



CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

FRANK L SCICLUNA - LINKING MALTA AND AUSTRALIA

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**COUNCIL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD**  
**5<sup>th</sup> MEETING on 2 and 3 OCTOBER 2014**  
**At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**  
**Merchant Street, Valletta, Malta**



Photo - DOI - Pierre Sammut

The Council of Maltese Living Abroad will hold its fifth meeting in Malta on 2nd and 3th October, 2014. The meeting will be chaired by the Hon Dr George W Vella, Minister for Foreign Affairs. Representatives from among the Maltese communities established in Australia, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and in Member States of the European Union, as well as four Government-appointed experts who hail from Malta, the United Kingdom and Canada.

The Council will discuss a variety of issues on its agenda such as the Malta Culture Institute, Maltese language teaching overseas, the teaching of the history of the Diaspora in Maltese schools, biometric passport services, banking services, creating of a CMLA website, and other matters that impact directly or indirectly Maltese communities in other countries.

In line with the Guiding Principles issued by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs last July, Minister Vella reiterated the Government's commitment to strengthen its relations with the Maltese Diaspora to maintain the momentum on the progress achieved thus far in this regard, and most importantly to carve novel niches by which the Maltese communities in other countries can assist in shedding the spotlight on Malta by identifying foreign direct investment, tapping new tourism markets and promoting Malta as an ideal destination for international conferences and incentives.

**I will be in Malta for the first week in October to attend this conference**

## South Australia Premier Jay Weatherill names Hieu Van Le as next Governor

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**FAMILY:** Lan Le and Hieu Van Le with sons Kim Le, 23, and Don Le, 27. Picture: Matt Turner

*Source:* News Corp Australia

**HIEU Van Le's Australian story began with a month-long journey on a dilapidated wooden boat.**

It took him to the modest Pennington migrant hostel and now Adelaide's most prestigious address — Government House.

Premier Jay Weatherill announced Mr Le would be South Australia's next Governor,

replacing Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce, whose term expires in August. Mr Le's inspirational story is a powerful symbol of triumph over adversity as SA faces an uphill battle to turn the economy around.

### **A LETTER TO THE HON CONSUL OF MALTA FROM THE NEW GOVERNOR**

Dear Mr Scicluna

I wish to advise that I will resign from the role of Chairperson of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission (SAMEAC) to resume my new role as Governor of South Australia. The resignation will take effect from 31 August 2014 and I write to thank you for the support you have given to me during my term with SAMEAC. It has been an honour and a privilege to be a member of the Commission since 1995, including my terms as Deputy Chairman from 2003 to 2006 and then as Chairman since January 2007.

My years at the Commission have been immensely rewarding and I want to thank you 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.

I am indebted to you, your community and many others for the commitment and boundless enthusiasm you have given to help make multicultural South Australia such a great success. The collective efforts of our communities have laid the foundation for an open, inclusive, cohesive and equitable multicultural society, where cultural, linguistic and religious diversity is understood, valued, respected and supported.

The multicultural society which we enjoy today should never be taken for granted. We must remain vigilant and continue to work hard to promote the benefits of multiculturalism for all South Australians and to support our culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Although I am moving on to another role and look forward to my new challenges and opportunities, I will never forget the many friends and supporters of the Commission.

My commitment to multiculturalism and support for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities will never wane. It is expected that the announcement of the new Chairperson will be made in the near future and I urge you to welcome and offer your support and cooperation to the new Chairperson just as you have with me. Once again, I thank you for your most valuable and generous contribution to the advancement of our multicultural state.

Yours sincerely H.E. Hieu Van Le AO

## 'I WAS HAPPY TO SEE THE MALTESE FLAG GO UP'

### Retired British serviceman recalls island's independence

Times of Malta report.



Hugh Hurrell was sad to see the Union Jack lowered but glad that the Maltese were hoisting their own flag with its symbolic cross of bravery on top of a long white mast at the Independence Arena in Floriana, 50 years ago.

"We changed into our uniform at the barracks and we were called to attention in preparation for the Union Jack to be lowered and the white and red Maltese flag to go up.

"I felt sad that Malta, which I was and still am fond of, was being separated from England, but at the same time I knew how truly special that moment was for the Maltese, so I was happy for them," 74-year-old Mr Hurrell, who now lives in Malta, said.

Just a week short of his 24th birthday, Mr Hurrell was part of the Royal Navy detachment on the parade ground at the Independence Arena during the night of September 20 and the early hours of September 21.

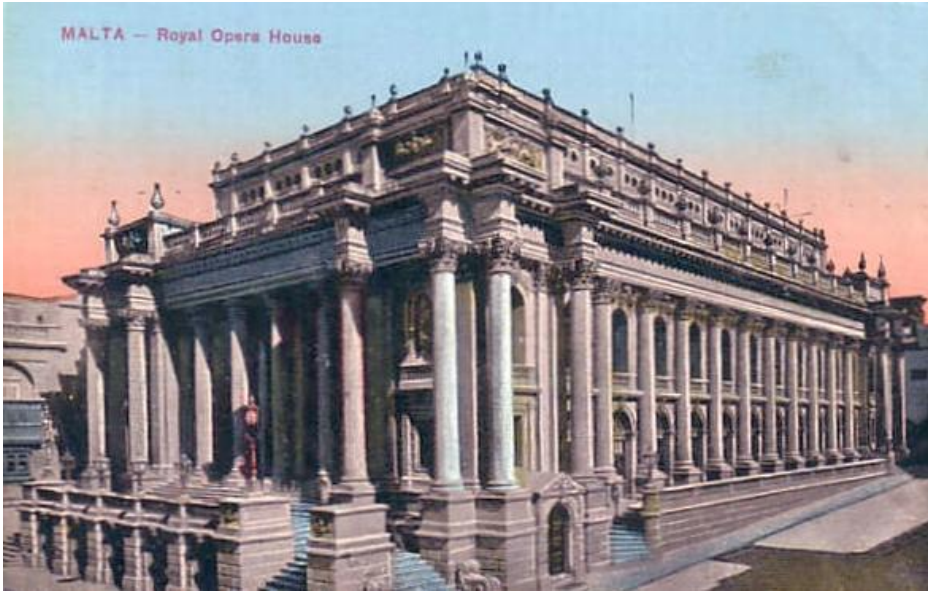
With the prayers of Dun Karm in their hearts and the beautiful words of the Maltese hymn on their lips, the people of the George Cross Island last night set off on the path of Independence," The Times of Malta had reported "

Mr Hurrell, who had been here for a brief three-month detachment in 1961, landed in Malta in 1962 as part of the Fleet Air Arm, which is the branch of the British Royal Navy responsible for the operation of naval aircraft, and was based in Hal Far until 1965. During his deployment in Malta, where he maintained aircraft engines, cross-country running took him all over the island, including Għajn Tuffieħa, where he returns every year. After 1965, he came to Malta for short visits until 1972 when the British forces started being pulled off the island.

In 1973 he left the Fleet Air Arm and went to Oman as a helicopter engineer and only returned to Malta on holiday in 1987. But he loved the place so much that three years later he moved to Mellieħa with his in-laws and wife Susan. "I had enjoyed being here from the very first instance," he told this newspaper at the Radisson Golden Sands hotel in Għajn Tuffieħa, where together with his wife, he returns every year since they now live in Xlendi.

"The areas we used to cross-train in, Pembroke and Marsa, are mainly built-up now – I remember Marsa was just a grass track," he said, reminiscing a time when buses were colour-coded. Asked what Malta was like then, he said it was "very strict Catholic". "Although still Catholic, Malta is nowhere near as strict as it was then: older ladies used to be fully covered, usually in black, even when at the beach. And if service wives, who were not aware of these rules, wore anything that showed their shoulders, the bus drivers would stop outside police stations and call for an officer," he quipped, smiling.





## The Royal Opera House, Valletta, Malta, *as it once was.*

E. M. Barry. 1862-66; rebuilt after a fire, 1873-77 (Ellul 13); bombed on 7 April 1942 (Praefcke). Scan by Andreas Praefcke, from his fine collection of theatre postcards at [Carthalia](#). Caption and commentary by [Jacqueline Banerjee](#).

After his success with the [Royal Opera House](#) in Covent Garden, London, Barry was asked to design

a grand opera house for the capital of Malta, Valletta. Rightly numbered among his "distinguished works" (Burnet and Blissett), the building had over a thousand seats and was in a very prominent position just inside the city gate at the top of Republic Street: it must have been extraordinarily impressive. Jesmond Grech writes that "it gave an invaluable boost to the artistic and cultural lives of the Maltese" (41). The bombed-out building makes a sad sight now. So far, proposals to rebuild it have been unsuccessful; fortunately, so has the proposal to turn the area into a multi-storey car park. There is every hope of its resurrection. The latest idea is for an open-air theatre, but there is also a plan to raise funds for a fine state-of-the-art 800-seat theatre *with* a roof (Johnston).



**Malta Royal Opera House Valletta after an air-raid during WW2**

## THE NEW MALTA OPERA HOUSE officially inaugurated In August 2013



**. In the Heart of Old Valletta, Architect Renzo Piano Plans a Gate without a Gate,  
a Theatre with no Roof and a Parliament on Stilts**

THE MOST HUMBLE City of Valletta” is the official title of Malta’s capital, which was founded in response to Moorish threats and withstood the onslaught of Nazi bombers.

The theatre is the second stage of the designs for City Gate by architect Renzo Piano, the first having been Piazza de Valette, inaugurated some months ago. Rapid progress is being made on the remaining major features of the project - the new Parliament House and the 'gate', with the new narrow bridge over the ditch practically completed.

The open theatre hosted its first activities over Christmas and was also the venue of many activities of the Malta Arts Festival last month.

At the official opening a concert was held by the European Youth Orchestra, formed of 125 young musicians from all the EU member states, including three from Malta.

Parliamentary Secretary said earlier that the government had decided to maintain the Piano designs untouched and was therefore not planning a roof over the theatre despite the raging controversy some months ago.

The theatre project included excavation to create changing rooms, wardrobes and space for equipment underground behind the theatre between the Church of Our Lady of Victory and Piazza de Valette. The remaining ruins of the old theatre were cleaned and restored, including the former ticket offices at the front, which housed small shops for several years.

## Ed Zahra – Psychologists

B.Com., Dip.App.Psych., Dip.Clin.Hyp., M.App.Psych.



The consultant at Access Psychology is Ed Zahra (HIC Provider Number: 2569151H). He is married and has two adult sons. Ed Zahra commenced his practice in clinical psychology in 1985 and specialises in looking after those who have emotional self-control as their main problem. Apart from completing double Masters-level (six year) qualifications in Clinical Psychology and Educational Psychology, he has also gained a Diploma in Clinical Hypnotherapy and a Commerce degree majoring in Economics. For you, his more than 28 years of experience applying treatments such as Cognitive Behaviour Therapy means that he has almost certainly dealt with your type of problem many times already.

Also, with his further training in the areas of Clinical Neuropsychology (for screening-assessments), E.M.D.R. (Eye Movement Desensitisation & Reprocessing), and Counselling Psychology, you can be confident that he is likely to have ready access to the best tools for your particular needs.

Ed has succeeded in a broad range of high level appointments. These include positions such as Officer-In-Charge of Recruitment Testing in an Army Reserve Psychology Unit, Clinical Psychologist for South Australia's Mental Health Services to the Elderly, Senior Clinical Psychologist in charge of establishing and administering S.A.'s first Community Mental Health Unit attached to a General Hospital, founder of N.A.S.G.A.P. (The Northern Areas and Spencer Gulf Association of Psychologists), Lecturer in Psychology for the University of S.A., Clinical Psychology Consultant to S.A.'s largest Employee Assistance Scheme, and Vice President of SA's Institute of Private Practising Psychologists.

He has also written that very useful and easy to understand book on the basic 'nuts and bolts' of child behaviour management called Child Behaviour Basics – less stress & more happiness for families with 2 to 9 year-olds (available via our web site [www.accesspsychology.com.au](http://www.accesspsychology.com.au)) so, for those of you with parenting issues, Ed can show you how to establish your place as a parent and begin to enjoy your family life.

Finally, Ed has developed a different system for providing psychological services that offers what we consider to be a higher than usual level of service resulting in a more personal and more valuable experience for you.

### **Access Psychology**

**Zahra Ed - Psychologist**

**43 Reordan Drive, Greenwith SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5125**

**Tel: (08) 8289 7766**



## **XAGHRA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.**

**8 Maera Court  
TAYLOR LAKES VICTORIA 3038  
Phone: (03) 9366 2121 – (03) 9390 2744**



The Xaghra Association Committee would like to notify that on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of September, we are to celebrate the Birth of the Virgin Mary and Malta Victory Day.

Venue: Maltese Cultural Centre, 27 Talmage Street, Albion

Time: 7.00pm

Everyone is invited, Maltese and Gozitans and all other nationalities are welcome. The Maltese Own Philharmonic Band will give a performance after mass on the 8th of September

The annual dinner dance is on again this year on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> of September:

Venue: Luxor Function Centre, Sydenham Time: 6.30pm

For tickets and for other information call Tony Bonello 9366 2121 or Charlie Vella 9367 1679

### **Maltese Version:**

Il-Kumitat tax-Xaghra Association jixtieq jgharraf li fit-8 ta' Settembru li ser jkun it-Tnejn, ser jiccelebraw it-Twelid ta' Marija Bambina u l-Vittorji ta' Malta. Din il-funzjoni ser issir fil-Maltese Cultural Centre, 27 Talmage Street, Albion fis-7pm. Kulhadd, Maltin u Ghawdxin u hbieb huma mistiedna ghal din ic-celebrazzjoni.

Jixtieq jgharraf ukoll li qed jorganizza dinner dance tal-Vitorja – ta' Marija Bambina. Ser isir is-Sibt, 13 ta' Settembru, fil-Luxor Function Centre f'Sydenham mis-6.30pm.

Biex takkwistaw il-biljetti u ghal aktar taghrif, cemplu lil: Tony Bonello 9366 2121  
jew Charlie Vella 9367 1679



**Malta 2 euro 2014 - Malta Police Force Bicentenary**

## **IL-FESTA TAL- VITORJA (TAL-BAMBINA) by Greg Caruana**

Regghet waslet sena ohra, fejn bhala Maltin emigrati hawn gewwa l-Awstralia, ergajna qeghdin niccelebraw din il-festa tradizzjonali tal-Vitoria, tradizzjoni li giet mghoddija lilna minn missirijietna , u li bhala Maltin emigrati hawn gewwa l-Awstralja, garrejna maghna u bl-ghajnuna tal-Vergni Mbierka qeghdin nippruvaw inzommu hajja fostna.

Bla dubju ta' xejn, il-festa tal-Vitoria fil-gzejjer Maltin barra li fl-imghoddi kienet il-festa nazzjonali taghna , iggib maghha hafna drawwiet u storja. Tasal fl-eqqel tal-festi popolari fl-ibliet u fl-irhula Maltin. Din il-festa, flimkien mal-Imnarja u Santa Marija u dik ta missierna l-Appostlu San Pawl inqisha wahda mill- festi kbar li ghandhom tifsira fuq livell nazzjonali, fejn kif jixirqilhom, huma festi pubblici u fil-kalendarju tal-knisja huma festi kmandati. Il-festi tradizzjonali Maltin huma manifestazzjoni ta' twemmin u ferh. Kull festa hi celebrazzjoni li fiha tigbor gieh lil qaddis jew qaddisa, mehudin bhala simbolu tal-ideal nistrani izda ukoll bhala celebrazzjoni ta' dik l-identita ta' komunita nnifisha.

Ghalhekk, minbarra d-dimensjoni religjuza, l-festa ghandha wkoll dimenzjoni civili u kulturali. Huma dawn l-istess karatteristici li jiggeneraw attivita kummercjali u attrazzjoni turistika.

Is-success tas-sinifikat tal-festi jinholq mic-celebrazzjonijiet liturgici, mit-tizjin tal-knejjes, mill-armar tat-toroq, il-marci u l-programmi tal-baned u l-piroteknika li ikoll flimkien jissimbolizzaw identita ewlenija ta' kull belt u rahal f'Malta u Ghawdex. Skont Mons Anton Gouder, il-vigarju pastoral, il-festi esterni huma bicca importanti tal-festi, ghaliex fihom hemm l-aspett kulturali u socjali u dan huwa importanti fil-prattika tar-religjon li bilfors irid ikollna l-aspett socjali. U la qeghdin nitkellmu fuq il-festi tal-qaddisin li jigu ccelebrati fl-ibliet u l-irhula Maltin, meta nirreferu ghall-festa bhala tali, nghidu llum il-festa tal-Bambina u mhux il-festa ta' L-Isla, tan-Naxxar jew tal-Mellieha.

F'din il-vetrina ta' kultura originali u maestuza nsibu network ta' ghaqdiet volontarji bhal kazini tal-baned, l-ghaqdiet tal-armar, tal-loghob tan-nar , flimkien mal-kazini socjali u sportivi, il-korp tal-pulizija, il-kappillan li bosta drabi jkun il-kaptan tal-kumitat organizzattiv tal-festa, u bla dubju ta' xejn, il-Kunsilli tal-post li llum qeghdin jahdmu qatiegh biex jippriservaw il-patrimonju li hallewna missirijietna.

Dan kollu huwa sewwa ghaliex il-festi Maltin u Ghawdxin huma vetrina ta' dak kollu li jaghmlilna Maltin. Ghalhekk, ghandna nghezzuhom bhala parti hajja mill-identita nazzjonali Maltija. Min bhali kellu c-cans li jzur lil gzejjer Maltin fi zminijiet differenti barra l-istagun tal-festi tas-sajf jaf x'jien nghid. Dawn l-ahhar tlett snin, minnhabba cirkostanzi familjari, mort Malta fi zmien l-Ghid u fi zmien il-Milied u emmnuni li ssahhart bl-originalita li sibt f'dawn il-festi. Hassejnti li qed ngnix iz-zminijiet ta' wara il-gwerra li twelidt fihom.

Bhal ma ghidt fil-bidu, ahna matul dawn l-ahhar snin qeghdin norganizzaw dawn il-festi tradizzjonali Maltin ghal hutna l-emigranti. Li qeghdin naghmlu hu li nippruvaw li din il-vetrina kulturali u tradizzjonali Maltija, fic-cirkustanzi foqra taghna, qeghdin nohorguha ghal wirja, minn sena ghall sena, bil-hsieb li nippreservawha u nippruvaw ngghadduha lil generazzjoni ta' warajna, ghaliex wara kollox, il-generazzjoni anzjana taghna qeghda dejjem tixjeh u titnaqqar.

U hawn nixtieq li naghlaq billi naghti omagg lil numru ta' hbieb u supporters ta dawn il-festi tradizzjonali li m'ghadhomx maghna ghax marru jiltaqghu mal-Hallieq. Nitlob lil Vergni Mbierka li bill-festa tal-Bambina niccelewbraw it-twelid taghha li tidhol ghalihom quddiem l-Imghallem Divin.



## FESTA SAN GEJTANU HAMRUN MALTA minn Guzeppin



This year's feast of St. Cajetan in Hamrun was a very special one for the St. Joseph Band Club celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The club was formed by about 12 promoters in 1889 on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of August.

In 1906, after a band service in Floriana during which some bandsmen absented themselves without informing about their absence, disciplinary action was taken against one of these bandsmen. His colleagues rallied around him and left the club. A few months later these bandsmen with some of the clubs' members formed the St. Cajetan Band Club. Thus great rivalry between the two band clubs was predominant throughout the years sometimes resulting in unhappy scenes. Although this rivalry still exists, however, it's what one can term as a healthy one and there is also co-ordination between the clubs' committees.

The St. Joseph Band Club held extra services to mark its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary beginning with a concert of sacred music held during Good Friday week at the Little Sisters of the Poor premises. In the first week of May, apart from the usual marches in connection with the feast of St Joseph, the club's patron saint, a musical/literary evening was held at the Parish Church of Hamrun. Further extra services by the band were held since July 31<sup>st</sup> consisting of band marches throughout the streets of Hamrun.

During the final three days of St. Cajetan's feast, 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> August, the St. Joseph Band held its annual concert on its bandstand next to the church which was followed a march from Blata l-Bajda to its premises. On Saturday both the Hamrun bands joined forces as a massband for a short ceremony opposite the church during which a hymn was played under the direction of the Parish Priest Fr. Henry Balzan. After this colourful event the bands marched in opposite directions according to their usual route.

Sunday morning saw large crowds following the colourful and joyful band marches which are the peak of merriment. The hundreds of followers dress in clubs' colours-blue for the St. Joseph Band Club and red for the St. Cajetan Band Club.

In the evening the statue of St. Cajetan is processionally carried through some of the main streets of Hamrun with the climax being the traditional run up the parvis steps of the church accompanied by the St. Joseph's Club hymn referred to as l-Innu Marc.

Following the Festa week the St. Joseph Band Club carried on with its celebrations. These consisted of a band march by the St. Cajetan Band on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August, a celebration grand concert in the main road by its own band on Sunday and a large reception for various VIP guests and members on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August.

The president of the St. Joseph Band Club Mr Louis Cuschieri together with Committee members welcomed guests for the Sunday concert and the reception.



[LEFT] Mr Marco Farrugia nephew of Mr Paul Sammut a past president and Mr Louise Cuschieri current President tas-Socjeta Muzikali San Guzepp Hamrun cutting the 125 the Anniversary cake in front of San Gaetan parish church on Saturday celebrations.

[RIGHT] Mr Harry Zammit Cordina one of the past presidents of the club, and members on Saturday night march club with friend Marco Farrugia on right, a popular member at the club..



**FESTIVITIES AT HAMRUN DURING THE FEAST OF SAINT GAETAN**



## CARMEL MARY BARETTA



Carmel Baretta was born in Australia to parents who originally came from Mosta, Malta. She lives in Mackay (Queensland) and has been involved in several activities, including Pony Club Instructor and Judge in all phases of competition. She is foundation member of the Maltese Club where she has held several executive positions over the years. She has served as Social Issues Convenor for the State Catholic Women's League of Queensland and has been President of Friends Mackay Libraries Inc. Carmel, an Honorary Consul of Malta, was the first person to be appointed to this position to serve Central Queensland. She is also co-founder and co-ordinator of *the Maltese Language School, Skola Maltija Mackay*.

In 2001, Carmel Baretta, together with Laraine Schembri published a book, *From Humble Beginnings: Mackay Maltese Pioneers 1883 – 1940*, which, in the words of the migration historian Mark Caruana,

“deserves a well-earned recognition as an outstanding work of Maltese migration history, done with patience and diligence, with great love and dedication”.

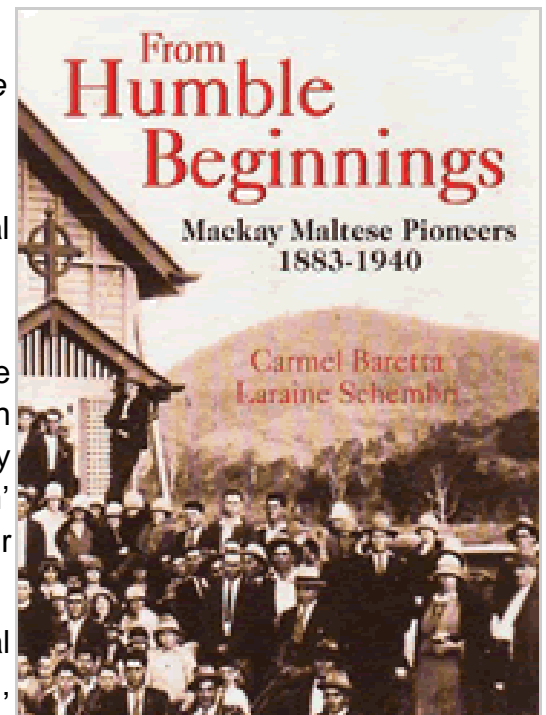
It is a collection of short histories of families of migrants over the years. As she says: “Our Australian history is impregnated with untold stories of quiet achievers.

Sadly though, many history books often fail to give credit to such as these, and the ‘little man’ is forgotten. This book *From Humble Beginnings* will ensure their achievements and contributions are forever acknowledged.”

Carmel and Laraine have travelled extensively with their historical and photographic exhibitions including ‘Our Shared Heritage’, ‘Mackay Maltese Pioneering Women’, ‘Journey to Australia’

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## PL sells Australia Hall to settle debts, keeps Raffles



Australia Hall in St Andrew's. Photo: Chris Sant Fournier

The Labour Party has settled some of its debts – which go back many years – through the sale of Australia Hall in St Andrew's, The Sunday Times of Malta has learnt.

The deal, which was only possible after the new Labour government instructed the Lands Department to drop a court case against the party over 10,000 square metres of prime property in St Andrews, was reached last month and will also see the former Raffles disco – which 20 years ago was already worth €1 million – return to Labour.

The Sunday Times of Malta has obtained a copy of the deal reached last month between the Labour Party and Tamarac Ltd – owned by the proprietors of the furniture business Fino and Chris Gauci from Big-Ben.

Last year the Labour government has dropped a state claim to revoke a permanent lease on scheduled buildings in Pembroke which have been passed on to – and long neglected by – the Labour Party, after the two sides reached an amicable agreement.

As a result of the ruling, the party retained possession of Australia Hall and a building which had once been the Raffles Discotheque. The case also involved a third building, but the party had already transferred its lease on this building for a sum believed to be close to €600,000.

# ***Tulla Getaways-Melbourne***

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## **PALAZZO PARISIO – NOW MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS A HISTORIC OVERVIEW**



Built in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century by Bishop Sceberras on the site of two former houses in Merchants Street, then known as Strada San Giacomo, Palazzo Parisio consists of three elements, each two storeys high, enclosing a central courtyard. A new third storey was added after the First World War.

By the late 18<sup>th</sup> century the property became the town house of Chavalier Paolo Parisio Muscati, a Neapolitan Maltese nobleman who had married Donna Anna Muscati, grand-daughter of Donna Maria Sceberras, mother of Bishop Sceberras. Paolo Parisio played an influential role during the latter years of the Order of St. John's rule in Malta. It was during this period that the site acquired its lasting epithet of Palazzo Parisio.

On 13<sup>th</sup> June 1798 Napoleon Bonaparte landed in Malta and took residence at the Palazzo. During his seven eventful days' stay at the Palazzo, prior to embarking for his Egyptian campaign, Napoleon dictated the transformation of Malta's ancient legal and administrative structures in the Republican 'Code Napoleon'. Less than three months, later these imposed, deep rooted and abrupt changes instigated the insurrection of the Maltese against the French.

With French forces blockaded inside Valletta, Chevalier Parisio left the city to join the Maltese peasant army at the head of the Naxxar battalion. Following the establishment of British rule (1800) Paolo Parisio resumed his involvement in his country's affairs and was held in high esteem by the local British authorities. Visiting British military officers, including Generals Abercrombie and Graham, took up temporary residence at his Palazzo and he was one of the first Maltese to be honoured with the Order of St. Micheal and St. George.

An interesting phase in the Palazzo's history relates to the period preceding the Italian unification, when leading intellectual and artistic personalities of the early 'Risorgimento' became forced exiles in Malta. While in Malta, they found a natural affinity not only with those of a kindred spirit who had been agitating for local self-government, but also with the local intelligentsia; gradually infusing a fresh expression in local art and literature, is known to have befriended such a milieu and used his residence to hold cultural activities of note. One such event was held in the evening of 12<sup>th</sup> August 1821 when Gabriele Rossetti, an acknowledged poet of the Italian Risorgimento, composed and read a poem about Malta under the title '*San Paolo che naufraga in Malta e se ne dichiara il protettore*'.

Following Paolo's death and lavish state funeral, the property passed to the de Piro family and by 1886, the Palazzo was in a sorry state and co-owned by close to one hundred individuals. The newly appointed Postmaster General, Sir Ferdinand Inglott, who at the time was searching for a new site for the postal operations, persuaded the owners first to lease and then sell the property to the Government. Fully restored and refurbished, Palazzo Parisio formally opened its doors to the public on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1886, as Malta's new General Post Office. The top storey of Palazzo Parisio was completed after the first World War to house the Audit Office. During the Second World War, the Valletta palace was partly destroyed through enemy action, and in the repairs that followed, the exterior was left unaltered, though it was not possible to restore the decorations on the walls and ceilings. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs moved from the "Old Chancellery", Palace Square, to Palazzo Parisio in October 1973.



## KOALA RESCUED AND REVIVED BY FIRE CREW



An unconscious koala has had a lucky escape after firefighters caught it in a blanket when it fell out of a tree before wildlife rescuers gave lifesaving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. The koala, dubbed 'Sir Chompsalot' by firefighters from Langwarrin, in Melbourne's outer southeast and Wildlife Victoria, after its rescue on last week is now resting up in animal hospital.

Members of the public were the first to spot Sir Chompsalot stuck up a tree and called in wildlife rescuers. It's understood the koala had been hit by a car before climbing up the tree. Rescue officers then called the state's Country Fire Authority (CFA) so a truck with an extended ladder could reach

the koala, but it lost

consciousness and fell from the tree. Well placed firefighters managed to catch the bear in a blanket and it was then given mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, oxygen and chest compression by wildlife officers. Langwarrin CFA Captain Sean Curtin told Fairfax Media's 3AW it was initially thought the koala was dead in the tree.

'We believe it died in the tree, just when we were trying to rescue it. Then it fell out of the tree and the members caught it in a blanket,' Mr Curtin told Fairfax Media. 'Wildlife Victoria performed mouth-to-mouth and compressions and gave it some oxygen therapy as well.'

**Koala Facts** If you want some fast Koala facts, then you have come to the right place. These are adorable creatures that you will just want to cuddle. Read on to find out some interesting things about these Australian animals that I bet you didn't know.

- They are the only mammal other than primates to have **fingerprints**
- Its closest living relative is the **Wombat**
- Koalas have a very low metabolic rate which means they need to **sleep** for between 16-18 hours every day.
- A baby Koala lives inside its mummy's pouch for at least 6 months and is called a joey. This is the same name for a baby Kangaroo too.
- Eucalyptus leaves are highly **toxic** to many other species. It is very low in protein and high in indigestible substances.
- Each Koala **eats** between 200 and 500g of Eucalyptus leaves per day
- A Koala can **weigh** between 6kg and 14kg. A key Koala fact is that the females are smaller and weigh less. Those from colder areas also weigh more as they have more fur to keep them warm.
- Koalas have excellent **balance** and strong limbs to support their weight and help them climb.
- Koala bears have a keen sense of **smell**. They use it to tell the difference between the leaves and make sure they don't eat anything poisonous.
- The average **life span** of a Koala bear is 10 years but those living near busy roads tend to only make it to 3 years.
- It is estimated that there are less than **100,000** Koalas in Australia
- A **baby Kola** (joey) is only 2 cm long when it is born. It is also blind and hairless.

## Busy programme for Duchess of Cambridge visit to Malta



**Kate Middleton's visit to Malta includes a walkabout in the town square in Vittoriosa and a boat tour across the Grand Harbour**

Kensington Palace has revealed the busy programme of 10 engagements the Duchess of Cambridge will be having during her two-day stay in Malta to mark the 50th anniversary of the country's Independence.

According to the British media Middleton's first official solo overseas visit, which will "include plenty of pomp and pageantry" highlights the Queen's confidence in her grandson's wife. The highlight of her trip will be the independence celebration overlooking the Grand Harbour in Valletta on September 20. Her engagements will start by visiting President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca at San Anton Palace and meeting Prime Minister Joseph Muscat at Auberge de Castille.

Her visit will also celebrate the historic links between Britain and Malta, including viewing documents at the National Library such as letters from King Henry VIII and George II, and the original citation awarding the George Cross to the island. The Queen and Prince Philip lived in Malta as a Royal Navy couple after their marriage and have fond memories of the island. On September 21 Middleton will go on a walkabout in the town square in Vittoriosa and take a boat tour across the Grand Harbour. In typical British style, Middleton will be invited to a garden party at the British High Commissioner's residence in Naxxar.

## 8 SEPTEMBER – THE REGATTA



The 8th September is known as Victory Day in Malta. It's a catch-all day because this particular public holiday has several roots, not one clear-cut *raison d'être* for celebration: it marks the end of the Great Siege in 1565 and the end of French occupation on Malta in 1800, as well as the armistice of the Fascist regime in Italy in 1943 which saw the close of the Italian bombardment of the Islands.

Just to add to this medley of historic celebratory dates, we can include a parish feast day (*festa*) as some four localities celebrate the feast of Our Lady as a Child (*Maria Bambina/Our Lady of Victory*). To help coordinate things here a little, the religious feast conveniently changed its age-old name to the feast of 'Il-Madonna tal-Vitorja' in a mix of history and religious fervour following the end of the Great Siege of 1565.



But apart from the history and religious celebrations the Maltese hold the Regatta! The 8th September is synonymous in most locals' minds with the battle of the Grand Harbour oarsmen as they pitch brawn (and brain, in tactics and staying power) in the ritual Dhajsa rowing competitions.

Teams from Valletta, Vittoriosa, Senglea, Kalkara, Cospicua Marsaxlokk and Marsa have been practising for months to ensure they make a fighting attempt to win the Regatta. The link with all the historic celebratory reasons above? Well, there's the fighting spirit (reminiscent of the Great Siege) and the zeal and passion (similar to the levels that go into parish festas). So, while some reasons for public holidays can be mundane or irrelevant to today's society, at least 8th September has a bit more panache than most. And it's still a day of victory for some.



## THE CULTURAL LEGACY OF MALTA & GOZO



A series of 20 photographic books covering the cultural legacy of the islands of Malta and Gozo in aid of St Patrick's Salesian school.

[clomagbooks@gmail.com](mailto:clomagbooks@gmail.com)

All Maltese should be proud of their country, its past and traditions.

No other small country can boast of such a rich history, and of a cultural fabric which makes these islands one of the most interesting and beautiful places on Earth.

The new series of books published by the Salesians of Don Bosco, *The Cultural Legacy of Malta & Gozo*, is a compendium of 20 photographic books about Malta's

beauty, history and culture. The richness of our diverse cultural heritage through a collection of beautiful photographic books *THE CULTURAL LEGACY OF MALTA & GOZO*.



The 20 full-colour books are available for sale at a cost of only €25 each, one every season. Buying the year series of four books will entitle the buyer to a fifth book, free, which comes with the winter issue. All books can also be bought individually.

*The Cultural Legacy of Malta & Gozo*, is directed by well-established Salesian editor Fr. Charles Cini sdb, along with award-winning photographer Daniel Cilia and expert history author Vincent Zammit.

The three thousand word essay in each book and detailed captions for each stunning photograph will engage the reader on a journey of discovery round the Maltese islands and its people like never before.

The books measure 21.5 cm width by 29 cm height and are printed on 170 gram pearl-surface paper with a full colour laminated 350 gram board cover. Each 144 page book will include more than 200 colour photos. Only a limited number of subscriptions are available.

**The books** 1.The Village Feast 2.The Neolithic Temples 3. Mdina 4. Churches & Cathedrals 5. Gozo 6. The Knights Of St John 7. Traditions 8. Monasteries 9. The Three Cities 10. From The Air 11. Harbours 12. Below Ground 13. Forts & Defences 14. Sacred Places 15. The Scenic Countryside 16. Museums & Exhibitions 17. Palaces 18. Food & Delicacies 19. Valletta 20. The Coastline

## **Ghar Dalam – Cave of Darkness**



Although it sounds to the non-Maltese ear like something you should be ordering pilau rice and and bread with, this is, in fact, a cave! Actually, it's much more than a cave; it's a very important cave. It's the cave where the earliest evidence of human settlement on Malta was discovered ... from around 7,400 years ago!

The Ice Age had a great impact on Malta; the climate then was milder and much wetter, almost tropical and the enormous amounts of water from heavy rainfalls was responsible for the landscape we know and love today.

The prevailing conditions caused underground caverns and caves to be hollowed out and, I bet you're ahead of me already here, one of them was Ghar Dalam, which is considered to

be one of the oldest caves on the Maltese Islands.

Translated as 'spicy lamb curry' – (just kidding!) – it means 'Cave of Darkness' and you'll find this prehistoric site on the outskirts of Birżebbuġa. It's the genuine article as it was also found to contain the bones of animals that became extinct in Malta at the end of the Ice Age.

Also discovered here were dwarf elephant, hippopotamus, deer and bear bone - deposits of a different age. The hippopotamus became extinct here about 180,000 years ago, while the deer died

off much later - about 18,000 years ago. As these are all animals that can be found elsewhere in Europe this is seen as evidence to support the theory that Malta was once connected to the European mainland rather than being part of Africa.

It was also in Ghar Dalam that the earliest evidence of human settlement on Malta was discovered. The cave was first scientifically investigated in 1885 but was not opened to the public until 1933. During World War II, Ghar Dalam served as an air raid shelter and later as a makeshift fuel storage depot.

In 1987, a team of Italian archaeologists discovered Palaeolithic cave art depicting human hands and several animal designs. The site today consists of the cave and a museum. The cave is around 144m deep but only the first 50m are accessible to visitors. A museum, which exhibits a remarkable wealth of finds from animal bones to human artefacts, sits at the entrance.

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## **MALTA CLASSIC CAR COLLECTION**



This one always causes a few raised eyebrows and smirks among the locals on Malta! Does the island need a museum housing a Classic Car Collection, they ask, when so many of the cars buzzing around on the roads could easily be classed as 'classic' or 'vintage' anyway? We admit, it's a strange choice for an attraction on an island where many still believe 'a car is for life'!

Some of the cars and trucks (but sadly no longer the buses) on the roads here are like long-lost memories on wheels to tourists. It is a common occurrence to watch open-mouthed visitors eagerly taking pictures and running their fingers across the ample bodies of these sturdy models that they too might once have owned and sold on in the dim and distant past.

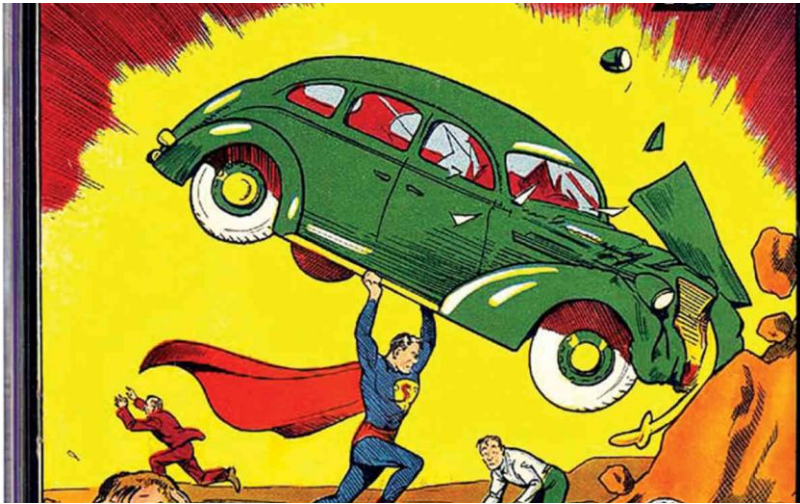
But Maltese mechanics work miracles and cars that elsewhere would have given up the ghost and headed for the breaker's yard decades ago, are still working perfectly here, thank you. OK, so they might not break any speed records, or score particularly highly on any EU exhaust emissions tests but they'll get you from A to B, provided you drive steadily ... and mostly in the shade. So, again, why the museum?

Well, because while you might see classic cars buzzing around the island, then again ... you might not! So, it's good for car enthusiasts to be given the assurance of seeing lots of them lumped together in one place, and that's precisely what this place does. That's what every classic car museum does isn't it?

You'll find the museum in the luxurious Vela Vista Complex in Qawra. And, not surprisingly, when you consider all we've said above, the Malta Classic Car Collection is the island's first public automobile museum.

It is privately owned by motor-mad Carol Galea, an avid car enthusiast, who first started customising and building his own cars for local hill climbing races. His hobby grew into a passion for classic cars and now this is his personal tribute to the automobile industry – a living and growing collection that spans more than 50 years of motor manufacturing.

## RARE COPY OF SUPERMAN COMIC FETCHES \$3,460,000



A nearly flawless copy of Superman's comic-book debut has sold for a super-powered price: \$US3.2 million (\$A3.46 million).

New York comics dealers Stephen Fishler and Vincent Zurzolo said on Monday they submitted Sunday's record-setting bid in the eBay auction for Action Comics No. 1.

That's the 1938 book in which the superhero first appeared. It's believed to be the highest price ever paid for a comic book. EBay confirmed the price but hasn't disclosed the buyer's name. Seller Darren Adams is a

collectibles dealer in Federal Way, Washington. Fishler and Zurzolo own ComicConnect.com.

It auctioned a high-quality copy of the book in 2011 for a then-record \$US2.1 million.

About 100 copies are believed to exist. Fishler doesn't have plans for his pricey copy, but he says the opportunity was too good to miss.

## Monica Attard OAM



Monica Attard was born in Sydney (1958) of Maltese parents. She was educated at Sydney University (Bachelor of Arts) and University of New South Wales (Bachelor of Laws, 2002).

Monica Attard is best known as a journalist and radio and television reporter. For several years since 1977 she has worked with various television channels, most recently, since 1983, with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) where she was a reporter on such popular programs like 'The World Today', 'Four Corners' and 'Lateline'. She was the host for the ABC TV program *Media Watch* (2005- 2007).

She has received several awards, including the Walkley Award for Broadcast Interviewing (2005), given for interviews she conducted for *On The Brink* which examined lives of various personalities and in 1991 she received the *Gold Walkley Award*.





HMS Ark Royal in Malta

## Vote for the Malta stamp in the EUROPA online competition

BY GOZO NEWS · AUGUST 27, 2014



The most beautiful 2014 EUROPA stamp competition is now open. And this year's EUROPA theme is "National Musical Instruments." The contest is an annual online event where creative entries from across Europe compete for the best stamp design.

The Malta stamp set depicts musical instruments which were popular in the 19th century. The stamps portray details from the oil painting of the renowned Italian artist Girolamo Gianni who was active in Malta in the latter part of the 19th century.

The musical instruments featured in the painting are the bagpipe and drum

which are performed by musicians at Valletta's Porta Reale. MaltaPost invites the public to support and vote for the Malta stamp on [www.posteurop.org/europa2014](http://www.posteurop.org/europa2014). The online competition will end on the 31st of August 2014 and the winning stamps will be announced on the 24th of September 2014 in San Marino.



Photo - DOI - Jeremy Wonnacott

## Galley thought to date back to the Phoenician Period found off Gozo

Divers believe that a galley found about a mile off the coast of Gozo belonged to the Phoenician Period, dating back to 700 BC.

Minister for Culture Owen Bonnici, said, this site is considered as one of the oldest in the central Mediterranean, and that the boat was most probably around 50 feet long.

Following several months of careful planning, eventually led to five days of fieldwork at a depth of 120 meters.

He added that for the some time a Maltese team from within the University of Malta has been working in close collaboration with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage – along with the French National Centre for Research and the University of Marseille, on a number of studies on what he described as a “fascinating shipwreck.”

The team worked over five days to gather information through endurance technologies being developed specifically for the purpose of recording ancient sites underwater such as this one.

More than 50 assorted amphora were also discovered by the divers, which researchers said indicated that the vessel had been in different harbours.

The items found were well preserved and were clear evidence of Phoenician maritime activity around the Maltese islands. University Rector, Juanito Camilleri, said that this find “was very important for Malta.”

The site is being explored by GROplan Project, funded by the French National Research Agency. The project is aimed at developing underwater photogrammetry and is currently focused on piecing together over 8,000 photographs to create a very high resolution and detailed 3D model of the site

Minister Owen Bonnici thanked the experts for their work and said that while the Government would like the site to be accessible to the public in the future, scientific research and preservation experts would need to be consulted first.





## ROYAL EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO 2014



The Armed Forces of Malta Band has, for the first time taken part in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, which is being held in the Scottish capital between 1 and 23 August. The 45 AFM bandsmen were accompanied by eight members of Elipsis Dancers. They gave a daily show in front of a crowd of some 9,500 spectators everyday for 23 days. The Maltese cross was projected onto the walls of Edinburgh Castle during their performances.

The Military Tattoo is expected to be televised on several stations worldwide and, according to a government statement is expected to be watched by more than a billion people. The AFM Band was supported by the Malta Tourism Authority and the Home Affairs and Tourism Ministries. In fact, a delegation that included officials from the three entities accompanied the band.

In a statement, the Home Affairs Ministry said there were talks on the AFM's possible future participation.

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**I hope you enjoyed reading this Newsletter as much  
as I have enjoyed presenting it to you  
See you in Malta**

***Bye***