom Dalwaqt