



Maltese Historical Association

www.mha.org.au

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October 2018

Dear Members and Friends of the MHA,

Last month Professor Maurice Cauchi gave us an excellent talk about the Phoenicians and their Legacy in the Mediterranean. This month, Mario Bonnici, our treasurer, will speak about the Monuments and Memorials around Melbourne on Tuesday 16th October,

September in Melbourne saw the Reskeon Ball, the Festa of Marija Bambina at Star of the Sea, and the celebration of Malta's independence at the MCCV. Did any of our members attend the history lectures in Brisbane and would like to report?

Nicky Bomba will be at the MCCV on 20th October. You may also like to attend the Charity dance in Altona North on 10th November. Please see page 2 for details.

The MHA Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th November. The Notice of AGM, a Proxy form, and a Nomination Form for election to the committee can be found at the end of this newsletter. The minutes of the 2017 AGM and the Annual Statement for the 2017-2018 financial year will be sent separately.

Please consider nominating for election to the committee, especially for the positions of president and secretary. We also need someone with computer experience to help maintain the MHA website.

It is pleasing that many people have updated their membership. Only fully paid up members are entitled to stand for election to the committee and to vote at the AGM. Last minute payments may be made at the lecture or by cheque to our treasurer:

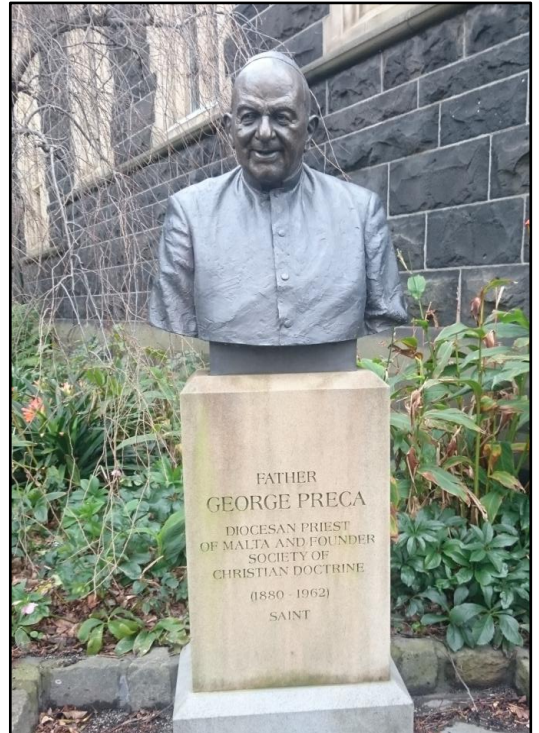
Mario Bonnici
59 Binnak Drive
Watsonia 3087

A recent meeting of the MHA committee emphasised the need to involve younger people. We encourage you to consider joining the committee and bringing your fresh ideas to our group. There's plenty of support and experience from the older members should it be required.

Ciao for now,

Charlie Gatt

MHA Secretary



***Bust of St George Preca at
St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne***

October Lecture

Monuments and Memorials around Melbourne by **Mario Bonnici**

Founded in 1835, Melbourne became the capital of Victoria in 1851. The Victorian gold rush brought enormous wealth and the city became known as Marvellous Melbourne.

Melbourne was the first seat of the Federal Government, and is now known as the 'cultural capital' of Australia

Mario Bonnici will take us on a virtual guided tour of the monuments in Melbourne, many of which have connections to the Maltese community.

(See page 2 for more information)

7:30 pm Tuesday 16th October
at the MCCV Parkville
(Enter from Ievers St)

*Bring family and friends.
All welcome*

Monuments and Memorials around Melbourne
MHA Presentation – 16 October 2018
Mario Bonnici

This month's presentation is somewhat different from the usual. Rather than having a look at some aspect of the rich history of Malta, we are looking at the history of our city of Melbourne through its monuments. We will be going on a virtual walk among the many monuments spread around the City and discover what the story behind each monument is. I decided to do this presentation after I came across a book by Ronald T. Riley called *A Walking Guide to Melbourne's Monuments*.

Melbourne is the capital of the State of Victoria, but it is also a Victorian city as seen in some of its buildings, bridges, gardens, parks and monuments. We wander around our planned city's streets for business or pleasure, but not many of us take notice of the many monuments there are spread around, especially in our beautiful city gardens. Few of us bother to ask who that person was and why is there a monument for him or her? What is the purpose of that monument? Who was the sculptor?

Melbourne was founded in 1835 as part of the British colony of New South Wales. The first European settlers arrived in 1803, although the land had been inhabited for around 40,000 years by Aboriginal tribes. It was named after William Lamb, 2nd Viscount Melbourne and was declared a city by Queen Victoria in 1847. Melbourne became the capital of the state of Victoria in 1851. Following the Victorian gold rush, it became known as 'Marvellous Melbourne' and one of the wealthiest cities in the British Empire. Wide straight roads were planned and distinctive buildings were erected. After Federation in 1901, it even became the seat of the Federal Government. Today it is referred to as the 'cultural capital' of Australia as it is the home to many cultural institutions.

I hope you enjoy this presentation about the heritage of our fabulous city.

MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA PRESENTS



**BACK TO
MALTA
ISLAND PARTY!**

MALTESE FOOD!
MUSICAL BINGO!
BAR PRICED DRINKS
DOOR PRIZES!

FEATURING
**NICKY BOMBA'S
BUSTAMENTO**

SAT OCT 20 477 ROYAL PARADE, PARKVILLE
7.30 - 11 TICKETS @ EVENTBRITE
\$50 PLUS BF MCCV 93878922

MALTA CHARITY EVENTS AUSTRALIA



Charity Dance

IN AID OF THE
MALTESE COMMUNITY CHEST FUND FOUNDATION

GRAND STAR RECEPTIONS
499 GRIEVE PARADE, ALTONA NORTH, VIC 3025

TICKETS ADULTS \$65 CHILDREN \$40
INCLUDES 5 COURSE MEAL, PASTIZZI'S, SOFT DRINKS, BEER & WINE

LIVE MUSIC BY ALCHEMY BAND

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY
MMG CONCERT BAND OF VICTORIA & MICHELLE FARRUGIA

**SAT 10TH
NOVEMBER
2018**
6.30PM - 11.30PM

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LIVE LOVE
MALTA

ENQUIRIES & TICKETS
JOE 0420 547 696 / DANIEL 0404 096 560
OR EMAIL US: INFO@LIVELOVEMALTA.COM



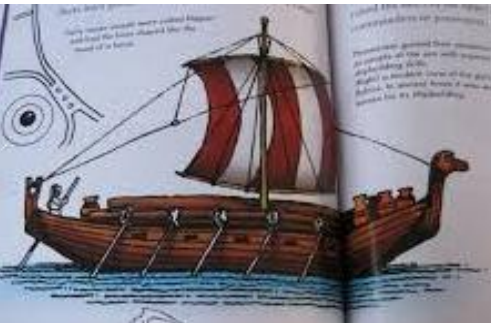
The Phoenicians and their Legacy in the Mediterranean

by

Professor Maurice Cauchi



day Lebanon. Their main cities included Tyre, Sidon and Beirut. Tyre was their main city from about 969 BCE until it was destroyed by Alexander the Great in 332 BCE.



The Phoenicians prospered in their fertile country. They built ships from the excellent local timber: cedar, cypress and pine. They travelled clockwise around the Mediterranean, following the prevailing winds, trading their highly prized Tyrian purple dyes, extracted from the *murex* shellfish. Colours ranged from a vivid blue to a rusty red, depending on how it was treated. In the days when coloured cloths were rare, their brightly coloured garments were highly prized. Their name was arguably given by the Greeks, referring to this valuable dye.

The Phoenicians traded for gold and precious stones, for tin to make bronze from Cornwall, and for silver from Spain. According to a Late Greek account, they carried so much silver that they converted everything to the precious metal; even their anchors were cast in silver!

From around 800 BCE, the Phoenicians set up many colonies all over the Mediterranean, including Malta. One colony, Carthage, in present day Tunis, would later challenge the power of the mighty Roman Empire before it was destroyed in 146 B.C. in the Punic wars.

Although Phoenician remains have been found all over Malta and Gozo, they mainly settled around Mdina, which had been occupied by Bronze-age people. They called it *Maleth*, meaning "shelter", a name which extended to the whole island. Marsaxlokk was their major harbour, protected from the prevailing north-westerly winds. Overlooking this harbour is Tas-Silġ where are the remains of an abandoned megalith temple. They venerated their goddess, Ashtart (Astarte) and god Baal amongst others. Greek and Roman writers wrote that the Phoenicians, and especially Carthaginians, sacrificed their children by burning. Although discounted in the late 20th Century as racism, monuments and dedications have been found in 'trophets'. These are sacred open-air areas containing the urn burials of cremated infants and animals (usually sheep). Such trophets have been found in Carthage and also in Malta. Many inscriptions confirm that children were sacrificed as thanks-offerings to their gods.

The earliest Phoenician tombs are found around Mdina-Rabat, and are also scattered around Gozo (Rabat, harbour). Other evidence of settlement includes rock-cut tombs at Ghajn Qattet near Rabat and elsewhere. Typical tombs are found at Buskett Gardens, Ghar Barka, Ghajn Klieb, in Marsa, Mtarfa, and at Qallilija (four tombs) - all reasonably close to Mdina. An early Phoenician oil lamp was found in a typical Bronze Age 'silo-pit' at Mtarfa. Their early pottery, 'Red-lipped ware', has survived to this day. Objects obtained from Tas-Silġ sanctuary include items of carved ivory, a headless statuette of a male figure draped in a plain

Time-line : Malta History

Pre history

- 5200 B.C. Arrival of man on Malta
- 3200 B.C. Building of megalithic temples
- 2000 B.C. Invasion of Bronze Age peoples
- 800 B.C. Phoenician colonisation

Early Inhabitants

- 900 B.C. The start of the Iron Age
- 480 B.C. Carthaginian domination

Roman Times

- 218 B.C. Roman domination after the Punic Wars
- 395 Byzantine domination of Malta.

dress with short sleeves, plenty of tombs, personal ornaments such as amulets, faience and pottery but few precious objects, apart from some gilt-silver plaques. Gold amulets were found at Ghajn Klieb.

Although the Ancient Greeks colonised Eastern Sicily, they influenced but never colonised Malta, (The Byzantines were much later). Bonanno argues that by the seventh century BCE Malta assumed for the first time a strategic importance in a contest between two power blocks for the control of sea trade routes and of trade in the Mediterranean.

In 1758 the distinguished numismatist Jean-Jacques Barthelemey deciphered the Phoenician alphabet from a pair of bilingual [Phoenician and Greek] dedications found in Malta in the late seventeenth century, one of which had been sent to Louis XVI (1754 -1793) as a present.

It was once thought that the Maltese language is derived from Phoenician. 2000 years ago this might have been the case but all evidence is that the current Maltese language is derived from Arabic. The Arabic of Lebanon and Syria is closer to Maltese than that of North Africa. Maltese belongs to the large group of 'Semitic languages', which include Arabic, Hebrew, Aramaic, and Phoenician, and the syntax (grammar, structure of words) remains largely Semitic.

Y Chromosomes studies establish parenthood through the paternal line. A National Geographic study indicates that more than half of the Y chromosome lineages in today's Maltese population came from the Phoenicians. There is a very close genetic relationship between the Maltese and the Lebanese. "Genetic similarities between [Lebanese and Maltese] are so high that they are a cause of amazement and surprise".

<https://phoenicia.org/maltese.html>

The PowerPoint and recording of Professor Cauchi's lecture can be found [here](#)

You may like to read more about Carthage [here](#)

Maltese DownUnder TV Highlights

Maltese Festa in the Latrobe Valley Mark Avellino talks with organisers of the Festa held on 17th February 2018 and their plans for a Maltese Museum:

Maltese DownUnder TV [Season 5 Episode 1](#)

The **60th Anniversary of the MCCV** was featured in Season 5 Episode 2:

[Introduction](#)

[Segment 1](#) looks at the early years

[Segment 2](#) looks at the planning, fundraising and building of the Maltese community centre in Parkville

[Segment 3](#) looks at the many services provided by the MCCV

For a list of all the episodes click [here](#) and select "VIDEOS"s



Maltese Down Under

Interesting Links

[Excavation works proceed despite discovery of historic remains](#) Times of Malta article

[The Maltese Language: An Arabic Descendant](#) Video (8:23)

[The shock of the 1908 tsunami in Malta:](#)

[Mt Etna may collapse on itself, causing Mediterranean tsunami, experts warn](#) Times of Malta

[Project seeks to instill heritage awareness from a young age](#) Times of Malta

[Malta's history and heritage](#) Malta Uncovered

[Malta's National Museums & Sites](#) – Heritage Malta

Melbourne in September

The Feast of the Nativity is known as Il-Festa ta' Marija Bambina in Maltese. In Melbourne, it is organised annually on the second Sunday in September by Reskeon on behalf of the Missionary Society of St Paul. A mass and procession were held on Sunday 9th September 2018 at St Mary Star of the Sea in West Melbourne. Due to the inclement weather the procession was held inside the church. It was accompanied by The Maltese choir of Victoria and The Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society Inc. An article on this moving ceremony can be found on page 19 of [The Voice of the Maltese](#), with more photos and videos [here](#)



Maltese Independence Day Celebrations took place at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville on Friday 21st September. A mass was held at St Paul's Chapel in Parkville, followed by a Dinner Dance in the Community Centre.

Mr Victor Borg spoke about the history of the MCCV and the struggle for independence, both here and in Malta. Mr Joseph Stafrace announced Mr Borg's impending retirement from the MCCV after many years of service to the Maltese Community. Ms Joanna Pisani, the Consul General, encouraged the study of Maltese in our schools. Unless at least 15 students study VCE Maltese annually, the language will be dropped by 2020. Fr Edwin Agius MSSP spoke about living independence in our language, culture and religion.

The food was good, the music excellent and a great time was had by all.

Maltese Historical Association (Australia) Inc

Għaqda Storika Maltija (Awstralja)
www.mha.org.au



Secretary: 9/99 The Strand, Newport, Victoria, Australia 3015

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Maltese Community Centre, 477 Royal Parade, Parkville.

7.30pm Tuesday 20th November 2018

Dear Member,

The Annual General Meeting of The Maltese Historical Association (Australia) Incorporated will be held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 20th November 2018 at the Maltese Community Centre, 477 Royal Parade, Parkville.

The **Agenda** will be as per clause 9 of the Rules:

- a) to confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting; and
- b) to receive from the Committee reports upon the transactions of The Association during the last preceding financial year; and
- c) to elect officers of The Association and the ordinary members of the Committee.

In accordance with clause 12, any member of the Association who has an item they would like to bring up in General Business should advise the Secretary in writing at the above address or via email to: secretary@mha.org.au Items should be received by 27th October 2018 to be included on the Agenda.

The **Treasurer's Report for 2017/2018**, and the **Minutes of the 2017 AGM** will be sent separately.

Members are encouraged to consider nominating for a position on the committee. A nomination form is enclosed.

An **Appointment of Proxy form** is also enclosed for use if required. Each member is entitled to appoint another member as a proxy by notice given to the Secretary no later than 24 hours before the start of the Annual General Meeting.

Yours Sincerely,

Charles Gatt
MHA Secretary

APPENDIX 3

Maltese Historical Association (Australia) Incorporated – Għaqda Storika Maltija (Awstralja) Inkorporata

Form of Appointment of Proxy

I of
(name) (address)

being a member of the Maltese Historical Association (Australia) Incorporated appoint:

.....
(name)
or the Chairperson of the meeting

of
(address)

Being also a member of the Maltese Historical Association (Australia) Incorporated as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at annual/special* general meeting of The Association to be held on:

.....
(date)

and at any adjournment of that meeting.

My proxy is authorised to vote in favour or/against on my behalf on matters arising as instructed by myself.

..... Signature of Seconder

..... Date

*Delete if not applicable

APPENDIX 4

**Nomination for the Election of a Member of the Committee of Management of
The Maltese Historical Association (Australia) Incorporated –
Ghaqda Storika Maltija (Awstralja) Inkorporata**

We, the undersigned, being financial members of the Maltese Historical Association
(Australia) Incorporated, hereby nominate

Candidate's name

For the position of

In accordance with the Rules of the Maltese Historical Association (Australia) Incorporated.

Proposer's name

Address.....

Signature..... Date.....

Seconder's name

Address.....

Signature..... Date.....

Candidate's consent

I

of

Hereby consent to accept the above nomination and if elected as a member of the committee, I
pledge to abide by the Rules of The Association and assist in the administration of The Maltese
Historical Association (Australia) Incorporated.

Signature..... Date.....

MHA Rules - 18 May 2009.doc