

## THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

# MALTESE NEWSLETTER



A FREE E-JOURNAL LINKING THE MALTESE ALLOVER THE WORLD

**WORLD  
REFUGEE  
DAY 2015**



## Pope Francis chooses theme for World Day for Migrants and Refugees

Pope Francis has chosen as the theme for the 2016 World Day for Migrants and Refugees the theme: Migrants and refugees challenge us. The response of the Gospel of Mercy.

Vatican Radio has said that a communique released by the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People said the choice of this theme fits in well within the context of the upcoming Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by the Pope.

It said the chosen theme wishes to underline two aspects: the first the dramatic situation of so many men,

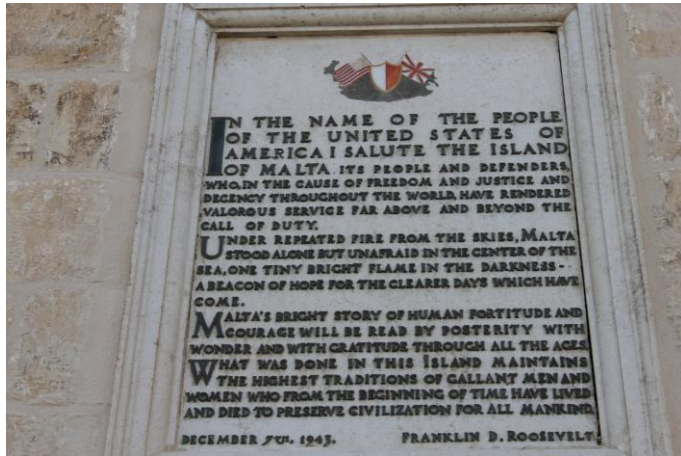
women and children people forced to flee their homes saying this is a reality that must challenge us and break the barrier of indifference that so often reigns. The second part of the theme stresses the response of the world and in particular of the Church to the plights of migrants.

The communique said the Pope urges Christians to reflect during the upcoming Jubilee Year on works of corporal and spiritual mercy that include among them welcoming strangers.

When it comes to the local churches, the Pontifical Council gives proposals for how the 2016 World Day for Migrants and Refugees can be marked within the Diocese and it "suggests that migrants and refugees are also actively involved in these celebrations." The Council also urges the local churches to increase awareness about the plights of migrants and refugees among the Christian community.



## US PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S CITATION



On Wednesday, 08 December 1943 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt arrived at Luqa Airport, Malta, on a C54 Douglas transport plane. President Roosevelt's delegation included General Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean. He was met by Viscount Gort, Governor of Malta, and Archbishop Mgr. Sir Michael Gonzi, and a Guard of Honour formed by detachments from the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, the Army, Royal Air Force and the Band of the Royal Malta Artillery.

President Roosevelt declared that "For many months I have wanted on behalf of the American people to pay some little tribute to this island and to all the people, Civil and Military, who during these years have

contributed so much to democracy, not just here, but all over the civilized world, and so at last we have been able to come ..... I have here a little token, a scroll, a citation from the President of the United States speaking on behalf of all the people and may I read it to you:

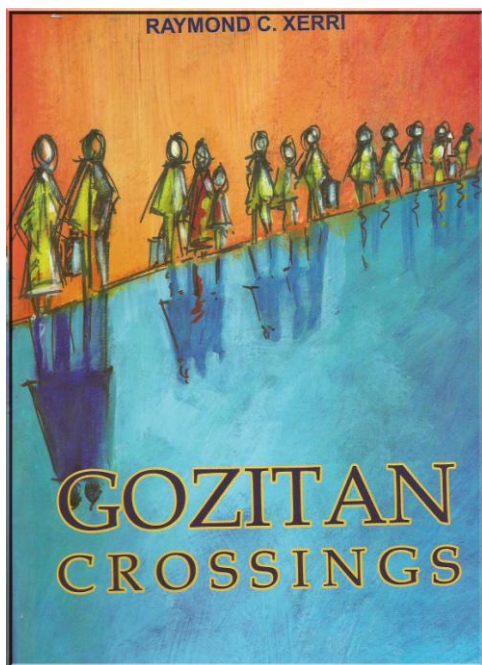
*"In the name of the people of the United States of America I salute the Island of Malta, its People and defenders, who in the cause of freedom and justice and decency throughout the world have rendered valorous services far above and beyond the call of duty under repeated fire from the skies, Malta stood alone but unafraid in the centre of the sea, one tiny bright flame in the darkness, a beacon of hope for the clearer days which have come. Malta's bright story of human fortitude and courage will be read by posterity with wonder and gratitude throughout all the ages.*

*What was done in this Island maintains all highest traditions of gallant men and women who from the beginning of time have lived and died to preserve civilization for all mankind - Franklin D. Roosevelt, December 7, 1943."*

"I have signed it at the bottom and I wrote on it not today, but yesterday, 7 December, because that was the second anniversary of the entry into the war of the American People. We will proceed until that war is won, but more than that, We will stand shoulder to shoulder with the British Empire and our other Allies in making it a victory worthwhile."



## GOZITAN CROSSINGS by Dr Raymon Xerri



Dr Xerri's book: *Gozitan Crossings- The impact of migration and return migration on an island community [2005]* is a version of his thesis which he submitted to Victoria University – Australia for his Ph.D. It deals with various aspects of life in Gozo (mainly his native il-Qala), as well as in Melbourne, and includes insights of life in both lands. It emphasizes the identity of the Gozitan migrant and highlights differences with those from the sister island of Malta. The several chapters deal with ferry crossings and their vicissitudes, life in Melbourne as forged by the Gozitan migrant, work related ethic of the Gozitan, faith and festas, as well as insights into linguistic differences between Gozitan and Maltese.

**“Gozitan Crossings** is the first publication in Malta which deals with the difference between the identity of the Gozitan and Maltese peoples.”

Other chapters deal with bingo, races and bars, making money and flags and fireworks. One attractive feature of the book is the number of photographs which are collected in 'pictorial essays' relating to life in Gozo and Melbourne. This book is intended to be the first of a series on productions Dr Xerri and others intend to produce in the series ***Ghawdex u l-Ghawdxin - Gozo & the Gozitans***. It is a very readable

book which should be on the shelf of everyone interested in migrant issues as well as life in Gozo.

### Dr. Raymond C. Xerri

**B.A. (Hons.)(U.S.A.), E.U.Sch.(E.U.Law) (F.R.G) D.D.S., M.A.(Dip.St.)(Malta), L.F.B.A (UK)  
D.G.(U.S.A.), Ph.D. (Australia)**



Dr. Raymond Xerri was born in New York City on 2 February 1969 of Gozitan parenthood from il-Qala. He commenced his primary education at the St. Joseph Catholic Primary School of New York (1973-76), continued at the Qala Primaiy School (1977-80) and received at his secondary education at the Sacred Heart Seminary in Victoria, Gozo (1981-1986).

On June 1986 he migrated to his birthplace city and there continued his post-secondary education at the Jesuit Brothers' Manhattan College (1986-1990). In 1989, Raymond was awarded the European Union Scholarship to study European Union Law at the institute for European Studies at the Albert Ludwig University

in Freiburg-im-Breisgau, West Germany, the same year Germany was reunited. In 1990 he graduated with honours and was awarded the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Relations. In 1991 Raymond returned to Gozo where he became a citizen of Malta on 15 November. He continued his post-graduate studies at the Mediterranean Academy for Diplomatic Studies at the University of Malta and earned a Certificate in Diplomatic Studies in 1992; a Diploma in Diplomatic Studies in 1993 and finally a Masters of Art in Diplomatic Studies in 1994.

Raymond Xerri was admitted to the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia becoming the first student from Malta ever to graduate in Gozitan Studies from any university and the first to graduate at doctoral level at the same university.



### Fr Emmanuel (Manny) Bonello

Manny Bonello was born on 21 January 1956 in Xaghra, Gozo, Malta. His parents Rita and Joseph are both deceased. Manny is the second last of a family of nine children. After Primary and Secondary schooling, Manny entered the Sacred Heart Major Seminary of Gozo in October 1974 to start his studies for the priesthood. Manny came to Australia July 1979 until August 1980 and did his pastoral intermediary year here as work experience. He lived with his brother and sister-in-law Tony and Mary and worked manually for a year at the Cardboard factory in North Sunshine. Once the year was completed he returned to Gozo to continue his studies and was ordained priest on 25 June 1983 in the Cathedral of Gozo Malta. In 26 October 1983, Manny arrived in Australia and started his priestly work in the Melbourne Archdiocese. He was then appointed assistant priest in the following parishes: Flemington for 3 months, East Keilor for 3 years, Moreland for 2 years, Moonee Ponds for 5 years, and North Reservoir for 6 months and as parish priest in Hadfield for 13 years. Manny was appointed parish priest of St Joseph the Worker Parish, North Reservoir on 4 July 2007.

Manny barracks for North Melbourne (Kangaroos). He likes listening to classical music especially opera, and enjoys working in the Church of Melbourne.

### Stella Maris Maltese Association



The Stella Maris Maltese Association has been part of St Joseph the Worker Parish for over ten years. They gather for a Maltese Mass on the first Saturday of every month at 6.00pm. The Mass is celebrated by the Maltese Chaplain Fr Denis Carabott and is well attended by parishioners and friends from near and far. Afterwards,

there is a social function, a Family Get Together in the Parish Hall. They provide a two course meal, tea and coffee and a live band for entertainment. BYO drinks.

The highlight of the year for the Association is the annual feast for Our Lady of Stella Maris which is held at St Joseph the Worker Parish each year in the month of October. The Solemn Mass is followed by a street procession with the brass band and entertainment in the Parish Hall.





credit images to Innovating Visuals.

## Carmen, Luke & Annie Portelli are the winners of the 2015 Maltese Cook Press Release August 2015

A simple menu of Kosksu bil-Ġbejniet (Broad bean soup with fresh cheeselets) and Ġelat tal-Bajtar tax-Xewk (Prickly Pear Ice Cream) was the winner of the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Maltese Cook Off, organized in Melbourne by community group nisġa! Carmen Portelli and her two children, Luke and Annie, impressed the judging panel taking out the award for overall winners as well as the best Maltese menu!

This annual event brought together 8 teams made up of 3 people, in some cases 3 generations from one family, cooking Maltese traditional food.

# nisġa

This year's judging panel consisted of Maltese author and TV personality, Karmen Tedesco, Squisito Restaurant Head Chef Anton Camilleri and former MasterChef contestant, Chef Tregan Spiteri.

Emmanuel Cilia, his brother Anthony and nephew Matthew with team Taż-Żigilott came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with their menu of Rabbit Gems and Baked Rice followed closely by Mill-Kċina ta' Parkville, a team consisting of Edwina Mallia, Rosemary Attard and Antonia Camilleri, with their Bread with Bigilla (Broad Bean Paste) and Baked Swordfish, who also took out the People's Choice Award!

The afternoon was a mixture of food and music; the 250 guests were entertained by renowned musician Nicky Bomba and his band, Bustamento, while veteran singer Nicol Caruana belted out a few Maltese favourites. An impromptu drumming session on pots & pans by Nicky Bomba had the crowd on their feet!

During the event, it was also officially announced that, the Maltese movie Simshar directed by Rebecca Cremona, will be screening in cinemas in Melbourne and Sydney.

Images - [www.facebook.com/nisga.org](http://www.facebook.com/nisga.org)

Video Footage – contact Daniel Calleja at Innovating Visuals [daniel@ivisuals.com.au](mailto:daniel@ivisuals.com.au)

For more information about nisġa visit [www.nisga.org](http://www.nisga.org)



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Email: [sales@cbtraveladventures.com.au](mailto:sales@cbtraveladventures.com.au)

## New Years Eve Cruise

**Depart Sydney 27 December 2015**

**12 Nights Cruise from Sydney.**

**Ports of call: Sydney, Santo, Champagne Bay, Vila, Lifou, Isle of Pines, Noumea, Sydney.**

**Inside cabin from: AU\$2245 per person port charges included. PLUS: BONUS on Board credit.**

**SPECIAL!!! Upgrade to a Full Balcony for AU\$755 per person. Limited time only.**

## MALTA STAMP IN THE EUROPA COMPETITION – THE CART

BY GOZO NEWS · AUGUST 21, 2015



The most beautiful 2015 EUROPA stamp competition is now open! And this year's EUROPA theme is "Old Toys." The contest is an annual online event where creative entries from across Europe compete for the best stamp design. The Malta entry depicts a typical Maltese toy that was very popular in the olden days – the Cart (Karretta). This stamp is from the EUROPA stamp set issued earlier this year. MaltaPost is inviting the public to support and vote for the Malta stamp on [www.posteurop.org/europa2015](http://www.posteurop.org/europa2015)

## THE MALTA TOY MUSEUM DISPLAYS A LARGE COLLECTION OF TOYS THAT HAVE BEEN COLLECTED OVER SEVERAL DECADES



**The Toy Museum** is located in the capital of Malta, Valletta, opposite Casa Rocca Piccola and spreads over three floors.

**The Toy Museum** houses a very large and impressive collection of toys from the 1950s onward including model planes, boats, Matchbox cars, farmyard animals, trains and dolls.

This museum was opened by Vincent Brown in 1998 after Brown's visited a very similar museum in England and actually displays his personal collection accumulated over 30 years. Vincent Brown strongly believes that toys help to recapture memories of childhood, adventures and fun. The unique collection is mostly displayed in glass cabinets and is more suited to nostalgic adults than children who wish to play with the toys. **Malta Toy Museum**

**:: Valletta - Malta** Toys from the 50s to today are arranged on three floors of the museum. Of particular interest is the collection of model cars Corgy, Dinky and Matchbox.

### Contacts:

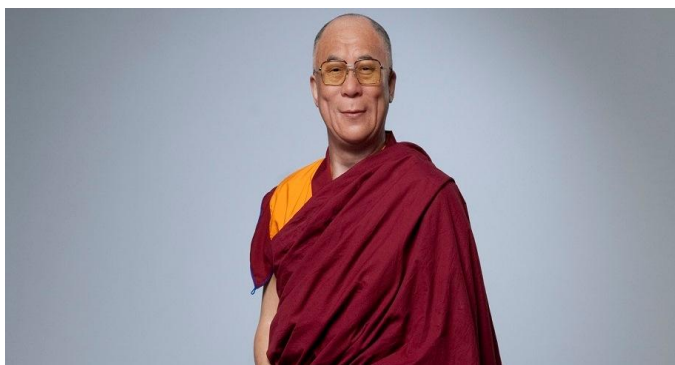
Museo del Giocattolo 222 Republic Street Valletta Malta



<http://philatelynews.com/tag/europa-2015/>



## MADAME TUSSAUDS – SYDNEY NSW



STEP into the world of celebrity with more than 70 of the world's best-known personalities, our very own Aussie stars and a range of fun interactive experiences at Madame Tussauds Sydney. Get on stage with pop stars, rub shoulders with the most powerful politicians, and even test your sporting skills against the greats. With a whole host of stars, legends and interactive experiences, Madame Tussauds Sydney really does add up to a red hot outing where the whole family can meet, greet, chat up, debate, hug and sing with their favourite celebrity.

### Highlights

- World-famous wax museum in Sydney
- Located right on Darling Harbour
- Book online and save on gate price
- Instant, printable tickets
- Celebrities, historical figures and rock stars
- Priority entry!

Visit Madame Tussauds right on Sydney Harbour by purchasing online here for some of the best prices on the Internet! **Madame Tussauds** has long been acclaimed as the most famously realistic **Wax Museum** in the world, with multiple exhibitions in some of the biggest cities throughout the world. This house of finely-crafted representations of some of Earth's most famous figures - both past and present - has now come to **Sydney**, Australia, as a permanent fixture to showcase its incredibly-lifelike models to the public!



With movie and TV stars, Hollywood icons and rock legends represented in stunning realism, you and your friends and family will be able to marvel at them in person and get your pictures taken "with" some of these world-famous celebrities.

Don't miss out on the chance to visit **Madame Tussauds Sydney** and walk the corridors of this extremely prestigious hall of expensive exhibits and statues of popular people - **buy tickets for Madame Tussauds** online and see how well they live up to their well-deserved reputation for yourself! Voucher MUST

be printed and presented to staff at the admission counter on the day of entry **Official Madame Tussauds™**  
**Sydney Website:** <https://www.madametussauds.com/sydney/>

# Postage stamps and postal history of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



**Stamp from the first series of SMOM stamps issued in 1966 A 2004 miniature sheet of SMOM and Post boxes of the SMOM at their headquarters in Rome**

The *Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes, and of Malta*, otherwise known as the *Sovereign Military Order of Malta* or *SMOM* is a Roman Catholic order based in Rome, Italy. The order takes its origins from the Knights Hospitaller, an organization founded in Jerusalem in 1050. Following the loss of Christian held territories of the Holy Land to Muslims, the Order operated from Rhodes (1310–1523), and later from Malta (1530–1798), over which it was sovereign.

When the Maltese islands were administered by the Order, the knights set up a postal service. The earliest known letter is dated 14 June 1532, and it was sent from Grandmaster l'Isle Adam to the Bishop of Auxerre in France. The first proper postal service was set up in 1708, and the service was carried out at La Casa del Comun Tesoro in Valletta. The first postal markings on Maltese mail appeared later on in the 18th century, sometime between 1755 and 1791.

The postal administration of the order, known as the *Poste Magistrali*, was instituted on 20 May 1966 under a Decree of the Grand Master of the order and the first stamps were issued on 15 November 1966. Until recently the stamps were denominated in the currency of the order which was *Scudi*, *Grani* and *Tari*, which roughly equated to the currency of Malta before it joined the Eurozone; 1 scudo = 12 tari = 240 grani = 12 Maltese cents.[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage\\_stamps\\_and\\_postal\\_history\\_of\\_the\\_Sovereign\\_Military\\_Order\\_of\\_Malta\\_-\\_cite\\_note-said-2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage_stamps_and_postal_history_of_the_Sovereign_Military_Order_of_Malta_-_cite_note-said-2) Since 1 January 2005 the stamps have been denominated in euros.

The stamps are inscribed *Poste Magistrali* and bear one or more small Maltese Crosses. Early issues were printed by De La Rue, but today a variety of Maltese and Italian printers are used. As well as postage stamps, the Order has produced aerogrammes, maximum cards, first day covers, miniature sheets, postage due stamps and postcards with imprinted stamps. Each year, one stamp issue is devoted to St. John the Baptist, who is the Order's Patron Saint, and one to the celebration of Christmas.

**I THANK ALL THOSE WHO REGULARLY SEND ME POSITIVE COMMENTS AND THEY TELL ME HOW MUCH THEY ENJOY READING MY NEWSLETTER. DROP ME A LINE OR TWO**

## The Maltese Community of Toronto in 1934



Children of Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto members dressed for Toronto's centennial celebration, 1934. The society won first prize in the float competition. Library and Archives Canada



Photos and transcription by contributor

Wayne Adam - Posted June, 2015

On the south side of Dundas Street West between Keele Street and Rummymede Road can be found Malta Park. In front of the park is this 2014 Heritage Toronto plaque.

Here's what it says:

*A small number of immigrants from Malta first arrived in Toronto in the late 19th century. By 1916, having fled overpopulation and unemployment, some 200 Maltese had*

*established themselves in Toronto in two communities. One was the area of Dundas and McCaul Streets, and the other here in The Junction, near present-day Malta Park. Many worked in this district's meat packing industry that was generated by the nearby Union Stock Yards (since demolished). The Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto, established in 1922, supported the two growing communities.*

*Predominantly Roman Catholics, the Maltese living in The Junction first attended nearby St. Cecilia Church. In 1930, with aid from the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto, the community built St. Paul the Apostle Church on Dundas Street West. It was one of the first Maltese churches in North America. After the Second World War, more Maltese emigrated to Canada and settled in this neighbourhood. The resulting density of Maltese homes, businesses, and community organizations gave this area the name "Little Malta". HERITAGE TORONTO 2014*

## MALTESE COMMUNITY MOURNS THE LOSS OF EMMANUEL SPITERI

09 Aug 2015



The Maltese community in Victoria mourns the sad loss of one of its prominent members, Emmanuel ('Laurie') Spiteri, who passed away aged 91 years. Mr Spiteri was a very active member of the community and for the past 15 years served as President of the Maltese Ex-Services Association of Victoria, Inc.

Mr Spiteri was a foundation member of the Maltese Ex-Services Association of Victoria at the time of its re-formation in 1978 after a period of inactivity following its original formation in 1956. He held executive membership of the association since 1978 and became its President in 2000.

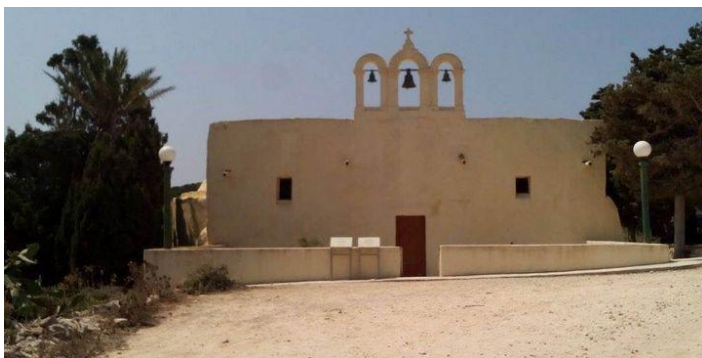
Every year Mr Spiteri was keen to be involved in the organisation of the Mass to commemorate the Award of the George Cross to Malta in April 1942 and the laying of wreaths at the George Cross monument in Parkville.

Mr Spiteri also enjoyed organising the Maltese contingent of veterans and their families and personally participating in the traditional annual ANZAC Day March in Melbourne. Mr Spiteri led the Maltese Ex-Services Association of Victoria group, which is also the Malta GC Returned Services League Sub-Branch, under a Maltese flag banner which also bore the words "We served 1914-1918, the Nurse of the Mediterranean, and 1939-1945, the Unsinkable Aircraft Carrier".

Representing the Maltese Ex-Services Association of Victoria, Mr Spiteri took particular interest in activities organised by the MCCV and he regularly attended the monthly Council meetings of the MCCV.

Last April, in recognition of his great service to the community, Mr Spiteri was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Maltese Community Council of Victoria. The MCCV President and members of the Executive Committee convey their sincere condolences and deepest sympathies to Mr Spiteri's family. *Courtesy of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria* <http://www.mccv.org.au/>

### Festa ta' Kemmuna – Traditional Comino Feast dedicated to Saint Mary



BY GOZO NEWS · Festa ta' Kemmuna – Traditional Comino Feast dedicated to Saint Mary, takes place on Comino after 40 years, organised by the Ghajnsielem Local Council, The Ministry for Gozo, and Silvio Vella.

This is intended to revive the traditional feast of the Chapel of Santa Marija on Comino where Mass is celebrated by the Bishop of Gozo Mario Grech, followed by Band Marches and a Folk Evening.

During the day there is The Santa Marija Tower Open Day organised by Din l-Art Helwa, between 11:00am – 7:00pm.

The tower is animated by actors in period uniform who deliver historical explanations to the visitors and put on garrison life displays both in and around the tower. For the young history enthusiasts Din l-Art Helwa is staging treasure hunts throughout the day with lots of prizes to be discovered and won.

Original crafts made by local artisans using natural or recycled materials such as drift wood, sea glass, metal will be on display and Din l-Art Helwa volunteers will be in attendance all day to escort visitors around the site and offer information.

Santa Marija beach is equipped with toilets and showers where visitors can have a free shower and prepare for the feast starting at 6pm. For those who are not so familiar to the island of Comino, kindly take care to wear comfortable footwear due to the sandy roads.

## 1986 MALTESE QUEEN OF VICTORIES BAND SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The inauguration committee was formed on the 8 February 1981 at a special general meeting  
at the Christ the King Parish Hall, Lockleys



**FRONT ROW (SEATED) LEFT TO RIGHT:** J. Chetcuti, C. Caviuolo, C. Chircop, M. Axisa, M. Camilleri, A. Mifsud, A. Borg, S. Pace, O. Farrugia, R. Saliba, M. Chetcuti

**SECOND ROW:** R. Borg, J. Axisa, C. Borg, C. Baldacchino, R. Grima, M. Mifsud, T. Borg, C. Chetcuti, R. Saliba, M. Carabott, R. Saliba, P. Cremona, A. Caruana, J. Vella, S. Carabott, E. Camilleri, T. Cassar, R. Borg, M. Mifsud, M. Follet, J. Camilleri, A. Borg, S. Carabott

**THIRD ROW:** M. Camilleri, P. Camilleri, C. Bezzina, J. Mallia, J. Borg, J. Fenech, J. Chetcuti, O. Farrugia, C. Caruana, L. Mifsud, C. Borg, M. Farrugia, A. Chetcuti

**FOURTH ROW:** S. Axisa, G. Pace, R. Saliba, R. DeBono, R. Spiteri, D. Debono, A. Margheritte, R. Farrugia, G. Bugeja, P. Cortis, J. Chetcuti

Submitted by a Band Player

**EVENTS TO REMEMBER****Tel Aviv - Protests by Asra Kadisha Outside Maltese Embassies Over Jewish Bones**

Published on: January 10, 2010

By: Times of Malta

.Protesters from a Jewish Group held protest outside the Maltese Embassy in Tel Aviv



Tel Aviv - Representatives of Jewish communities held peaceful protests in front of Malta's embassies in Tel Aviv and Washington to urge the Maltese government to ensure there is no interference with human bones at the Jewish catacombs in Rabat.

The Prime Minister has also received at least three letters of concern from US senators and a congressman representing Jewish communities on the controversy surrounding the discovery of the bones.

In one of the letters, sent to Lawrence Gonzi, Congressman Edolphus Ed Towns from New York asked the government to take the "appropriate steps

to prevent any further disturbances at the Rabat Jewish catacombs".

Two Senators also wrote to the Prime Minister in December about the same issue, requesting the excavated remains to be returned to the catacombs "as soon as possible".

The year-long dispute concerns the discovery of what are believed to be Jewish catacombs in Rabat, and the Jewish community's request for the place to be treated like a burial ground rather than an archaeological find.

The representative of the Jewish community in Malta, Lawrence Attard Bezzina, said: "I had warned government the issue was going to come to this".

The lobbying is led by representatives of the ultra-orthodox International Society for the Preservation of Jewish Cemeteries, Atra Kadisha, which is involved in intense campaigns all over the world to protect what it considers to be Jewish burial sites. The group were in Malta last February to discuss with Heritage Malta the best way forward.

A major bone of contention was Heritage Malta's insistence to document each and every bone found by measuring and photographing it. The Jewish community objected to this.

The Prime Minister's Office is following the controversy closely but has refrained from entering into the merits of the debate. "The government is ensuring the matter is dealt with in accordance with Maltese law, established international archaeological standards and procedures as well as in respect to Jewish rites and traditions," a spokesman for the Prime Minister said when asked about the letters.

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and Heritage Malta, he added, was handling the matter.

However, Mr Attard Bezzina complained that the Jewish community had been ignored by the heritage authorities.

"We do not want to embarrass the government. We are not happy with this pressure especially at a time when the government has a recession to concentrate on. However, Jewish communities abroad have understood that on our own we have not been successful in convincing the heritage authorities to treat the issue in a sensitive way," he said, insisting the Jewish community was waiting for the government to come up with an agreeable solution.

A similar appeal was made by Labour cultural heritage spokesman Owen Bonnici, who said the Rabat catacombs must be treated with "utmost respect" since they were more than simple burial site of a high historical value.



## AMATEUR DRAMATIC CLUB, OR MADC as it is

commonly known, is Malta's oldest theatre company having spanned ten generations.

Established in 1910, the Club's first recorded address was the Manoel

Theatre, but this soon changed to 12 South Street, Valletta. Although remaining in Valletta, the Club moved twice more, first to 86 Old Mint Street, then in 1929 to 28 South Street where the Club has its own 'Little Theatre'. In April 1942 these premises were destroyed by one of the last bombs to fall on Valletta. After the war the Club made use of a large room within the Union Club, which was, at the time, situated in Kingsway – Valletta. In 1957 the Club made another move to its current premises in Sta. Venera; premises which originally housed the N.A.A.F.I. bakery of all the British forces in Malta.

The Club's first production was "Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp" a Christmas Pantomime. This ran for 12 shows including two special performances and one gala night. Between 1911 and 1914 a total of seven other productions were performed including the musical "Captain Reece of the Mantlepiece". Then came the Great War, World War One, and it was not before 1920 that the MADC became active again. It was during this time that adverts first appeared in production programmes and various famous faces passed through the Club. Under the able guidance of Kay and Ella Warren the club flourished and put up a total of 71 productions until, in 1942 during the Second World War, it was again forced into 'suspended animation' or, as out of work actors would say, "it was resting".

The ashes of war having been cleared and with life getting back to normal the MADC was again in the forefront. A very hard-working and MADC stalwart, Kay Warren revived the Club again with her production of "The Chiltern Hundreds" in May 1949, and one can say that the Club has never looked back since then. It was at this time, precisely on the

19th December 1949, that the Princess Elizabeth, now Queen Elizabeth II, accepted to become a Patron of the MADC and during her stays on the island regularly attended the Club's productions.

1950 saw the revival of the Shakespeare production at San Anton Gardens with "A Midsummer Night's Dream". At this time the committee also decided that the Club should start accepting young Maltese talented actors as members. With around 130 productions under her belt varying from straight plays to comedies and thrillers to musicals, the MADC launched its series of Christmas Pantomimes with "Cinderella" in 1978. During the 70's the British membership slowly dwindled.

Having achieved independence in 1964 and a republican status 10 years later, the government of the day had given the British forces an ultimatum and on the 31st March 1979 the last of these forces withdrew from the island. Luckily for the Club, the Maltese membership was quite strong and they ably worked to keep up an already impressive theatrical tradition. In 1985 the Club celebrated its 75th anniversary. Just prior to this event, a very energetic John Joseph supervised the re-designing of the Clubhouse, which was finalized in November 1984.

Since then, the Club has grown from strength to strength with productions becoming more professional and ambitious as the years go by. Today such comments as "very professional", "high standards", "can be relied on to produce a good show" and "very good company, very good actors and various productions" have become synonymous with the MADC.

Website:

<http://www.madc.com.mt/en/home.htm>



## Two-headed cobra found in China



>Those with Ophidiophobia - a fear of snakes - may want to stop reading right now. A two-headed cobra has been discovered in China and the little reptile also has two brains which means one head could attempt to consume the other head. Snake breeder Mr Huang found the baby Cobra on his farm in Yulin, southern China, 10 days ago.

He told the People's Daily Online the slithering serpent is not eating or drinking but is still alive and growing. Huang has handed the mutant cobra over to experts at Nanning Zoo in the hope that it will live longer. Although experts say there is no way of telling whether or not it will survive. Zookeeper Li Keqi said

the venomous cobra had been in their care for two days and it had already shed its skin once. 'But even though the snake is in a stable condition now, there is no way of telling whether it will be able to live on, as it still does not eat or drink water.'

It is not uncommon for snakes with two heads to try and slither in different directions, fight or attempt to swallow the other head. While most two-headed snakes have a short lifespan of only a few months, National Geographic reported that a Tennessee University herpetologist had a two-headed black rat snake that lived to be almost 20 years old in captivity.

## A PICTURE SPEAKS A THOUSAND WORD – THE OLD SEWING MACHINE *nostalgia*

**DO YOU STILL HAVE ONE AT HOME?**





## Memorial to HMAS *Sydney* at the state war memorial in Western Australia

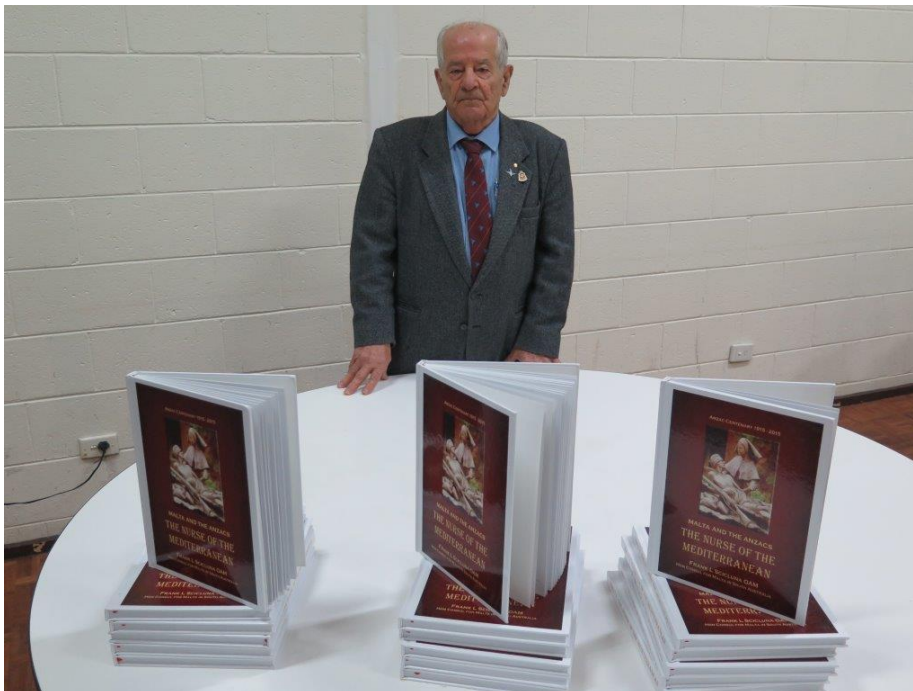
# THE SINKING OF HMAS SYDNEY II, NOV 1941

On 19 November 1941, HMAS *Sydney*, a light cruiser of the Royal Australian Navy with an impressive record of war service, was lost following a battle with the German raider HSK

*Kormoran* in the Indian Ocean off the Western Australian coast.

The loss of the *Sydney* with its full war complement of 645 remains Australia's worst naval disaster. The *Kormoran* was also sunk, but 317 of its crew of 397 were rescued. The fate of the *Sydney* remains one of Australia's greatest wartime mysteries with not even the location of the wrecks established until 2008.

On 17 March 2008 the Australian Government announced that the wreckage of both HMAS *Sydney* and the German raider *Kormoran* had been found, approximately 112 nautical miles off Steep Point, Western Australia. *Kormoran* is lying at a depth of 2,560 metres; *Sydney*, approximately 12 nautical miles away, is at 2,470 metres. Read more: [https://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/hmas\\_sydney/](https://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/hmas_sydney/)



**Chev Charles Farrugia,**  
**President of the Maltese RSL Sub**  
**branch (South Australia) at the**  
**launching of the commemorative**  
**book – MALTA AND THE ANZACS –**  
**THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN**  
**in July 2015 at the**  
**Maltese Community Centre,**  
**Parkville, Victoria.**

Courtesy: *Maltese Historical Association (Australia)*

## WELCOME TO THE ISLAND OF MALTA

### Valletta welcomes cruise liners

#### Record number of cruise passengers land on Maltese shores in a single day



With its nineteen historical 250-year-old warehouses, built by Grand Master Pinto at the height of the baroque period in Malta ... stretching along the water's edge and the historical Quay Wall where the Knights of St John and European merchants used to unload their wares ... the impregnable Old Power Station that serves as a testimony to the eclectic and heroic history of the Grand Harbour ... the Forni Stores, dating back to 1626 and constructed by Grand Master de Vilhena – the Valletta Waterfront invites you to discover its complete mix of retail, dining and leisure experiences.

The Valletta Waterfront is also the gateway to Malta's capital city, Valletta – a city built by gentlemen for gentlemen. In fact, as one of the most successful Mediterranean ports, the Port of Valletta welcomes more than half-a-million cruise passengers into this open air museum.

All this comes with an added bonus – the majestic setting within the Grand Harbour, a natural deep water port, for many thousand of years the epicentre of Malta's maritime activity, a truly exceptional and outstanding backdrop.




## dawra durella

This is a Maltese rhyme which the children used to sing whilst going round and round. When the rhyme comes to an end they all sit down.

*Dawra durella  
qabża żigarella  
çoff tal-bellus  
çaqçaqhielu lill- gharus  
axxa, axxa  
missieru mastrudaxxa  
mela wiehed, tnejn, tlieta !*

### GAMES CHILDREN USED TO PLAY

## French Revolution - Napoleon Takes Malta

**Modern Valletta, which is still ornamented by the ancient fortresses that protected the island from Turkish invasion**

Robert Van Ness

Along Napoleon's route to Northern Africa was the strategically important island of Malta. Malta, which is due south of Sicily, and north of Libya, was a key stop for supplies and communication, as well as a sound starting point for any eastern African invasion. The island had been ruled by the famed Knights Hospitallers after it was ceded to them by Holy Roman Emperor Charles V for their work against the Ottoman Empire. The Hospitallers ruled the main island, and various smaller surrounding islands, along feudal lines, which over time proved to make the Knights unpopular with the local Maltese population. Once the French Revolutionary ideas spread beyond French borders, and into Malta, the Maltese surreptitiously opened correspondence with Napoleon, who was invited to take the islands for France. This invitation meshed well with Napoleon's grander scheme against Britain in Northern Africa, and he obliged by arriving off the coast in early June 1798.



Grand Master Ferdinand von Hompesch's likeness struck on a Maltese coin before Napoleon took the island nation

At first, Napoleon, much as he and his men did in Northern Italy, asked for safe passage into the neutral region. His guise was standard operation, repairs, supplies, and rest along the journey to Egypt. The Hospitaller Grand Master, Baron Ferdinand von Hompesch, had heard of Napoleon's increasing fame, and was rightly suspicious of the French

fleet. He had great cause to be wary, as many of the Knights Hospitaller were French in origin, and had disseminated much Revolutionary teaching throughout the local citizenry. But it was not as simple as telling a visitor that the cannot come for the Grand Master. The Revolution had hurt Maltese livelihood politically and economically as well. Trade had been suffering for years, which further exasperated the Maltese, who were now clambering for new overlords. Von Hompesch, realizing his precarious position, had to make a decision – Allow the French to dock at Malta, and thus provide a stimulus to the island's economy, thereby pacifying the Maltese for the time being, but risk being overwhelmed by Napoleon's force in the process. Or, deny the French passage, spark a domestic rebellion, which very likely could be aided by the French anyway. Von Hompesch decided on a form of the first idea. He told



Napoleon that the French could indeed dock at Malta, but only two ships at a time. This seemed like a wise, safe decision that allowed Napoleon's fleet to be resupplied without overwhelming Malta's defensive structure. Napoleon, however, did not have time for Von Hompesch's game.



Napoleon disembarks for Valletta to take possession of Malta

The French did, for the first part of Von Hompesch's offer, begin sailing their vessels into neutral waters as asked, two at a time. Under the banner of neutrality, the French had evaded suspicion, passed into Malta's inner defenses, and then launched an amphibious assault. Seven targets around the island were decided upon, and 11,000 French soldiers under General Louis Baraguey d'Hilliers invaded those targets. The local French Knights Hospitallers refused to fight their countrymen, and left approximately 2,000 Knights and militia to fend for themselves. After a day's siege, the Hospitallers

retreated to their capital, Valletta, and capitulated. Von Hompesch agreed to rather fair terms, as offered by Napoleon, and Malta, for the time being became a French possession. Almost immediately, however, Admiral Nelson arrived, and began setting up his own blockade in an effort to stymie Napoleon's plans.



## **QANTAS THE FLYING KANGAROO**

From 2017, eight new Boeing 787-9s will join the Qantas fleet. These next generation aircraft use less fuel and will open new opportunities for Qantas destinations around the globe. They also have unique customer features like improved cabin pressure, larger windows and technology to reduce turbulence.

It really is an exciting leap forward for Qantas and I look forward to sharing more updates as the development of our Boeing 787-9 aircraft and network progresses.



**THIS BOOK IS A PERFECT GIFT FOR  
FATHERS' DAY. REMEMBRANCE DAY OR FOR CHRISTMAS  
MALTA AND THE ANZACS**

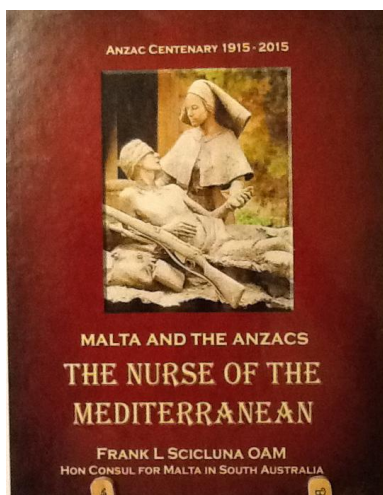
**THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**Very limited Edition commemorating the participation of Malta  
during World War 1 – 100 years ago.**

**Contact Frank Scicluna on [honconsul@live.com.au](mailto:honconsul@live.com.au) or**

**Charlie Farrugia on [cfarrugia@internode.on.au](mailto:cfarrugia@internode.on.au) For details**

**EVERY MALTESE FAMILY SHOULD HAVE ONE**



## George Cross Falcons Club Inc Cringila, NSW



Maltese migrants had immigrated to the South Coast of NSW well before World War 2. Many had also migrated to the cane fields of Queensland and northern NSW in the early 1950s and before that there were some Maltese living in Port Kembla and predominately in the Cringila area. In 1951, the Maltese in Wollongong got together and decided to establish a club to help the newer migrants. Many of the newer migrants could not speak English, so the Maltese migrants from Wollongong who could speak English would go to Sydney Harbour to welcome the new arrivals and bring them to Port Kembla and find them accommodation and employment. Employment was usually found for them at the steelworks. This service was provided to all Maltese newcomers.

Mr Lorry Pavia, John Mallia, Joe Cassar, Joe Magro and others decided it was now time to start a proper club so they organised a committee meeting which was held in a tin shed across from the club or otherwise they would meet in each others houses respectively. A fee of 10 cents per week was given by each member which went towards funding The Club is situated ten minutes outside Wollongong and forty minutes from Liverpool. The Club was build in 1951 to serve the Maltese community that arrived in the Illawarra to work at the steel works. It has also served the community as a welcoming place for all the Ministers and Clergyman and others that travelled to Australia from Malta to meet the Maltese that migrated to all parts of Australia.



Today the Club is proud of our great committee that understand the importance of solidarity and the President Louis Parnis bringing lot's of management skill to our Club, which we know are reaping the rewards after long five years of dedication to make sure that the financial position of the George Cross Falcons Club is viable to cover all the expenses in maintaining the premises and payments of all the bills when due. We encourage everyone to attend the Club at some time to appreciate all the work we have achieved in the last few years, things like renovation of the amenities block, aircondition, solar panels on the roof, carport to protect Bocce players from the sun, carpet outside for Bocce and planting of thirty trees are some of the new things. Louis Parnis for the Club.

ALL THE NEWSLETTERS MAY BE READ AT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES

[www.ozmalta.com](http://www.ozmalta.com)  
[www.ozmalta.page4.me](http://www.ozmalta.page4.me)

Thousands of people flocked villages and towns celebrating the much-loved Santa Marija feast. They all boast of having the most popular feast but when it comes to fireworks, very few can rival the little town of Mqabba.



## VIVA SANTA MARIJA

Photo: Chris Sant Fournier A man waves a flag at the march at the Santa Marija Feast in Mosta on August 15.

Photo: Chris Sant Fournier

TIMES OF MALTA

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



