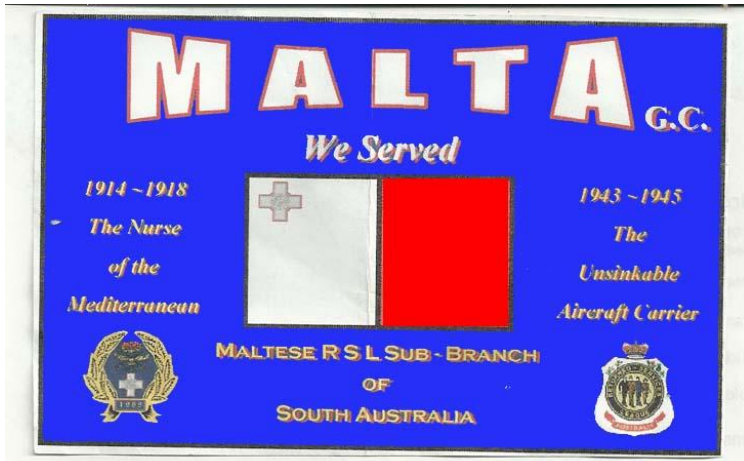




## CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

June 2013 FRANK L SCICLUNA - HON CONSUL

### MIGRATION MUSEUM - MALTA



This is the banner which was donated to the migration Museum by the RSL Maltese sub-branch of south Australia.

The latest phase of the Migration Museum and Visitors' Centre, now includes twelve information pods, each offering multimedia information about destinations chosen by the thousands of Maltese migrants over the past decades.

The pod dedicated to Australia, a continent where the Maltese have made a tremendous impact, has been sponsored by the Bank of Valletta. The Bank has a Representative Office in Melbourne, which is instrumental in helping the migrants there to retain

their economic links with their home country.

Monsignor Philip Calleja has painstakingly archived anything and everything related to emigration, at the museum in Dar I-Emigrant in Valletta, chronicling the impact that migrants had on their environment.

The museum's location is also fitting because it is at a perfect vantage point, just behind the Upper Barrakka gardens in Valletta, where one could have had a clear view of migrant ships leaving for faraway, unknown lands in the 1940s and 50s. The digital museum assists in the easy dissemination of information among visitors, students, scholars and the public using the latest interactive multimedia technology. The information is brought to life via numerous touch screens, video projections and showcases, thereby enhancing the impact of the content on the visitors to the museum.

Emigrants Commission Director, Fr Alfred Vella, says special presentations, film screenings and academic conferences on migration problems in the past and present are being planned. Fr Vella, speaks of "his enthusiasm for a campaign targeting school visits."

The museum's ultimate objectives will eventually serve to examine the history of Maltese emigration and encourage academic research in related fields of Maltese emigration amongst University students. It will house the largest body of research material and memorabilia related to Maltese emigration..

The Migration Museum and Visitors' Centre is situated at Dar I-Emigrant, the headquarters of the Emigrants' Commission, near the Upper Barrakka, Valletta.



Visit the School Website <http://www.ozmalta.page4.me>



*Gozitans playing brillì in the alley*

### **Brillì Explore the Traditional Lifestyle of Gozo**

Brillì is a game still played by adults in Gharb Gozo. Part of this remote area is undisturbed by cars, where streets have retained their function as a meeting place for the villagers.

#### **To play you need these objects**

Nine skittles (brillì) and a spherical wooden ball. The skittles are arranged to form a square with three rows, each row containing three skittles. A different term is used to describe the skittles according to their position in the square. The four brillì at the corners are called qriemec, while the central skittle is referred to as is-sultan. The remaining four skittles are known as is-sekondi.

Each skittle is conical in shape, stability being provided by a metallic ring placed around the base. Is-Sultan has a spherical projection at its top to

distinguish it from the other brillì.

#### **To Play the game**

At least five to six people are needed for the game to be played. The place chosen for the first throw (messa) is marked by a stone.

The first throw (il-moll) gains points according to the number and type of skittles dropped. Thus is-sultan gains 18 points, is-sekond 12 points while the qriemec 1 point. If however more than one type of pin is dropped (example: sultan and qarmuc) only 2 points for each dropped pin is gained.

### **Malta's National Rugby Football Union**



The **Malta national rugby union team** is governed by the **Malta Rugby Football Union** (MRFU). Although Malta has yet to qualify for the **Rugby World Cup**, the island state has made remarkable progression since its first international in 2000. It is currently competing in the European Division 2A and recently maintained its status with a win over Sweden. Malta's national team played their first match on November 18 in 2000, against Moldova in Chişinău, which Moldova won 58-8. They played a subsequent match against Belgium that same year in Marsa, which Belgium won 26-0. Malta played four matches in 2001, and they recorded their first win in the fourth of them, against Monaco in Marsa. This was followed by a draw 10-10 with Norway, defeating Lithuania, Austria, Luxembourg, Bosnia-Herzegovina,

Serbia-Montenegro, Latvia and Hungary. They then played Moldova in 2004. Malta then proceeded to enter the 2007 Rugby World Cup European qualification tournament where they were grouped in Pool D of the second round. After finishing third in their pool with two wins from four pool games, Malta entered a play-off along with Denmark, Andorra and Sweden to enter round three. Malta were successful and entered Pool B of round three. The team is currently ranked 41st in the International Rugby Board world rankings, their highest ever position. They are coached by Welshman Damian Neill, a former Number 8 in the Welsh Premiership with Aberavon RFC and Maesteg RFC.

### **St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valetta, Malta; Caravaggio and the Knights of Malta**



St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valetta is impossibly ornate. It was the immensely wealthy Church of the Knights of Malta (chosen from Europe's leading aristocratic families. Each family had to commit to give the Knights a third of their annual income, and all the Knight's property upon his death). The Knights of Malta were warrior-medical-monks, originally formed to care for injured crusaders.

The gravestones which form the floor of the church are inlaid in the richest marble and porphyry in pietre dure. The ceiling is covered with frescoes.

It has eight chapels, each belonging to one of the eight "languages" or national groups which made up the Knights of Malta, and of course each tried to outdo the other. These were Provence, Auvergne, France, Castile and Leon, Aragon, Italy, England and Germany, who each lived in separate Auberge, like Oxford Colleges. (This European unity is now mimicked in the European Union, which is a great idea, in my opinion.) The most moving part of the chapel was Caravaggio's dynamic, brilliant, moving painting of the beheading of John the Baptist, which bought him membership in the Knights of Malta.

However, not long after the induction which brought him delight and pride, his violent, ungovernable temper led him to attack another Knight, which led to imprisonment (without his paints). Being unable to paint led him to desperation and near-madness, and an escape. He was defrocked as a Knight of Malta in front of his masterpiece which he had donated with such pride, signing his name in John's spilled blood. He moved to Naples and died young after more trouble and more brawls (perhaps due to his mercurial manic-depressive temperament, perhaps due to the lead in his paints, which causes depression, personality changes and mental illness, such as plagued Goya and Van Gogh

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## **CHEV EDWARD CARUANA DINGLI**



THERE is so much colour and life in Malta. "You seem to belong to the present and yet one has only to enter St. John's to be surrounded by the ghosts of the ages of chivalry".

Notabile is a city in which one can picture St. Francis. St. Paul preached where your Cathedral stands. Then you have your Stone Age temples, one older than the other. It makes one see Malta, as if it were rising from the waters and making her glorious passage through the ages. It is one of the most wonderful places in the world. I mean it most sincerely, and to think that all we knew of it until this morning was that it is a tiny, tiny island'.

That is what tourists have said so many times without number after a few hours in Malta. They go away, these tourists of the round cruises, with such a craving to know more, such an enthusiasm to come back, to tell all their friends that they Pat on no account miss Malta, and their last word is: ' Oh, if we could show some of all this beauty, it's so wonderful'.

That wish can now be gratified. EDWARD CARUANA DINGLI - A son of Malta, a soldier, a distinguished artist whose name is known wherever art is appreciated, has come forward, and full of that consuming ambition of every true Maltese to assert the dignity of his race, to extol the land of his birth, he has limned a series of paintings that tell the tale of Malta as nothing else can tell it. With all the art of a master, with all the knowledge of a son who treats of his own home, he has given us enough of the life and colour of Malta to reveal to the world the beauties of this little island. -'No side of Malta has been left out and the printers have spared no pains to faithful and artistic reproductions'.

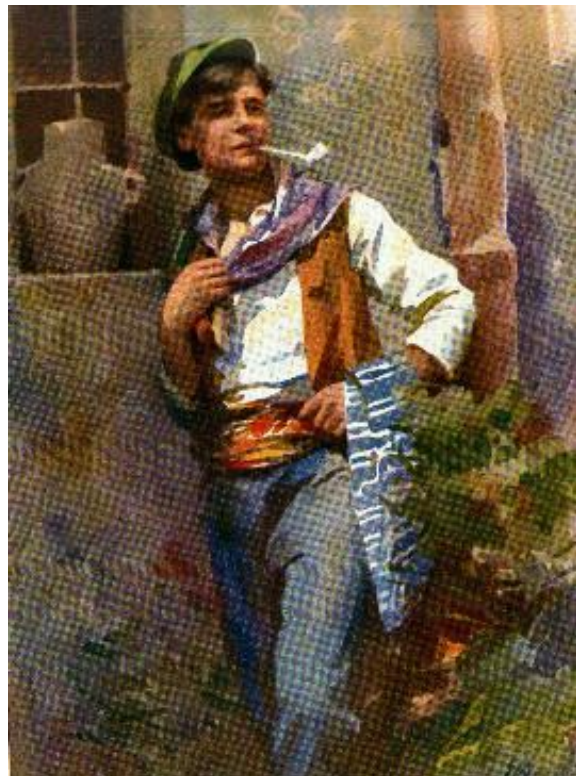
From the Grand Harbour to which Malta owes all her importance throughout the ages, to the peculiar landscapes, the manly types of the inhabitants, the sturdy sons, and the black-eyed maidens in the peculiar headdress; their customs, the local vehicles, the cattle; all the colour Of their everyday life in the gorgeous sunshine and picturesque surroundings.

Of Religion that has always filled the life Of Malta, we have the Neolithic temples of the days when Malta was the Sacred Island of the Ancients; St. Paul's Bay where the Apostle was shipwrecked; the gorgeous cathedral of St. John full of associations with the famous Order of the Knights of Malta; processions with all the solemnity and pomp of ritual and fine vestments; Easter celebrations of a distinctly local character.



The amusements of Malta; a bathing beach, Carnival where the artist brings so near, the spirit, the nerve, I could almost say, the din of the proceedings; the promenades, the life and romance of the highway and the countryside.

Here are some of his paintings:





# *A Day in Maltese History*

## *The riot of the Maltese*

*7 June 1919*

**Sette Giugno** (from Italian for "Seventh June") is a Maltese national holiday celebrated annually on 7 June. It commemorates events which occurred on that day in 1919 when, following a series of riots by the Maltese population, British troops fired into the crowd, killing four.

Malta and the Maltese had experienced quite a relatively peaceful existence during the two centuries under British rule. Although there were times when the Imperial Government wanted to exercise more power over Malta and further disadvantage the Maltese people.

Dr. F. Sceberras of the Malta National Assembly set up to defend the nation and bring about social and political changes. He had called for a meeting of the National Assembly on June 7, 1919 to press on for self-government to the Maltese Archipelago. On that day thousands of Maltese went to Valletta to give their support and to show their interest in what the delegates were discussing.

Among those who had converged on Valletta on that historic and tragic day were many who had recently lost their jobs with the British Forces. Others were politically motivated because they opposed Malta's political status. There were also supporters of a local politician, Manwel Dimech, who had spread radical and nationalistic ideas particularly among the unemployed. Dimech had been exiled to Alexandria, Egypt by the British during World War I. He was ordered to stay there and never to return to his native land. However Dimech's ideas and motivation was kept alive by many Maltese.

Dimech's followers were determined in their quest for national independence and for the setting up of a Maltese secular state which was to be democratic and free from the interferences of external forces.



While the National Assembly was at its deliberations, it became known that the demonstration outside had turned into a riot. Some demonstrators tore down British flags to the delight of the excited crowds. They also attacked houses and other premises, which belonged to Imperialist sympathisers. Those who were thought to have made good money out of the misery of the people were especially attacked. The crowd also taunted the few British soldiers who had been called out to contain the riot.

Someone in a British uniform panicked and shots were fired into the unarmed crowd. When the uproar died down four Maltese victims had lost their lives.

The Maltese now felt that not only did they have a just cause but that their wishes were hallowed by the blood of four of their brothers. The names of the four men were to be remembered and revered. The men killed were Lorenzo Dyer from Vittoriosa, Giuseppe Bajada from Gozo, Emmanuele Attard from Sliema and Carmelo Abela from Valletta.

The effects of the riot of June 7, 1919, were many. The British realised that the Maltese could not be taken for granted any longer. Constitutional progress was accelerated and on November 20, of that year the Maltese were promised their own parliament, which would have jurisdiction over internal affairs. A new constitution was granted on April 30, 1921. In October elections were held and in November the first Maltese Parliament was convened.



**MALTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - 9.8% increase in passenger movements in May**

Posted on June 5th, 2013

Malta International Airport has reported that passenger movements at Malta Airport grew by 9.8% during the month of May reaching 377,948 passengers – which is yet another record for the month under review. This increase is predominantly driven by the increase of 9.7% in seat capacity. Aircraft movements registered an increase of 8.3%. The average seat load factor remained flat, with an increase

of 0.1 percentage points over the same month last year. The increase in aircraft movements resulted also in an increase in the Maximum Take-Off Weight (MTOW) of 9%, whilst cargo and mail registered a decrease of 13.7%. Four of the five major markets registered growth during May 2013 when compared to the same month last year. The highest increase – 23% – was registered in the French market, followed by an increase of 14% in the Italian market, 3.5% in the Spanish market, and 1.9% from the UK. .



## **MALTESE SENIORS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (South Australia)**

### **30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY**

*Photo: the Hon Jennifer Rankine, Mr Frank Grima and the  
Honconsul for Malta*

If you happen to visit the Progressive Hall at Lehunte Street, Kilburn on a Friday between 10 and 3.30pm you will be surprised to see a group of Maltese citizens enjoying themselves in a social and happy atmosphere. Over 100 individuals attend a weekly function regularly and they are provided with excellent food and entertainment. You will be amazed to hear everyone talking Maltese.

This year the Maltese Senior Citizens Association of SA is celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment. In May 1983 the members of the Maltese community held a meeting at the Maltese Cultural Centre, Beverley with the intention of founding a new association explicitly for the Maltese senior citizens. A committee was formed and the first new committee members were Frans Falzon, Andrew Coleiro and Joseph Barbara,

This project was a new addition to the several associations operating in Adelaide. In 1991, the citizens managed to obtain new premises for their meetings and functions - The Progressive Hall at Lehunte Street, Beverley just opposite St. Brigit's Parish Church. The rest is history.

Part of the anniversary celebrations, the committee organized a Dinner Dance at the Slovenian Hall, Dudley Park. This was very well supported by the members and their friends. Mr. Frank Grima, the president of the Association opened the function officially by welcoming the attendees and thanking the sterling work of his committee.

The special invited guests were the Hon Jennifer Rankine, Minister for Education and Multiculturalism, the Hon Michael Atkinson, Speaker of the SA Parliament, the Hon Consul of Malta Frank Scicluna and his wife Josie and the President of the Maltese Community Council Edgar Agius and his wife Anna.

After a short introduction by Mr. Grima the two national anthems, Australian and Maltese, were played. The president invited Ms Rankine and Mr. Scicluna to the stage to address the audience. They both praised the work undertaken by the society and they presented the president with a gift and certificate of appreciation.

