

# **SPECIAL EDITION OF THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER 127 JULY 2016 THE VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA TO ADELAIDE SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA**

**MALTESE NEWSLETTER**

**OUR MOTTO: BUILDING BRIDGES**

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## **THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA AT FLINDERS UNIVERSITY**

Posted on: July 13th, 2016 by Marketing and Communications

The president of Malta, H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, centre, with Flinders University School of Education Student Wellbeing and Prevention of Violence (SWAPv) Research Centre Professor Phillip Slee and Dr Grace Skrzypiec.



Flinders University is hosting a major conference on child and youth wellbeing, violence and bullying at the University's Tonsley facility (13-15 July).

The event, opened by the President of Malta, Her Excellency Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, will be leading Australian and international researchers discuss student wellbeing, violence and aggression, bullying, cyberbullying and sexting.

Flinders University's Student Wellbeing and Prevention of Violence (SWAPv) Research Centre, led by Professor Phillip Slee and Dr Grace Skrzypiec, will host the inaugural conference, which aims to improve child and adolescent well-being, promote positive mental health and find solutions to prevent violence in school and early childhood settings throughout the world.

One of Flinders' key anti-bullying initiatives, the SWAPv program, is the flagship program for Maltese schools and is also being used in Japan, Italy and East Timor. The program has consistently been shown to significantly reduce instances of severe bullying among schoolchildren everywhere it is used.

Professor Slee, who co-authored a recent paper commissioned by the State Government, *Cyberbullying, Sexting and the Law*, said up to 20 per cent (463,000) of Australian children and teenagers aged 8-17 were the victims of cyber-bullying. He said there was increasing evidence that both traditional face-to-face bullying and cyber-bullying had lasting effects on children and their families, including low self-esteem, depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation

Watch video: <https://www.facebook.com/PresidentofMalta/videos/1743375762611420/>

“By bringing together national and international experts who can share information and resources and inform fellow researchers and education specialists, we can find new ways to help promote student wellbeing and positive mental health, and prevent violence and aggression, bullying and cyber-bullying,” said Professor Slee.

The conference is being organised in partnership with Flinders Educational Futures Research Institute, The Wellbeing and Resilience Centre (SAHMRI), headspace and Relationships Australia (SA). It will feature more than 50 presentations from researchers around the world, including India, Japan, China, Russia, Europe, USA, Kenya and Nigeria. Keynote speakers include:

- **Professor Carmel Cefai** *Director, Centre for Resilience and Socio-Emotional Health, University of Malta*
- **Professor Catherine Blaya** *President of the International Observatory of Violence in Schools, University of Nice Sophia Antipolis, France.*
- **Mr Agio Pereira** *Honorable Minister of State and of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Timor-Leste.*
- **Mr David Kelly** *SAHMRI Resilience & Wellbeing Centre*
- **Mr Vikki Ryall** *Chief Clinician at headspace Melbourne*
- **Dr Jamie Lee** *Principal Researcher, Relationships Australia*
- **Professor John Halsey** *Professor of Rural Education and Communities, Flinders University School of Education*

Further details about the conference can be found at <http://www.flinders.edu.au/ehl/swapv/>

- A special public panel event on July 14, titled ‘The Politics of Wellbeing’ and hosted by the SAHMRI Centre for Resilience and Wellbeing, will include presentations by Mrs Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta; Special Minister of State Timor-Leste, Agio Pereira; Minister of Education and Child Development Dr Susan Close; CEO of headspace Chris Tanti; Relationships Australia principal researcher Dr Jamie Lee.





Hon Jay Weatherill, Premier of South Australia, The President, Mr Edgar Presca and Frank Scicluna Hon Consul for Malta in SA

### **RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA THE HON JAY WEATHERILL MP AT THE ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE**

On Tuesday 12 July 2016 the Premier of South Australia the Hon Jay Weatherill hosted a reception in honour of Her Excellency Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta at the Adelaide Convention Centre. 240 members of the Maltese community of Adelaide attended the reception. Present for the reception were the Hon Grace Portolesi, Chair, South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission

The Hon Peter Malinauskas MLC Acting Minister for Multicultural Affairs  
Hon Consul for Malta in South Australia, Mr Frank Scicluna and Mrs Josie Scicluna  
Mr Christopher Abdilla, Maltese youth representative  
Mrs Leah Rensburg-Philips Manager, Protocol, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, H.E. Charles Muscat, High Commissioner for Malta and Mrs Maryanne Massa, President's private secretary.

The Maltese Queen of Victories Band played the Maltese and Australian National Anthems and sung by Stacey Saliba, followed by a welcome speech by the Premier of South Australia the Hon Jay Weatherill MP Then Her Excellency delivered a moving speech addressed to the members of the Maltese community. Other speeches were delivered by Mr Frank Scicluna and Mr Christopher Abdilla.



**The President mingled with the guests for the rest of the function.**



Clockwise: The President and Mr Preca with the Maltese Queen of Victories Band, Josie Scicluna shaking hands with the President Mrs Bernadette Buhagiar presenting a gift to the President on behalf of St. Catherine Society of SA, , Chev. Charles Farrugia, presenting a boomerang to Her Excellency, Mr. Frank Grima, the President of the Maltese Senior Citizens Association of SA together with Mary and Alfred Borg, presenting a token to the President of Malta. (Photos taken on Tuesday 12 July) at the Adelaide Convention Centre)



## St Raphael's Home for the Aged Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus



Her Excellency the President of Malta was invited to visit St. Raphael's Home for the Aged administered by the Maltese Franciscan Sister of the Heart of Jesus. The president was welcomed by Frank Scicluna Hon Consul and Mrs Scicluna, Sister Vittoriana Debattista, Regional Superior and the Sisters and staff, and Father Gabriel Micallef OFM, Chaplain to the Maltese community in Adelaide. The residents of the home sang the national anthems of Malta and Australia and H.E. Marie Louis Coleiro Preca spoke to all the residents, seven of them are Malta born. Then the president and Mr Preca visited the convent where they were treated with refreshments and a cup of tea. Father Micallef explained to H.E. the history of the Maltese Franciscan Fathers who looked after the spiritual need of the Maltese community in Adelaide since the 40s.







**POEZIJA TA' JANE AGIUS MINN ADELAIDE  
LI QRAT WAQT IR-RICEVIMENT GHAD UNUR IL-PRESIDENT TA'  
MALTA  
MARIE LOUISE COLEIRO PRECA**

**13 Lulju 2016**

**L-ibhra li tant firduna  
U l-kbir taghna kien destin  
Illum qalb wahda migbura  
Kemm Maltin u anke Ghawdxin**

**Halli nselm u l-President taghna  
Iltqajna ferrieha bi hgarna  
Il-bxara malajr griet  
Lill-qlubna wisq imliet**

**Ghajtulek oh Malta hafna wlied  
Fil-ferh, fin-niket u fi skiet  
Qalb wahda bil-fidi ta' San Pawl  
Nitolbuh imexxina, jtina dawl**

**Bl-gharaq ta' gbinhom hadmu missierijitna  
Biex fis-sod nitilghu lilna jaraw  
Afdaw fik O Kristu rebbieh  
Hawn fl-Awstralija ntuhom kull gieh**

**Lilek O gzejra gawhra prezjuza  
Soda waqaft ma zmien kuragjuza  
Ghal l-ghalmu l-hniena u l-qlubija  
Ma l-erba tirjeh int imsemmija**

**Mela ejjew hutu nahdmu id f'id  
Ghal modrija, l-ghaqda u l-gid  
B'hekk nimxu lkoll il-quddiem  
U zgur jirrenja l-paci u sliem**

**Viva Malta u l-Maltin  
Ghawdex u l-Ghawdxin**

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## The President of Malta visits the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute



[ly 15, 2016](#) Her Excellency, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta, visited the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) in Adelaide, South Australia. During her visit, President Coleiro Preca held a meeting with Ms. Gabrielle Kelly, Director of the Wellbeing and Resilience Centre.

The meeting was also attended by Professor Phillip Slee and Dr Grace Skrzypiec from the

Student Wellbeing and Prevention of Violence (SWAPv) centre of Flinders University, as well as by Professor Carmel Cefai, Director of the Centre for Resilience and Socio-Emotional Health, and Head of the Department of Psychology, at the University of Malta.

During this meeting it was agreed that the President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society, the University of Malta, Flinders University and SAHMRI will be exploring further the areas in which they can collaborate and share ideas to continuously promote the wellbeing at a society and community level.

Ms Gabrielle Kelly also invited President Coleiro Preca to be a part of the International Advisory Board of SAHMRI.

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**SPEECH DELIVERED BY FRANK SCICLUNA HON CONSUL FOR  
MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA AT THE ADELAIDE CONVENTION  
CENTRE DURING THE PREMIER'S RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF  
THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA 12 JULY 2016**

It is indeed an honour and privilege to join the previous speakers to welcome Her Excellency Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, the President of Malta, on behalf of all the members of the Maltese Community of South Australia. We welcome you, to this big land of the young and the free! And a special welcome to our magnificent State of South Australia. I am sure that the cordial reception you receive when you meet so many Maltese/Australians during your visit to this continent will help you to discover that although we are living in this paradise we still have Maltese blood running in our veins.

Although the Maltese community in Adelaide is not large, but it is vibrant and well-organised. The Maltese Community Council which is the umbrella body of our organization is hardworking and effective. In South Australia we have several active associations who have been working to assist the members of the community namely

1. The Maltese Guild of South Australia
2. The Maltese RSL sub-branch
3. The Senior Citizens Association
4. The St Catherine Society
5. The Maltese Community Radio on EBI
6. The Blue Grotto Program on PBA
7. The Maltese Queen of Victories Band
8. The Maltese Aged Care Association of SA

For many decades our community was always looked after spiritually by the Maltese Franciscan Chaplains and by the Maltese Franciscan Sisters. The valuable contribution of Maltese settlers to Australia's modern multicultural society was always acknowledged and appreciated by State and Federal Governments as well as by the Government of Malta.

I would like to highlight some specific contributions the Maltese gave to this country for many decades. To mention a few the Maltese pioneers in the sugar cane farms at Mackay, Queensland, the involvement in the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme, in NSW and the Westgate Bridge in Victoria, the miners in Broken Hill, the Maltese Anzacs and in South Australia the Maltese who worked at the railways, Gas Company and at the outback Woomera in the 50s and 60s.

Now we are witnessing increasing number of second and third generations who were born in Australia and offsprings of Maltese migrants excelling in many fields such as medicine, politics, law, education and business. Your Excellency, we can assure you that, that we, the Maltese living here made Malta proud. We would like to thank also your husband Mr. Edgar Preca and your delegation who accompanied you in this journey. My final message is that although we live thousands of kilometers away from our homeland we still love Malta, its culture and heritage, our beautiful language.

Fl-ahharnett nixtieq nispicca billi ngħid zewg kelmiet bil-lingwa tagħna – bil-Malti – Grazzi Ecellenza waqt li ahna ninsabu kburin li gejt izzurna ngħidulek minn qalbna – meta tmur lura Malta għidilhom lill-hutna Maltin li ahna għandna nhobbu lil Malta u l'Għawdex u dak kollu li jfakkarna fil-gzejjer sbieħ li jinsabu f'nofs il-Mediterran. Grazzi u Sahha.





## **SPEECH DELIVERED BY CHRIS ABDILLA AT THE ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE AT THE PREMIER'S RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA**

**12 JULY 2016**

Good evening and a warm welcome to the President of the Republic of Malta and everyone gathered here this evening for this special occasion. I feel proud and privileged tonight to have met the president of Malta and also to be given this opportunity to be in front of you tonight to say these few words on behalf of the younger Maltese Australians of Adelaide who were born in this great country Australia with Maltese parents.



We have grown up loving the Maltese culture, history, traditions, food and language that our parents have taught us and will always have a special place in our hearts for the beautiful islands of Malta.

Some of us speak the Maltese language with our parents and families back in Malta on the phone and Skype. Many of us have been lucky enough to have visited Malta to see much loved relatives and experience and enjoy the many amazing sights, sounds, colours the abundant historical sites and the culture of Malta. I know myself as do many others look forward to any excuse to make the long trip to Malta and although it is far away in distance it's not far away in our thoughts especially this time of year with a lot of people we know or even family holidaying in Malta enjoying the warm summer weather, the beaches and festi.

I fondly remember the first time I went to Malta with mum and dad when I was only 7 years old and meeting my grandparents, Uncles, Aunties and Cousins for the first time. I remember going to the stunning bays and beaches and learning to swim in deep water as we went to swim a lot at wied iz-Zurrieq. I remember going to the festi and especially the festa tal Madonna tal Karmnu taz-Zurrieq and also the large Maltese Bands. This trip made a lasting impression on me and I remember when I returned to Australia I started to learn Music and still to this day love playing Maltese marches with our MQVB of SA.

I have been lucky to have returned to Malta on numerous occasions since that first visit and have enjoyed playing in Maltese Bands in festi all around Malta and Gozo and have also worked in Malta. I also met and married my wife Dorianne there too. We have recently become parents ourselves and we look forward to taking our son to Malta one day and teaching him all about Malta as well.

We promise that we will always have a special place for Malta in our hearts and strive to be good, honest and productive citizens of this great multicultural country of Australia.

Ahna dejjem nibqghu inhobbu lill-ghaziza Malta u l-Awstralja. Grazzi u j'alla dan il-vjagg twil li ghamilt biex tigi tarana jkompli jsahhah ir-rabta bejnietna. Nixtieqilkom zjara pjacevoli fl-Awstralja u b'mod partikolari go Adelaide l-aqwa post fl-Awstralja.

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**The President with the Committee of the Maltese Guild of SA**



**Mr Michael Agius, ex-president of the RSL Maltese Sub-branch talking to H.E.**



**The President with Carmen Zammit and Gemma Cortis at St. Raphaels**





**Eugene, Jane, the President, Mr Preca and Tessamarie Agius**



**Part of the audience at**



**the Adelaide Convention Centre**





**Mr and Mrs Anthony and Anna Farrugia with the President**



***Mr Edgar Agius shaking hands with H.E.***



## **The AMCC (Australian Maltese Chamber of Commerce) Victorian Branch is proud to announce its inaugural networking and social event for**



**2016.** This is a must attend event for those Australian/ Maltese who want to make **new contacts**, exchange business cards, and discuss opportunities and ideas with potential business partners and fellow countryman.

To round things off, we abide by our very own Maltese custom – to make this fun for all.

People will remember the AMCC's network event for the cultural emotion it stirs and the value they take away with them – a thought, a new connection, a new possibility.

### **SPECIAL GUEST**

The AMCC Victoria would like to give a very warm welcome to **'Her Excellency Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca' President of Malta**. We are grateful to have the President of Malta attend our event.

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**



**DR DAVID URPANI**

With notable speakers giving valuable insights into their success, this will be an outstanding opportunity to meet with other professionals and business people of Maltese-Australian background.

*David, 53 years old, is married with two children. David thrives at the interface of business strategy, data and technology and has over 25 years experience developing business strategy and managing resources and technology to grow businesses. David currently consults to businesses in the areas of data science, business strategy and growth. He has co-founded several businesses including Moneytribe and Australia's largest online broker, iSelect. Previous to iSelect, David worked for the American company Oracle where he advised some of the world's biggest enterprises - including Atlantic Bell, Amazon.com and Citibank in the areas of business process improvement and business intelligence.*



**ANTHONY GRIMA**

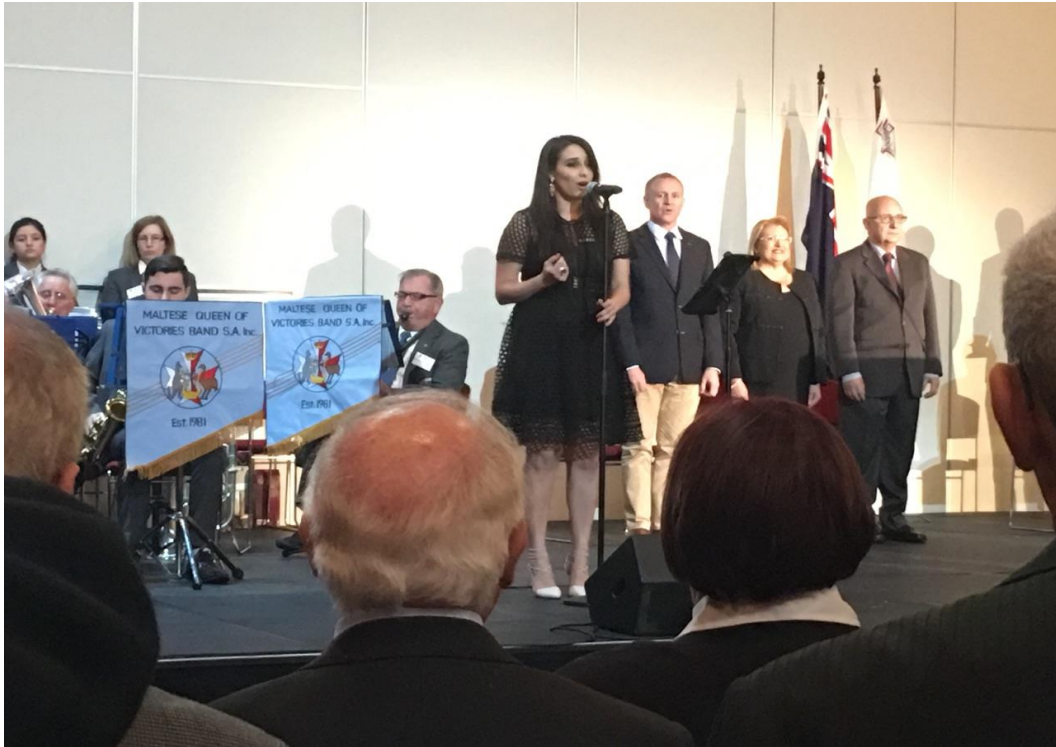
*With over 12 years' experience in sport management and administration, Anthony is currently the General Manager of Commercial and Media at Football Federation Victoria. With previous roles in high performance environments including with state representative squads and Melbourne Victory's youth and female programs, Anthony now has overall responsibility for maximising the profile of football in Victoria, ensuring the delivery of key sponsorship, marketing and media activities. Anthony recently founded 'Community in Business', a highly successful business network that brings together key stakeholders within football in Victoria including businesses, football clubs, media and government.*

**Finger food and one complimentary drink included in price.**

**WHEN** Friday, 22 July 2016 from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM

**WHERE** The Watermark Pavilion - Tenancy 9, 800 Bourke Street The Promenade Victoria Harbour, Docklands, VIC 3008.





**Vocalist Stacey Saliba singing the Maltese and Australian National Anthems  
with the Queen of Victories Band of South Australia**



**From Left: Marika Fotiou, Mariana Stelfox, Josie Scicluna the President  
and Frank Scicluna.**

**Please, send me your photos to be included in the next Newsletter**

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE MALTESE LIVING ABROAD**