



### CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

FRANK L SCICLUNA - LINKING MALTA AND AUSTRALIA

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## **PRESIDENT COLEIRO PRECA PLANS TO VISIT AUSTRALIA NEXT YEAR**



President Coleiro Preca with the Maltese-Australian visitors [photo: [www.maltastar.com](http://www.maltastar.com)]

On 6 August the President of Malta, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, greeted a group of Maltese migrants from Australia during a visit to the President's Palace in San Anton organised by the Emigrant's Commission.

President Coleiro Preca said she wanted to give the Maltese-Australian emigrants the chance to enjoy their heritage. It was important, she said, to maintain contact between the Maltese in Malta and the Maltese in

Australia because of the great distance between the two countries.

During the meeting President Coleiro Preca announced that she is planning to lead a Presidential delegation from Malta to visit Australia next year. Following the visit by the Maltese-Australian group, the President tweeted "Met a group of Maltese nationals residing in Australia."

Ms Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca

Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca was elected President of the Republic of Malta on the 4th April 2014. A Parliamentary resolution on 1st April 2014, approved her nomination as the ninth President of Malta. At the age of 55, Coleiro Preca is the youngest serving President of Malta and only the second woman to hold the post of Head of State. Her nomination marked another development in the constitutional history of Malta, as the President was elected with the unanimous approval of all Members of Parliament. Coleiro Preca was born in Qormi on 7th December 1958. She was educated at St. George's Primary School in Qormi, Maria Regina Girls' Grammar School at Blata l-Bajda and at the Polytechnic, Imsida. Later she graduated with a BA in Legal and Humanistic Studies (International Studies) and obtained a Diploma Notary Public from the University of Malta. She has been active in national politics for the past forty years, since the age of sixteen.

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## H.E. MR. CHARLES MUSCAT HIGH COMMISSIONER OF MALTA TO AUSTRALIA



H.E. Mr. Charles Muscat was born in Rabat, Malta on 30 July 1944.

Mr. Muscat presented his credentials to H.E. the Hon. Quintin Bryce AC CVO, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, on Wednesday, 25 September 2013. With a business background and forty-one years of experience in the retail industry, he brings with him, extensive experience in management and marketing.

His Excellency Mr. Muscat is well acquainted with the local business community in Australia. With his experience, he has built an excellent network with the trade and commerce industries within Australia and New Zealand. Furthermore, High Commissioner Mr. Muscat is well received with the local Maltese community in Australia and New Zealand.

Mr. Muscat is not new to politics and diplomacy. Whilst he was representing Maltese Politicians in Australia, he also advocated and acted in one voice on Malta's behalf, when addressing the Maltese community, hence his acceptance now by all Maltese.

H.E. Muscat was one of the founding members of the Australia Maltese Chamber of Commerce. He was also invited by the Department of Multicultural Affairs to take part in public forums during the federal government consultations in the initial building of the multicultural committees. Mr. Muscat speaks Maltese and English and has a good knowledge of Italian and Greek.

He is married to Victoria, nee Azzopardi, and has three children and six grandchildren.

**Dear Frank: Since having the honour through my father's ancestry of reclaiming my Maltese birthright, I have been the silent recipient of the works of a man who, regularly, and without fail, produces a Newsletter to his fold which shows his pride and commitment to his nation. By doing so, he has reached into the hearts of many of us who, far from the island of our forefathers birth would not have known it as we do now, To you, Frank, we, the South Australian Maltese owe you much. God Bless. Robert Lucien Chabert (nee AZZOPARDI)**



## DOLORES CRISTINA TO CONTINUE SERVING AS ACTING PRESIDENT

Former Education Minister Dolores Cristina has been confirmed as acting President, President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca said.

Speaking during a meeting with the Opposition, Ms Coleiro Preca said that she looks forward to working with Ms Cristina, both when she is abroad on official business as well as when she is in Malta. Opposition leader Simon Busuttil welcomed the news, and said the Opposition is willing to support the President. Ms Coleiro Preca reiterated the pledge that her presidency will be a unifying one, and expressed her appreciation for the Opposition's support.



## AUSTRALIAN MALTESE SINGER SONGWRITER JACINTA CARUANA

A 3 year old belting out John Farnham tunes in the kitchen in front of a camera, a pretty clear indication to her parents what she was going to do with her life! Never did her parents imagine she would one day sing with the Farnham band under the direction of renowned composer and Musical director Chong Lim.

Jacinta Caruana developed a love for music from the time she'd wriggle around in her cradle to classic vinyls played by her Mum, Dad and sisters. When she heard voices like Mariah Carey, Whitney Houston and Michael Jackson she convinced herself this is what she was meant to be doing with her life. Creating music!

After studying a Bachelor in education and advanced diploma in music performance, Jacinta has built a reputation as a dedicated and versatile vocalist within the Melbourne Music Industry, regularly working with musicians linked to Vanessa Amarossi, Jessica Mauboy, Daniel Merriweather, Jade Macrae, Anthony Callea, Andrew Desilva, Strange Talk and Bonnie Anderson. 2012 saw Jacinta's dream to create a solo EP of music inspired by the artists she grew up with. Teaming up with Grammy award nominee and producer Phil Turcio (Gary Pinto, Guy Sebastian), has seen the goal come to life through beautiful melody and infectious beats. During the recording process Jacinta has also had the opportunity to co-write with one of her all time favourite Australian vocalists, Gary Pinto (CDB, Guy Sebastian). Lyrically inspired by her growth as an individual and a musician, you'll hear her own personal stories unravel through her music, influenced by a 90's rnb flavour. The EP also features a co written track with her guitarist, Bradley J green (Daniel Merriweather, Jade Macrae, Anthony Callea,).

Early in 2012, Jacinta toured Holland and Germany for 2 months as a back up vocalist to fellow Melbourne singer/songwriter Jaimi Faulkner. Before returning home to Australia, she made a stop over in her second home, Malta. Hear she appeared on **Malta Llejla with Stehanie Spiteri** as well as radio's 'Rockna' with Michael Bugeja promoting her debut EP..

### COUNCIL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

I READ WITH GREAT INTEREST in your last Newsletter that the Council of Maltese living Abroad is meeting in October in Malta. May I suggest that since you mention the meetings of the Maltese Abroad, can you please publish what subjects/issues /results they cover or what is going on with this council, as it is not fair that they proclaim, that they represent the immigrants and we are not aware of how and what they discuss. What they achieved since its establishment? Can someone, PLEASE, provide the Maltese citizens abroad with what is going on?

Alfred Pace - Melbourne

## ADAM HILL – AUSTRALIAN/MALTESE COMEDIAN



Does anything sound less interesting on paper than a celebrity-based, genealogy-themed show? It sounds as appealing as sitting through an elderly relative's slide night. Except with stars from the telly.

But *Who Do You Think You Are?*, the local franchise of the British program, is as much about Australia's immigrant social history - and, by extension, ourselves - as it is about its famous subjects.

The series is more than a peek into the backgrounds of the famous; it also chronicles the social and cultural evolution of our national identities via these celeb family histories. And it's very relatable since all non-indigenous Aussies have an immigrant background, with family trees likely to unearth a quirky anecdote or two.

Tonight's subject is TV's nicest man, stand-up comedian and former host of *Spicks and Specks* Adam Hills, who concedes at the outset he is only vaguely aware of his migrant mother's ancestry.

His mother is of Maltese descent but, until he was invited to take part in *Who Do You Think You Are?*, he had no idea of her family's backstory, which has both colourful and tragic elements. The program follows both her grandfathers, one who came to Australia from Malta in 1912, the other from Austria in 1907.

Hills' great-grandfather Oscar Kluckhenn was quite a mystery. He met and married the stern Vera and was a much-loved waiter at Melbourne's Menzies Hotel. But he was forced to give up his Australian nationality at the outbreak of World War I, and lost contact with his family back home. Hills travels to Oscar's home town in former Bohemia to discover the emotional story of Oscar's family, and even tracks down a distant relative and some touching letters between Oscar and his brother, with whom he had no contact for 47 years.

His mum's other grandfather, Joseph Vassallo, has an even more fascinating heritage. He left Malta to escape the country's depression in 1910, but Hills discovers that Vassallo was actually descended from a wealthy nobleman. In Malta he is able to trace to 1460, to Matteo Vassallo. The records on Vassallo include an extraordinary inventory of his great wealth, which leads Hills on something of an adventure to discover exactly how he made his money.

The SBS *Who do you think you are?* episode ended up being both an emotional historical journey and something of a cracking yarn.



## WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIA HOUSE AT PEMBROKE



**The derelict 'Malta – Australia Hall' Pembroke (St Andrews) an 'entertainment' building for the First World War troops (mainly ANZAC's) built by the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross in Malta in 1915.**

The Labour Party is refusing to reveal whether it has paid all the ground rent arrears connected to the properties it acquired from the government in 1979, even though it has already sold one of the properties for just under €600,000.

The party was asked about the arrears following last week's revelations by The Sunday Times of

Malta about a private deal struck in July between the Labour Party and A.H. Developments Ltd for the sale of the Australia Hall in St Andrews and 6,000 square metres of adjacent land.

According to the latest contract, Labour was obliged to pay the Lands Department an annual ground rent of €20,964 for Australia Hall and another €14,209 for the area occupied by the former Raffles disco, which has now returned to the Labour Party as a result of the deal.



Although the contract signed recently includes details of the annual ground rent due, it does not state anything about any pending arrears and who is responsible for settling them..

*During World War I (1914-1918), Malta had a special role to play as a nursing station within the Mediterranean where several hospitals and convalescent camps were set up to tend to the casualties of the war. Australia Hall was built in 1915 by the Australian Branch of the Red Cross who raised funds to finance a combined recreation centre/theatre building that*

*would serve to entertain wounded soldiers belonging to the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC). In its heyday the hall could accommodate up to two thousand men as stage productions, dances, and other forms of recreation were regularly held there. Later a library and reading room were introduced and around 1921 a projection room was added to the structure so that the hall could also be used as a cinema.*

*When the British military facilities in St Andrew's Barracks were closed down in 1978, it was returned to the Maltese government and transferred to the Labour Party in exchange for other property. In December 1998, a fire gutted the hall's entire roofing system of metal trusses and sheeting. Only the external masonry shell has survived. Today the roofless shell of a building is vulnerable to the natural elements and vandals have left their marks on what remains of the building.*



## Frequently asked questions

1) **What is the Order of Malta?** The Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta, better known as the Sovereign Order of Malta, has a two-fold nature. It is one of the most ancient Catholic Religious Orders, founded in Jerusalem in around 1048. At the same time it has always been recognised by nations as an independent subject of international law. The Order's mission is summed up in its motto "Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum": nurturing, witnessing and protecting the faith (*tuitio fidei*) and of serving the poor and the sick representing the Lord (*obsequium pauperum*).

2) **What do we mean by saying that it is a religious order?** The Order was born as a monastic community inspired by St. John the Baptist. This community, which was created by Amalfitan Merchants around 1050, ran a hospice providing care and shelter for pilgrims to the Holy Land. In 1113 it received formal acknowledgement as a religious Order from Pope Paschal II. Before the loss of the island of Malta (1798) most of the knights were religious, having taken the three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Today, although some members of the Order are professed knights (having taken the three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience), others have pronounced only the promise of obedience. Most of the Order's 13,500 knights and dames are lay members. Although they have not pronounced any religious vow, they are all devoted to the exercise of Christian virtue and charity, and committed to developing their spirituality within the Church and to expending their energies in serving the Faith and assisting others.

3) **Is it a military order?** The Order had to become military to protect the pilgrims and the sick and to defend the Christian territories in the Holy Land. The Order ceased to carry out this function when it lost Malta (1798). Today the Order preserves only the military traditions.

4) **Is it a chivalrous order?** Traditionally Knights of the Order belonged to chivalrous and noble families of the Christian world. The Order is still a chivalrous order today as it has maintained the values of chivalry and nobility. Although the majority of its members no longer come from ancient noble families, they are admitted because of manifest merits towards the Church and the Order of Malta.

5) **What are the works of the Order?** The Order of Malta works in the field of medical and social care and humanitarian aid, in over 120 countries, supported by the diplomatic relations it currently has with 104 nations. The Order also runs hospitals, medical centres, day hospitals, nursing homes for the elderly and the disabled, and special centres for the terminally ill. In many countries the Order's volunteer corps provide first aid, social services, emergency and humanitarian interventions. Malteser International, the Order's worldwide relief agency, works in the front line in natural disasters and armed conflicts.

The Order is also engaged in the cultural field. The Australian Association of the Order is mostly involved in Palliative Care, support for the homeless, a Drug and Alcohol Detoxification Unit, disaster relief as well as medical and first aid services in Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea. .

6) **How is the Order Governed?** The life and activities of the Order are governed by its Constitution and its Code. The head of the Order is the 79th Prince and Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing, elected for life by the Council Complete of State. The Grand Master is assisted by the Sovereign Council, in turn elected by the

Chapter General (the assembly of the representatives of the Order's members, that meets once every 5 years). The Government Council is the advisory body of the Sovereign Council and provides advice on political, religious, medical and international issues. A Board of Auditors performs auditing functions. Both councils are also elected by the Chapter General. Juridical issues are submitted to the Magistral Courts, appointed by the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council.

**7) What is the international organisation of the Order?** Today, the Order is present with its Institutions in 54 countries. It has 6 Grand Pories, 6 Subpories and 47 National Associations.

**8) How many members does the Order have?** The Order is made up of more than 13,500 Knights and Dames.

**9) Where have the main humanitarian missions been carried out in recent years?** The most significant aid projects have been carried out in Kosovo and Macedonia, India, in Southeast Asia after the Tsunami, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Mexico, Congo, Sudan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Georgia and Haiti.

**10) How does one become a member of the Order?** One can become a member of the Order of Malta only by invitation. Only persons of undoubted Catholic morality and practice, who have acquired merit with regard to the Sovereign Order, its institutions and its works are eligible for admission. The relevant Grand Priory or National Association is responsible for proposals of admission. Please see *Members of the Order* for further details.

**11) How does one become a volunteer?** Volunteers are most welcome, for national and international projects. Please see *Volunteer* for further details on how to become involved in the works of the Australian Association.

**12) How are the Order's diplomatic activities conducted?** In accordance with public international law, the Order maintains bilateral diplomatic relations with 104 countries. It also has permanent observer status at the United Nations and the Commission of the European Union as well as in 17 International Organisations such as the FAO and UNESCO. Diplomatic relations allow the Order to intervene with timely and effective action in the event of natural disaster or armed conflict. Due to its neutral, impartial and non-political nature, the Order can act as a mediator whenever a State requests its intervention to settle a dispute.

**13) How are the Order's activities financed?** Activities are funded essentially by its members, their volunteering and monetary contributions. Internationally, resources for hospitals and medical activities usually come from agreements stipulated with the national health and social systems. The same is true for emergency services. In developing countries, activities are often backed by grants from governments, the European Commission or other international organisations. Many projects can only be realised through the help of public and corporate donations and sponsorships.

What is unique to the Order however is that overheads are absolutely minimal due to its members' and volunteers' active involvement which results in more funds being applied directly where they are needed.

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## ORDER OF MALTA IRELAND

Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta

### IRISH ASSOCIATION HISTORY



The Knights Hospitallers were brought to Ireland by Strongbow in 1174. There may have been an earlier house in the South-east. The Priory of Ireland was established at Kilmainham (now the Royal Hospital/Irish Museum of Modern Art) sometime after that date where the Order held about 600 acres of land comprising much of what is now the Phoenix Park.

### ACTIVITIES

Today, the Order of Malta, as a lay religious organisation, remains true to its inspiring principles “to Serve our Lords the Sick and the Poor”, which become reality through the voluntary work carried out in humanitarian assistance and medical and social activities. Today the Order carries out these activities in over 120 countries.

Since the establishment of the Ambulance Corps in Ireland, it has become a major provider of first-aid training, ambulance transport and community and elderly care services across the whole island of Ireland. With over 4,000 volunteers in over 80 locations, the Ambulance Corps offers first aid, ambulance and emergency care services in most of Ireland's principal cities and towns, and through its youth section provides youth development, training programmes and sporting activities.

In addition to the Ambulance Corps, Order of Malta Ireland also manages and supports a number of other charitable activities including:

- Annual Pilgrimages with the Sick to Lourdes with other associations from around the world and nationally to Knock
- **International Summer Camp for Young Disabled**
- Malta Share Lisnaskea – Respite holidays for people with learning and physical difficulties
- **Malta Services Drogheda** – Special Adult Education and Training Day Centre
- **Holy Family Hospital Bethlehem**

There are approximately 200 members of the Irish Association which is an all island organisation. The seat of the Order in Ireland is at St John's House, Clyde Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Ireland.

### WHY OUR NEWSLETTER IS SO POPULAR?

**It's free ..... It's non-political ..... The articles are short and easy to read..... It is always filled with magnificent pictures ..... Teaches history, culture and heritage of the Maltese Islands..... It's regular and frequent ... It is mostly in English (most Maltese understand, speak and read the language)... It is written with passion and enthusiasm.. Gives information about Malta and the Maltese around the world.. (Readers' comments)**



## GEORGINA SCILLIO (NÉE ZAMMIT) - - Writer



Mrs Scillio migrated from Malta (Birkirkara) to Australia in 1962, and after completing her B.Sc., B.Ed. and M.Ed. at Melbourne University she spent the next thirty years teaching Science and Mathematics in various schools and colleges. Georgina was the first Maltese female to study at Melbourne University. Although she was always interested in writing, it was only since she retired from full-time teaching that her work started to be published.

Scillio's articles, or 'pieces', have been published in *Quadrant*, *Arena*, *The Weekend Australian*, as well as in several literary magazines, namely: *Readers' Paradise*, *Expectations*, *The NSW Writers' Centre*,

*The Sunshine Coast Writers' Group*, *The Multicultural Journal of Australia*, *Page Seventeen* and *Culture is..*

She received 'Commended' or 'Highly Commended' certificates for her short stories in the Alan Marshall National competition, the Judah Waten National competition, the Boroondara National competition, and the Eastern Regional Libraries competition. In 2007, her short story 'The Vase' was runner up in the Darebin Leader Newspaper competition and was published in the Anthology *Around the Clock*.

Scillio belonged to the writers' group 'The Cartridge Family' which won first prize in the Fellowship of Australian Writers' Anthology Competition in 2007, with their Anthology *A Curiously Reduced Universe*. In 2008 her collection of short stories *A Dandelion on the Roof* won first prize in the Northern Notes Writers' Festival competition and the book was published by the sponsors of the competition, Clouds of Magellan and Trojan Press. In 2009 one of her stories was included in the anthology *Stamping Ground*.

In the February 2010 issue of the *Australian Book Review*, J.D. Thompson wrote: "The strongest aspect of *A Dandelion on the Roof* is Scillio's ability to convey the unique viewpoints of her characters....(for example) a university student living in a dingy inner city Melbourne apartment describing the powerful impact that catching a glimpse of her neighbour's backyard has on her. The character remarks, 'I had discovered an island of precious peace in a sea of clamour.'"

Scillio has several more short stories which she hopes to publish either in an anthology or as a collection, as well as manuscripts for three novels which she is re-writing and hopes to submit them to a publisher in due course. Some of her stories are now appearing in eBooks. She is married to Reg, a Maltese from Egypt and they have three sons and six grandchildren.

Her inspiration for writing comes from all sources: listening to people talking, watching people when travelling by public transport, and of course, lots of life experiences. *A Dandelion on the Roof* was inspired by her own childhood, growing up in the ruins of World War 2. Scillio is also moved by contrasts, for example the mother who was so skilled in sewing (like her own mother was) yet she got such a small recompense for her efforts, or the contrast between the grinding poverty of a war-torn village and the grandeur of the Basilica nearby. In the story *Folds of Fat*, the anorexic girl who shared her flat was from a wealthy family and could afford any food she fancied, whereas Scillio who was living on the breadline longed to be able to cook nice and rich meals! Some aspects of these stories are autobiographical, but Scillio insists that overall her work should be read as fiction or 'faction'.

There are other things which intrigue her, for example the intense reaction to President Kennedy's assassination, and the personal obsessions some people develop when they live a solitary life (in *The Plate*) or the lack of perception by others of their own neighbours (in *Through a fence darkly*). The story about a psychiatrist in *The Dream* was a mixture of a true story and a fictitious set up: a dream which, in the end influenced the woman's decision to accept or reject a marriage proposal. She hopes that those who read her stories will find in them some enjoyment and perhaps a reflection of persons they have met, lived with or heard about.

## PROFESSOR RAYMOND AGIUS MD, DM, FRCP, FRCPE, FFOM



Raymond Agius is Professor of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and Director of the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health at the University of Manchester School of Medicine. He is also an honorary consultant in the Central Manchester and Manchester Children's Hospitals NHS Trust and at South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust. His previous appointments have included being Senior Lecturer in Occupational and Environmental Health at the University of Edinburgh and before that Director of Medical Services at the Institute of Occupational Medicine.

His research interests have ranged widely from occupational to environmental ill health including respiratory and cardiovascular disease, stress and back pain, and audit and quality in the delivery of occupational health services. He has particular research interests in the incidence of occupational disease and work related ill health, in air pollution epidemiology and in methods of predicting new hazards - with a view to appropriate preventive measures. He has a special interest in education in occupational medicine especially utilising the internet and other innovative approaches. His book 'Practical Occupational Medicine' is now in its second edition.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of London and of Edinburgh, a Fellow of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of London and an Honorary a Fellow of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. He serves or has served on several national and international committees, governmental and non-governmental bodies, and is a past president of the British Occupational Hygiene Society.

He has lectured widely and his 'eponymous' lectures or orations include the Donald Hunter lecture (Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Royal College of Physicians of London), the Smiley lecture (Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland), the Ferguson Glass oration (Australasian Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Royal Australasian College of Physicians) and the Heijermans lecture (University of Amsterdam).

Dr Agius used to be active as site manager for my children's Lego, model railway and other modelling but now act as an 'ad hoc' consultant only. I have a growing interest in Melitensia and Maltese history, especially regarding Birgu (Vittoriosa) where my father's family hailed from. [www.agius.com](http://www.agius.com)

**THANK YOU SO MUCH for giving me the big privilege of reading this very special newsletter- MALTA AND AUSTRALIA. My cousin forwarded the newsletter to me and I am delighted ...**  
**Thank you again. God bless - Vickie Aquilina .**

## STEAMPUNK TAKES OVER PORT ADELAIDE'S NATIONAL RAIL



**Photo:** [Capturing the essence of steampunk at the National Railway Museum, Genna Balodis, Shane Wild and Amber Mae](#)

Described as a sub-genre of science fiction that fuses Victorian futuristic fashion with the industrialism of steam-powered machinery, steampunk will find a perfect home this weekend at Port Adelaide's National Rail Museum.

"It's a sophisticated blend of Victorian times and the Wild West," said sculptor and steampunk enthusiast David Archer.

The genre first appeared in literature during the 60s and 70s as a post-apocalyptic industrial age rendering, and

the term steampunk was first coined in the late 1980s. "It's like walking out of an 1800s factory with bling," Mr Archer said of the fashion style.

A mixture of top hats and waistcoats, corsets and show dresses, blended with industrial steel and over-engineered goggles, steampunk fashion is broad in appropriation but easily recognised. "It's not the greasy or grubby hands from the factories; it is more like these beautiful gloves with embroidered little cogs and wheels," Mr Archer said.

**Who we are - a brief history of the National Railway Museum –Port Adelaide -** In 1963 a group of rail preservationists, alarmed at the scrapping of steam locomotives which had served South Australia for many decades, set about saving, restoring and maintaining many of the historic vehicles in the museum today.



The first railway museum was located on Railway Terrace at Mile End, operated on a completely voluntary basis and opened on only two afternoons each month. Prior to 1988 museum members restored many locomotives and carriages, designed and built our steam engine 'Bub', and completely restored narrow gauge steam engine 'Peronne' to operational condition. They also published several railway books.

The exposure of the exhibits to the weather was a cause for great concern and an undercover venue was sought. In 1988 the museum was fortunate enough, with the involvement of the History Trust of SA, to obtain a \$2m Australian Bicentennial Commemorative Grant to relocate to our current site and to provide covered accommodation for the exhibits.

On the 2nd of January 1988 the gates at the Mile End Railway Museum closed for the last time and on the 10th December 1988, after a year of frantic activity, the Port Dock Station Railway Museum Port Adelaide was officially opened by the Premier of South Australia, The Honorable John Bannon.



## IL-BARUMBARA - A DOVECOTE IN MALTA



Wild pigeons had been living in Malta thousands of years before the first inhabitants arrived on rafts or canoes from Sicily. These pigeons lived on cliff ledges and in holes in cliff walls, as well as in man-made buildings – a characteristic which led to them being domesticated.

Before the advent of guns, ways and means were found to catch wild birds for food because there wasn't much else available to the poor by way of protein, except for snails scavenged from fields. When guns arrived they were for the privileged few - unaffordable to those who could not even pay for a pair of shoes. So the poor people had to find ways to catch wild birds in quantity without the use of weapons. They came up

with the idea of building a doveote or **barumbara** as an integral part of the house - except that it wasn't for doves but for pigeons.

Farmers used to build ledges and holes in the walls of their farmhouses to be taken up by the domestic pigeons, which were induced to stay around the farmhouse by being fed on grains and other seeds. These man-made ledges and holes in walls came to be known as '**Barumbara**' in Maltese. This is probably a corruption of the Sicilian word '**palummara**' or the Italian word '**columbara**' - a place where pigeons live and breed.

Each old Maltese farmhouse used to have a barumbara in one of its walls. There are also several areas and streets in Malta known as **Il-barumbara**, indicating that there must have been ancient doveotes in the vicinity. The pigeons were encouraged to breed in the upper section of the house, where four or five rows of nesting places would be made in each of the walls. There might be up to 100 nesting places in one small room! Nowadays you might come across some old rural dwellings with just a few nesting places for pigeons incorporated in the facade as the one I found in Zabbar.

"G'day mate" was the unexpected greeting for Hieu Van Le more than three decades ago when he was among the first Vietnamese boat people to arrive in Australia from his war-torn country and now he occupies the highest office as governor of South Australia. I believe in miracles!!



**MICHAEL WRIGHT - LEMAKOO MALTA AUSTRALIA EXHIBITION**

Michael is from Sydney where he studied commercial art at KVB College of Visual Communications in North Sydney, an institution now known as Raffles College of Design and Commerce. He then began a career in the print media, working as a news illustrator and political cartoonist both in Australia and London. He started at the Sydney Morning Herald in 1986 and after some years moved to London where he worked on The Times and The Daily Mirror, eventually becoming a political cartoonist for the The European. He has also produced art work for names like Ferrari and Benetton.

In 2004 Michael held his first solo exhibition at the Erin Art Centre on the Isle of Man where he was living at the time. The series of 20 watercolours included some inspired by the local natural environment and proved extremely popular. The exhibition was sold out at its conclusion.

Arriving in Malta 6 years ago, Michael began to experiment with the juxtaposition of images of Malta with those of Australia. This imaginative approach, which you can see examples of in this exhibition, captures in a most interesting way the special connections that exist between our two countries. Michael takes iconic landmarks or themes from each and marries them together in way that shows both their contrast and their complementarity.

Michael has secured a number of private commissions in Malta and one purchaser has described his work in these terms: "His vivid Maltese paintings exhibit extraordinary intensity of colour that skilfully juxtaposes light and shadow to capture the changing conditions of the Mediterranean." It is easy to imagine that Michael's compositions are of particular appeal to Maltese Australians because of the merging and contrasting of imagery from both countries portrayed in his works.

<http://www.lemakoo.com/>



## JOHN BONNICI – R.I.P.

The Għaqda tal-Malti – Università is saddened by the loss of John Bonnici, son of Ġużè Bonnici, and Louissette Briffa, wife of Rużar Briffa, who both died this year.

In remembrance of these authors, the Għaqda is and will be commemorating them through different events. Our aim is not only to preserve their memory, but to generate new writings inspired by theirs. In Briffa's case, the Għaqda will be commemorating him through the interdisciplinary project *Metamorfosi*, whilst next year, the Għaqda will be commemorating Bonnici through a different event.

Both authors were the founders of our association. *The Committee* Għaqda tal-Malti – Università

## GARRISON CHURCH VAULTED ENTRANCE RETURNED



The long forgotten sunken vaulted entrance into the Garrison Church Crypt located under the one-time Protestant military chapel on the right to the entrance into the Upper Barracca Gardens has been retraced, cleared of rubble and is in the process of being returned to its original use. This work will complete the restoration of the Garrison Church Crypt which during the war served as the Coast Artillery Gun Room. This place is inter-linked with the underlying War HQ tunnels through a spiral staircase. FWA will use this property to house the Saluting Battery museum display and as a visitors' center for the new multi-period Military Heritage Park which is scheduled to open late this year. This work is co-funded by the European Regional Development Funds, the government of Malta and FWA.

## GERMAN POW WALL PAINTING



A wall-painting representing a maritime scene in the Grand Harbour has been added to the collection at the Malta at War, Vittoriosa. The painting was salvaged many years ago by FWA volunteers from the old German Prisoners-of-War camp when the site was being cleared to make way for the new Karwija School. The painting is believed to have been painted by German POWs during their stay there. Several thousand German POWs were brought to Malta immediately after the end of hostilities to help out with post-war reconstruction. Many were employed on military construction projects but others were also tasked with helping farmers. These prisoners were known to be highly skilled and industrious and their contribution to Malta's reconstruction was hugely valued although it caused the ire of the trade unions who argued that they were taking Maltese jobs at a time when work opportunities were low. German prisoners of War were repatriated after 1948.

## Surnames in Malta - 100 surnames cover 75% of the population

"Malta has a wealth of surnames, some traced to every part of the world. Yet three quarters of the population shares the same 100 surnames. The 2011 census recorded a total of 19,104 surnames. The top 10 are: Borg, Camilleri, Vella, Farrugia, Zammit, Galea, Micallef, Grech, Attard, Spiteri and Azzopardi. A quarter of the population – 99,516 – own just these 10 surnames. A total of 178,018 people – 44 per cent – have surnames which make it to the top 25 list.

And 75 per cent of the population – 307,886 people – share the same 100 surnames said linguist Mario Cassar. This, he said, probably shows a degree of inbreeding. Gozo – due to its smaller size – gives a clearer picture of this idiosyncrasy. One typical Gozitan surname seems to be Rapa but the surname Xuereb is predominate in Għajnsielem, Mintoff in Għasri, Debrincat in Munxar, Grima in San Lawrenz, Sultana in Xagħra and Cini in Żebbuġ. "If you meet a Gozitan with Buttigieg as a surname you can almost be certain that he'd be from Qala," Dr Cassar said.

There are also some peculiar trends in Malta, such as the strong showings of Abela in Żejtun, Aquilina in Għargħur, Bugeja in Marsaxlokk, Magro in Qrendi, Dalli in Gudja, and Busuttil in Safi. Other less marked, but equally clear concentrations are manifest in the cases of Carabott in Marsaxlokk, Sacco in Kirkop, Bezzina in Għargħur, Vella in Mellieha, Abdilla in Safi, and Manduca in Mdina. Penza, for example, is an overwhelmingly Luqa surname.

Dr Cassar explained that Maltese surnames may easily be divided into three surname groups: Semitic (Arabic and Hebrew), Romance (mainly Italian, Sicilian, Spanish and French), and English (as well as Scottish, Irish and Welsh), with the development of surnames having mirrored Malta's history. The number of Semitic surnames is only around 50, but despite this low number, most of us have an Arabic surname. "Each one of these Semitic surnames is borne by a significant aggregate of families, whereas many of the more modern Romance and European surnames are less numerous," he said."

### The ten most common surnames in Malta

According to the latest census from the national statistics office in Malta, the ten most common surnames in Malta (all islands) are as follows:

Rank	%	#	Surname
1	3.3	13,169	<a href="#"><u>Borg</u></a>
2	3.1	12,643	<a href="#"><u>Camilleri</u></a>
3	2.9	11,785	<a href="#"><u>Vella</u></a>
4	2.9	11,549	<a href="#"><u>Farrugia</u></a>
5	2.3	9,424	<a href="#"><u>Zammit</u></a>
6	2.1	8,519	<a href="#"><u>Galea</u></a>
7	2.1	8,356	<a href="#"><u>Micallef</u></a>
8	1.9	7,828	<a href="#"><u>Grech</u></a>
9	1.8	7,340	<a href="#"><u>Attard</u></a>
10	1.8	7,233	<a href="#"><u>Spiteri</u></a>

Isolated for the island of Malta, the top five positions for most common surname for Malta remains the same as for all the islands grouped together.

### The five most common surnames IN Gozo

On the island of Gozo, the five most common surnames are as follows:

Rank	%	#	Surname
1	4.8	1,491	<a href="#"><u>Vella</u></a>
2	4.3	1,338	<a href="#"><u>Attard</u></a>
3	3.8	1,187	<a href="#"><u>Camilleri</u></a>
4	3.7	1,146	<a href="#"><u>Grech</u></a>



5

3.1

966

Portelli



## IT-TERRAMAXKA – THE STREET ORGAN

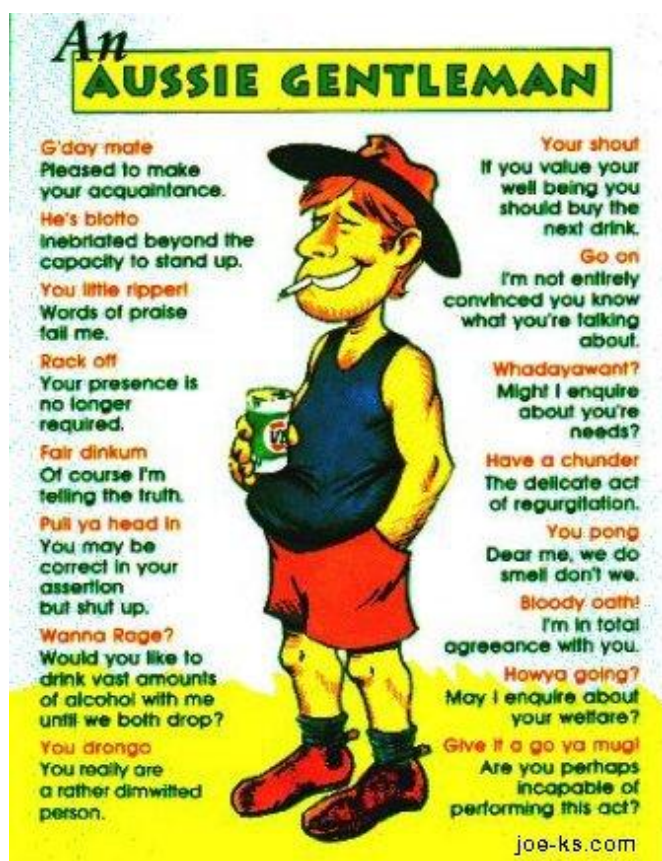
The word *terramaxka* comes from the Maltese words *kitarra magica*, which means, magical guitar. In English, this instrument, is given a variety of names including, street organ, crank organ, barrel organ, fair organ and so forth. Street organs were imported in Malta from European countries such as France and Switzerland during the late nineteenth century.

A huge diversity of these organs could be found in Malta. The most common terramaxka was a very light weight organ usually hung round the neck of the busker, and rested on a small pole. These were operated using punched cards. All genres of music were played including the tango, operas, polka and waltzes. Some organs were operated by a crank turned by hand. Others were larger, usually decorated with flags and small wooden statues, these were driven by a donkey or the owner himself and attracted many young children. Similar to nowadays jukeboxes, were the coin-operated organs, called café organs, which were more commonly found in cafés and pubs popular to sailors. Finally, there were also terramaxkas found in homes of wealthy people. These organs used to be richly ornamented with gold and precious stones.

The terramaxkas were very common in the Maltese islands and were frequently exhibited to the public in local festas where the noisy bands were out of the way. Unfortunately, these marvelous instruments have long been gone, some sold to Americans and others were broken. Luckily, we have the only terramaxka left on the Maltese Islands to bring back the memories of our ancestors.



## SPEAKING AUSTRALIAN SLANG OR "STRINE"



**G'day, mate..how are you, to-die?** (*pronounced "Good-die, mate..how are you, to die?"*) which means "Good-day, my friend...how are you doing today ?" (in BBC English) is how you'll often be greeted in Australia.... and it's not someone rudely asking how you are going to pass away.

Aaaahh....the refinements of Australian English or "Strine" as it is known. Australians also tend to speak with a rising intonation which makes their sentences sound like questions. So, please don't think you are always being questioned !

The term "Strine" derives from saying the word "Australian" through both closed teeth and the nose - a local accent that some "scholars" claim arose from the need to keep the mouth ("trap") shut against blow flies ("blowies").

## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF MALTA



The National Council of Women is made up of dedicated members who work to improve the conditions of Society focusing on Women and The Family through social development, education and advocacy. They ensure that they have the means of reminding the Government of vital issues needed in policies and legislations being discussed.

Subjects of current concern are studied and resolutions based on these issues help to underpin and strengthen NCW's work with Government and our affiliates.

- NCW is a member of the International Council Of Women (ICW) comprising of NCWs of every continent
- NCW Malta has Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social

Council of the United Nations

- Doreen Micallef is Vice-President of the European Centre of the International Council of Women (ECICW) and is in consultative status with the Council of Europe.
- Grace Attard represents the Maltese Civil Society as a member of the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels
- Doris Bingley is a member of the Commonwealth Foundation Civil Society Advisory Committee based in London
- NCW Malta is a member of the Civil Society Committee of MCESD
- NCW Malta holds the Vice-Presidency of the 'Forum of Civil Society Organisations (Malta)
- NCW is one of Anna Lindh Foundation's Network

NCW Malta has thirty affiliated organisations in Malta

- **Nature of Organisation**

The National Council of Women of Malta is an independent, non-sectarian, voluntary organisation based on adult, individual membership and the affiliation of non-governmental organisations.

- **Mission Statement and Objectives**

The National Council of Women is a co-ordinating, philanthropic body of women that aims to act to improve the status of women and the well-being of society; to present a broad and comprehensive view of women's opinions on matters of national interest and cultural traditions based on human rights; and to make women more aware not only of their rights but also of their civic, moral, political and social responsibilities to society as a whole.

Website: <http://www.ncwmalta.com/>

## DUKE AND DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE EXPECTING SECOND CHILD



The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are "very pleased to announce" that they are expecting their second child, Clarence House said.

Kensington Palace said the Queen and members of both William and Kate's families are "delighted". The Duchess of Cambridge is reported to be suffering from acute morning sickness and is being treated by doctors at Kensington Palace. She will no longer joining her husband on a planned engagement later today. Prime Minister David Cameron said: "Many congratulations to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. I'm delighted by the happy news that they're expecting another baby."

## MALTA MEDICAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION



The **Malta Medical Students' Association** (MMSA) is one of the oldest student associations found at the University of Malta, established in 1951. All students in the faculty of Medicine and Surgery, including post-graduate students but excluding Pharmacy students, are automatic members of this association.

MMSA is a non-governmental, non-political student organization that has been established 60 years ago. MMSA has its

foundation at the University of Malta where it has been the most active student organization for the past 10 years. It is a full member of the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) and European Medical Students' Association (EMSA). As part of IFMSA, it enjoys international status amongst 97 National Member Organizations encompassing over one million medical students globally. MMSA is also affiliated locally with the National Council of Women and supported actively by the Health Promotion Department.

### Mission statement

"Our mission is to enhance the education of future medical professionals through enforcing active participation in their teaching system, organizing international exchanges and implementing training in the various fields of the public health sector. We also aim at empowering the Maltese society, including its marginalized communities, to become functionally involved in decision taking within the National Healthcare System and to reduce health-related social problems through culture and gender sensitive health advocacy."

### Aims and objectives

1. Empowering medical students in applying their knowledge and capacities to be actively involved in decision-making with regards to the teaching system and to the enhancement of society.
2. Promote and facilitate professional and scientific exchanges as well as projects and extracurricular training for medical students, thereby sensitizing them to other cultures and societies and their health problems. Representing Maltese medical students at an international level through the International Federation of Medical Students' Association.
3. Advocate public health awareness through conferences, press releases, publications, campaigns and peer education sessions. Tackle public health issues in a prioritized fashion and measurable changes are recorded to determine the cost-benefit of the methods applied.
4. Teach youth theoretical background on behavior change peer education, group dynamics and co facilitation. Provide youth with the basic life skills to take informed decisions with respect to their health, ensure knowledge of their existing health rights and encourage involvement in policy changing.
5. Ensure continuity in the programs developed and improvement through monitoring & evaluation as per the statute guidelines Play an active role in formulating youth charters with respect to the various aspects of public health. Endorsing relevant publications. Website <http://mmsa.org.mt>



## WELCOME TO PHOENIX SPORTS CLUB

the fastest growing sports club in Malta



Phoenix Sports Club was established in 2010 when its founders, Mr. Orlando Bonnici, now Owner/President and Mr. Clinton Mifsud, now General Secretary, decided to start a new handball team to compete in the National League. This was the first introduction of a new team after many years and the club quickly became popular and grew in numbers.

With a strong footing in the game of handball, Mr. Stephen Zammit was appointed as CEO of the club and under his guidance and advice the club grew into other sports. The club's first move was into Futsal, however due to change in local regulations the club had to shut down its futsal team. Today the club is represented in National Leagues of Basketball, Handball and Volleyball with nurseries in every sport. The club has over 200 active athletes, not only local, but coming from a number of different countries.

The aims of Phoenix SC are clear, to promote sports and hopefully one day transcend into a fully professional club with athletes who play their sports for a living and not just out of passion and love for the game. The club unfortunately doesn't own its own premises and it is in a constant struggle to secure training venues which are up-to-standard to its requirements. The future holds many plans and new strategies and the committee leading Phoenix SC will work hard to strengthen the club in every aspect.

Currently the club has teams competing in Basketball, Handball, Volleyball and Swimming National Leagues/Competitions. For more information about the club you feel free to contact us on our website, email or facebook/twitter pages

Website: <http://www.psc.com.mt/>



**MALTA IS OUR MOTHER  
AND AUSTRALIA IS OUR WIFE**



## MALTA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

### LEAGUE CHAMPIONS



The first championship that was organised on the island of Malta was held in 1909. The first contestants were the Boys' Empire League, Floriana, Malta University, St. Joseph's United and Sliema Wanderers. The title was won by Floriana. This success was repeated for three successive seasons. Hamrun Spartans in 1914 broke Floriana's domination to win their first championship. Up to 1919, the title changed hands each year with Valletta United, St. George's and the King's Own Malta regiment winning the championship. Between 1919 and 1940, the championship was always a matter of the 'Old Firm', Floriana and Sliema Wanderers, except for 1931-32 when Valletta United won the league.

Following World War II, the league format became more stable. However Floriana and Sliema were still dominant, sharing the titles between 1948 and 1958. In 1960, Hibernians won the championship for the first time and one year later, Maltese clubs started participating in the UEFA club competitions. The Old Firm's dominion was broken with Valletta and Hibernians winning several championships. The 1980's saw a newcomer to elite soccer, Rabat Ajax winning the championship consecutively for two years.

In the 90's, the championship once again became a matter of the big clubs: Valletta, Floriana, Sliema, Hamrun and Hibernians. But with the start of the new millennium, Birkirkara were declared champions for the first time. Marsaxlokk also won their first ever title in 2007.



The celebrations start when Birkirkara won the Bank Of Valletta Super Cup

# AUSTRALIA THE LUCKY COUNTRY

Every day the news seems to be focusing on a new **crisis**. We watch with heavy hearts as the media discusses stories of disaster, war and violence. Our hearts are with those affected and it serves as an important reminder to count our blessings.

Last year, pride was felt in the city of Melbourne as it was given the title of "World's Most Liveable City." Based on stability, healthcare, culture, education and infrastructure, this ranking represents much more than bragging rights. Rather, it's indicative of just how blessed we are to live in such a great city. But the luck of Australians is not limited to Melbourne. Adelaide, Sydney and Perth all were ranked in the top 10 while Brisbane was ranked 20<sup>th</sup>.

Australia, with a relatively small population of 23 million people, dominated the Global Liveability Report, beating out a number of North American and European cities. Often called 'The Lucky Country', Australians have long known that the lifestyle, climate, history and culture of Australia make it stand out among the world. Now, it seems, the rest of the world is catching on, which raises the question, what's so great about Australia?

Earlier this month, the International Monetary Fund found Australia's economy to be the strongest of all developed nations. At a time where a number of nations are in economic **crisis**, Australia's thriving industries allow for low unemployment and poverty rates along with a strong dollar. Our strong economy and advanced technology allows for high quality of life with advanced education and healthcare systems.

Now is the time for organisations and individuals to take advantage of Australia's success and economic prosperity. Whether it's starting a new business or trying to advance your career, take this opportunity to achieve your goals by building your personal brand. Consider what you have to offer to your work place, your industry or Australia as a whole and develop a personal brand consistent with your passions and areas of expertise.

On this happy note we bid you



**SAHHA MILL-QALB**