



# Maltese eNewsletter

Editor : Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR JP

Email : maltesejournal@gmail.com



## MALTA IN CRISIS

Read the daily Maltese newspapers online

We, the Maltese living abroad are concerned for our homeland



**EUROVISION**  
SONG CONTEST  
MALMÖ 2024  
Semi-Finals 7 and 9 May  
Final 11 May

**MALMÖ**  
**SWEDEN**  
**37 Participants**

55° 36' 21.13" N  
13° 00' 2.63" E

**UNITED BY**

THE MALTA  
**EUROVISION**  
SONG CONTEST

**MUSIC**

**Happy Parenting (Malta) for Happier Children**

**MALTA - 20 YEARS IN EU**

**Scouts and Guides**

**malta girl guides**

**GREYSTANES NSW SYDNEY'S LITTLE MALTA**



**Multicultural**  
**Aged**  
**Care**  
**SOUTH**  
**AUSTRALIA**



**Celebrating**  
**30 Years**  
**of Excellence**

Multicultural Aged Care was founded in 1993 as 'The Association of Ethnic Organisations for Aged Care' (AEOAC). The AEOAC advised on policy and funding of culturally appropriate aged care, developed models of service delivery and delivered resources and advice to aged care providers.

Renamed as MAC, the organisation began delivering professional development training, expanded its aged care resources into a library and continued to advocate for culturally appropriate care in public, government and business spaces.

Recently MAC has further expanded into service delivery through Cafe94 and the mobile library.

**Today MAC has four main functions:**

- To strengthen and support groups in their operations and delivery of aged care services
- To provide resources and training focusing on the aged care sector
- To deliver aged care services through our 7 social support group programs
- To advocate for and inform the community, governments and businesses about culturally appropriate aged care

MAC is funded as part of the Partners in Culturally Appropriate Care (PICAC) and Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP).

**Kaurna Acknowledgement**

Adelaide and its surrounds are nestled within the lands traditionally owned and protected by the Kaurna people and their fore-bearers for many thousands of years.

Throughout the Adelaide Plains, the Kaurna people have performed age-old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal.

We take the **opportunity** to acknowledge and honour the Kaurna people's traditional ownership of this land, their living culture and the unique role they have played in the life of this region.

[Multicultural Aged Care adheres to the Australian government Charter of Aged Care Rights.](#)

## **THANK YOU**

**The Journal for Maltese living abroad would like to thank the Multicultural Aged Care for helping the Maltese community in Adelaide and assist them in their functions. A special mention is the printing of this journal which is distributed free to all the members of the Senior Citizens Association of South Australia**



The inaugural meeting of Din l-Art Ħelwa was held at the Manoel Theatre in Valletta on 9 July 1965. The Times of Malta wrote that the enthusiasm shown by all those who attended was a clear indication of the growing interest in, and the ever-increasing concern for our National Heritage. The role of Din l-Art Ħelwa was clearly laid down, and it remains the same today: to safeguard Malta's cultural heritage and the natural environment for future generations, which includes the hands-on conservation and restoration of our cultural heritage.

Several of the outstanding historic properties and monuments which Din l-Art Ħelwa has saved, or helped to save, for the nation over the years would have been lost if Din l-Art Ħelwa had not physically intervened to save them. You will find an up-to-date list in the 'Properties' section of this website.

On 21 February 2003 the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage transferred nine properties to Din l-Art Ħelwa through the first Deeds of Guardianship signed under the Cultural Act 2002. These historic buildings were painstakingly restored over many years by Din l-Art Ħelwa, and include St Agatha's Tower (The Red Tower), Wignacourt Tower, Ghallis Tower, Qalet Marku Tower, Torri Mamo, Msida Bastion Garden of Rest, Dwejra Tower (Gozo), Santa Maria Tower, and Santa Maria Battery (both on Comino).

Together with the church of Santa Maria ta' Bir Miftuh in Gudja, the Chapel of the Annunciation at Hal Millieri, St. Roque's chapel in Zebbug, Tal-Hniena chapel in Qrendi, the Delimara Lighthouse in Marsaxlokk and Our Lady of Victory church in Valletta, they form part of the patrimony now held in trust or managed by Din l-Art Ħelwa.

Other projects are Delimara Lighthouse, Tal-Hniena Church in Qrendi, St. Anthony's Battery in Qala, and maintenance works on Dwejra Tower, among others. Din l-Art Ħelwa also manages the il-Majjistral Nature and History Park together with the NGOs Gaia Foundation and Nature Trust, and the Foresta 2000 afforestation site together with Birdlife Malta and the Ministry for Rural Affairs.

Din l-Art Ħelwa was one of the first eight members to have joined Europa Nostra in its early years in 1967. Din l-Art Ħelwa has now built contacts with many international organisations with similar aims, besides being in continual contact with Malta's environmental NGOs.

In 2001, the International Jury Panel of the Europa Nostra Heritage Award Scheme chaired by J. Wynford Evans CBE awarded the Msida Bastion Garden of Rest Restoration Project the highly prestigious Silver Medal, "For the admirable, painstaking recovery, re-assembly and careful restoration of the monuments, headstones and tombs of the Msida Bastion Cemetery and for the conversion of its derelict historic site into a public garden."



## Patrick Calleja is the new executive president of Din l-Art Ħelwa

Architect Patrick Calleja has taken on the role of the new executive president of Din l-Art Ħelwa, succeeding architect Alex Torpiano.

Calleja now serves as the eighth executive president of the organization, founded by Judge Maurice Caruana Curran in 1965 amidst a campaign against the development of the Excelsior hotel, with the aim of preserving Malta's heritage. On behalf of the Council and the NGO's members, Calleja thanked Prof. Torpiano for the sterling work he did during his years as executive president. Prof. Torpiano will remain on the Din l-Art Ħelwa Council as vice-president, and also as the chair of the Heritage and Environment Protection sub-committee.



## Thousands of scouts and guides hold annual parade

Valletta was alive to the beat of drums

41 minutes ago | [Times of Malta](#) | 01 min read  
Scouts and guides

took part in the annual parade in Valletta on Sunday.

The streets of Valletta were alive to the sounds of pipes and the beat of drums on Sunday as thousands of scouts and guides took part in their annual parade.

The huge parade involving some 4,000 beavers and dolphins, cubs and brownies, guides and scouts, ventures and rangers, rovers and senior rangers, along with their leaders and mascots.

Scouts parade in Valletta.

They marched off from the Granaries in Floriana, down Republic Street and accorded the salute to President Myriam Spiteri Debono and the scout and guide commissioners in front of the Presidential Palace at St George's Square.

Valletta was alive to the beat of drums on Sunday.

The rally was this year led by the associations' Gozo district. The Scout Fellowship, North District, South District and Central District followed.

Scouts and Guides parade in Valletta.

A Mass was held earlier at Floriana parish churchy. It was celebrated by Bishop Joseph Galea Curmi.

Such was the size of the parade that some troops were still marching into City Gate as others were marching out from Merchants' Street onto Castille Square.

Girl Guides parade in Valletta.

President Myriam Spiteri Debono was accorded a salute in front of the Presidential Palace in St George's Square.

Frank, your journal has survived so long and still going strong because it's free, non-political and bilingual. It is truly the only **VOICE** of the Maltese Living Abroad with thousands of readers from all over the world. Please, don't stop – keep it going. We all support you. We urge those who are truly interested in the Maltese living overseas to acknowledge, help and promote THIS ONLY JOURNAL.

Lynne and Jesmond Schembri - Canada

## L-Għaqda tal-Malti bi President ġdid

Ritratt: Facebook - L-Għaqda tal-Malti

L-għaqda studenteska li tippromwovi l-Malti, l-Għaqda tal-Malti - Università, ħabbret il-kumitat ġdid għas-sena li ġejja, bil-gurnalistata' **Newsbook Malta** Ilona Sciberras tinħatar bħala President. Sciberras, li kienet l-Uffiċjal għar-



Relazzjonijiet Pubbliċi fil-kumitat preċedenti, qalet li tinsab grata li se taħdem f'kumitat li "jagħmel minn kollox għall-Malti tal-bieraħ, tal-lum u ta' għada". Fil-kariga ta' Vici President inħatar Bradley Cachia. Jade Briffa Raggio nħatret bħala Segretarja, Nicole Bartolo tħabret bħala Teżoriera u Klara Vassallo saret l-Uffiċjal għar-Relazzjonijiet Pubbliċi.

Il-kumitat għas-sena 2024 ġie kkonfermat wara l-Laqgħa Ġenerali Annwali tal-Għaqda. *Awguri lill-kumitat il-ġdid!*



### Maltese Falcons Maltese Lawn Bowlers Association NSW AUSTRALIA CONNIE RIXON

The Malta Lawn Bowls Association - known as the Maltese Falcons Team who represent Malta in the sport of

Lawn Bowls in both Men and Women's events in NSW, nationally and internationally.

CONNIE RIXON our player gets the Silverware at the World Bowls Indoor Championships. Congratulations Connie Rixon on such an historic achievement. We are all so proud!

Sporting Highlights thanks for the awesome coverage and photos all week. Super effort! Team Malta Joe Saragozza Paul Kajewski and Lucy Beere our hats go off to you all for the "blood, sweat and tears" this week. Now enjoy the rest of your trip away!

**IMAGINE  
IF WE WORK TOGETHER INSTEAD OF  
AGAINST EACH OTHER**



## THE INDIAN COMMUNITY IN MALTA

Mass in Malayalam was a first for the church in Bormla. Photo: Jonathan Borg.

A church in Cospicua opened its doors to the Indian community on Sunday morning, delivering Mass in Malayalam for the first time in its history.

Around 30 people attended the Mass at St Theresa

church delivered by Fr Jaison Puthumadasser, a priest from the Indian state of Kerala where Malayalam is the official language.

Sunday saw St Therese Church in Bormla deliver mass in Malayalam for the first time in its history. Video: Jonathan Borg. Editing: James Cummings.

Fr Puthumadasser arrived in Malta around two weeks ago and will live here for some two to three years to deliver mass weekly at the Cospicua church.

Speaking to *Times of Malta*, the priest called the occasion a “blessing” and said he was “thrilled” to deliver mass in Malayalam.

“There are many [Keralan] people here... They all came here for work opportunities but... they need to have their spiritual needs met as well. I am here to look after their spiritual needs,” he said. Fr Jaison Puthumadasser recently arrived in Malta and will be delivering mass in Malayalam weekly in Bormla. Photo: Jonathan Borg.

Paola resident and storekeeper Milton Chirakkaparambil Borgian said it was a “special moment” to attend mass in Malayalam in Cospicua, while his flatmate Akhil Varghese explained they normally had to travel further to attend mass in their language.

“We usually go to Msida, but it’s far away... here it is interesting and much closer to us,” said Varghese. Mass in Malayalam is new to Cospicua but is already being offered elsewhere across Malta including in Birkirkara, Birżebbuġa and St Paul’s Bay, members of the congregation explained.

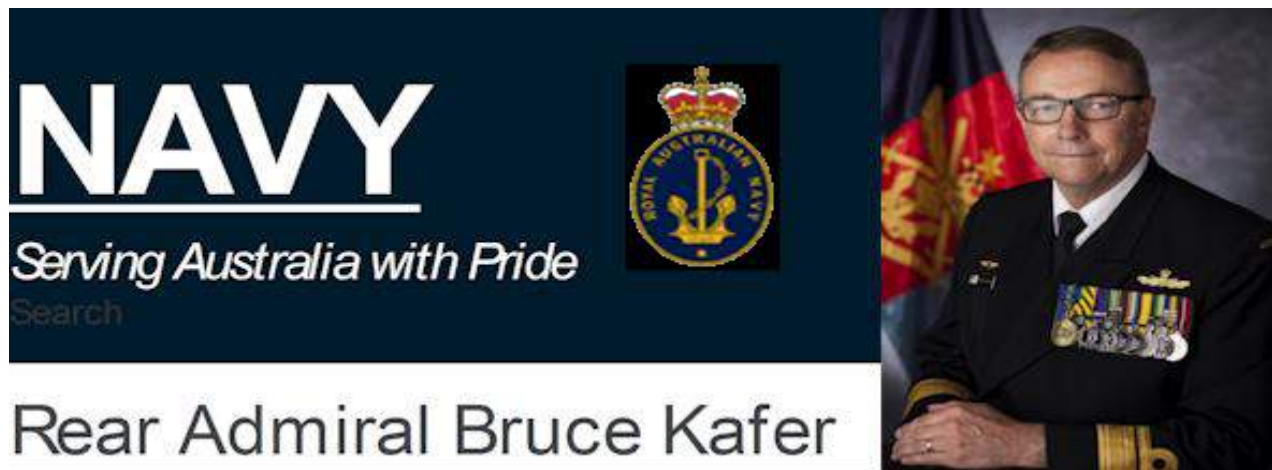
Student Anu Anna Abraham said she normally attended mass delivered in English in Floriana, but that it was “very good” to be able to hear the service delivered in her mother tongue close to her home in Senglea.

Around 30 people attended mass on Sunday. Photo: Jonathan Borg.

And while much of the service would have been familiar to Maltese audiences, such as the delivery of the Eucharist, the word “amen” and, of course, the surroundings, not only was the language of the mass different but so was its music.

Pharmaceuticals worker Jidho David Simon prepared and performed the music which, while containing elements familiar to Western audiences such as organ playing, was largely based on traditional Indian music and sung in Malayalam.

“It’s traditional Christian Indian music - different from Indian music but similar in a way,” he said, adding that while he was used to taking part in church music back in Kerala, he spent three days preparing for Sunday’s mass. familiar sight: one young boy fast asleep over his father's shoulder throughout the service. Photo: James Cummings. Speaking to *Times of Malta* after the mass, Fr Juan De Bono, a fellow priest at the church and monastery said he was pleased to welcome Fr Puthumadasser. “He’s part of our community now,” he said.



## Rear Admiral Bruce Kafer

**Bruce Kafer** joined the Royal Australian Navy as a Cadet Midshipman in 1977. After initial Seaman Officer training in HMA Ships *Supply*, *Moresby*, *Swan* and USS *Chicago* he specialised in hydrographic surveying and, on completion of his basic survey course, served in hydrographic survey ships of the RAN and Royal Navy.

Highlights of his seagoing career have been his command of the RAN survey ship HMAS *Flinders* (1992-1994), commissioning Commanding Officer of HMAS *Leeuwin* in 2000 and his two-year exchange posting with the Royal Navy during which time he served in HM Ships *Fawn* and *Herald*. He has seen active service in the Arabian Gulf on two occasions: initially during the Iran/Iraq War, when he participated in mine clearance operations while on exchange with the Royal Navy; and in 2008-09, when he had command of two coalition maritime task forces (Combined Task Forces 158 and 152) which were responsible for security and interception operations in the Gulf.

Bruce Kafer has also had a variety of senior staff appointments ashore. He served as the Director of the RAN Staff College at HMAS *Penguin* and in 2000 served for four years as the Hydrographer of Australia and Commander of the RAN's Hydrographic, Meteorological and Oceanographic Force Element Group. More recently he was the Chief, Combat Support Group in Fleet Headquarters. Between December 2009 and December 2013 he was the Commandant, Australian Defence Force Academy.

Commodore Kafer transferred to the Naval Reserve in January 2014, and in November 2014 he assumed duties as Director General Australian Navy Cadets and Reserves. He was promoted Rear Admiral in December 2016 and appointed as Head Reserve and Youth Division and Commander Australian Defence Force Cadets.

He was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC), for services to hydrography in 2005 and was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM), in 2008, for his services as Chief Combat Support Group. Rear Admiral Kafer retired from naval service in December 2018.

The members of the George Cross Falcons Community Centre would like to sincerely thank the Retired Rear Admiral Bruce Kafer and the cadets for participating in this years commemoration of THE AUSTRALIAN ANZAC DAY and for making the event of 2024 a function to remember.

We remembered the Maltese ANZACS who together with thousands of Australian and New Zealand soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we may enjoy freedom, peace and democracy in our great country. Louis Parnis GCFCC President

## CHURCHES AND CHAPELS IN GOZO



**Landmark churches dotted across the island dominate the Gozitan horizon. When you visit Gozo be sure to experience their Baroque beauty.**

**DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE OVER 40 ACTIVE CHURCHES ON GOZO IN TOTAL.**

As soon as you step off the ferry you are greeted by the expansive strength and exuberant designs of Gozo's churches. They form an integral part of the island's culture and whether you are religious or not, they are well worth a visit. Sundays are a day of worship and gathering together with family and friends and the cafes surrounding the churches are usually bustling with people before services begin across the island.

Many of the main churches celebrate throughout festa season on Gozo, below, learn where the Gozitan churches are situated and when they celebrate their feasts. Ghajnsielem meaning 'peaceful sprint' is the first village that greets you from Mgarr and the ferry terminal. If you look up your eyes will feast on the two of the four churches in the village. Our Lady of Loreto was built in 1820 and still stands today – the new Għajnsielem parish church opened in 1924 and St Cecilia Chapel, a former Roman Catholic chapel was built around 1540, but it was deconsecrated

in 1644, being converted into an ancillary building for the nearby Santa Cecilia Tower. Ghajnsielem celebrates year-round with feasts in February, June, August, and November.



I am staying with a friend who I first met in 1971. We became friends shortly after this first meeting and very close friends since 1976.

We have shared many experiences. We have listened to each other, had adventures together, challenged each other laughed and cried together.

We were present at each other's ordination to the diaconate and priesthood and he was my priest sponsor at my episcopal ordination.

We now live in different cities yet the space between us is sacred and love is not diminished.

It is the grace of God that brought us together and we have graced each other in Jesus.

We all need healthy friendships. They require a

commitment to staying caring and loving for the long haul...

When we are able to enter deeply into loving some, we can love all others so much more...

There can be no enduring friendship without forgiveness and commitment.. without caring the other for who they are. We cannot change anyone but knowing that we are loved will help us to want to continue to grow with their support and love...

We can never make anyone happy but we can share happiness...

The more unconditional the love of others becomes, the more we meet God.



**Happy Parenting - Malta**  
**(For Happier Children)**

[www.happyparenting.mt](http://www.happyparenting.mt)



The Chairman and Directors of Fondazzjoni Belt Victoria would like to invite you to the official opening of the exhibition

**The Giuseppe Galea Collection**

by the Hon. Clint Camilleri, Minister for Gozo and Planning  
 Saturday 27 April 2024, 7.30pm  
 Il-Ħaġar | Heart of Gozo Museum and Cultural Centre  
 Pjazza San Ġorġ, Victoria, Gozo

R.S.V.P.: [events@heartofgozo.org.mt](mailto:events@heartofgozo.org.mt)  
 Exhibition will remain open until 16 June 2024

**Saturday 27 April 2024 at 19:30**  
**The Giuseppe Galea Collection on Display at Il-Ħaġar**

Il-Ħaġar Museum is delighted to present a new temporary exhibition which will showcase for the first time a collection of designs prepared by one of Malta's finest decorators, Giuseppe Galea, for Gozo's Saint George's Basilica. Many of these designs have been donated to the Museum by the artist's family, while others

were acquired through sponsorship by Lombard Bank. Galea studied art in Rome between 1933 and 1938, where he forged a deep friendship with Maltese master sculptor Antonio Sciortino under whose tutelage he studied life drawing.

*The Giuseppe Galea Collection* will be inaugurated on **Saturday 27 April 2024 at 19:30**, by the Hon. Clint Camilleri, Minister for Gozo and Planning. To attend the official opening, kindly RSVP at your earliest by emailing: [events@heartofgozo.org.mt](mailto:events@heartofgozo.org.mt).

The exhibition can be visited until Sunday 16 June 2024 during the museum opening hours of 09:00 to 17:00. Admission to Il-Ħaġar Museum is free.



1974 - 2024  
**50V**  
 Bank of Valletta  
 Fifty Years Shaping Malta's Economy

**BOV 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
 OUTREACH SERIES CONCERT**

FEATURING STRING QUARTET FROM  
 THE MALTA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

**8<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024 \* 1900hrs**

**Bażilika ta' Sidtna Marija tal-Porto Salvo  
 u San Duminku Valletta**

## Lil Ġorġi ta' Lidda F'Jum il-Martirju tiegħu



Reggħet feġġet din il-ġhodwa  
Din il-festa tal-Ġhawdxin  
Li tant tinżel tajjeb fostna –  
Rabtin, Maltin, barranin!

Ġħaliha nibdew inhejju  
Minn ġimgħat u xhur bikrija  
Ġħax San Ġorġ hu dak il-Martri –  
Ma beżax mid-dmugh u dmija!

Li ġħal Kristu xerred demmu  
U l-Edit qatta' f'biċċiet;  
Ma qagħadx jara l-konsegwenzi,  
Dil-bravura x'kienet swiet!

Ma tmeżmiżx huwa jaffronta,  
Jisfida l-Imperatur  
Li pprova bih iżieġhel  
Dan il-Martri l-isbaħ fjur!

Iżda waqafli bla biża'  
U xejjen lil Atanasju  
Illi ried b'sħaħar moqzieża  
Jinkludih f'tiegħu d-djarju!

Iżda daħal ġħat-torturi  
Illi riedu jeqirduh  
U bil-palma u l-kurazza -  
B'żiemel abjad qatt mirbuħ!

U llum f'nofs il-Bażilka  
Tidher hieni u rebbieħ  
Lill-folla warajk iġġennen  
Ġħaliex lilek tgħożżok shiħ!

Meta l-Ġħadd fl-ġħaxija toħroġ  
Hieni ddu fuq l-ispallejn  
Waqt li l-Banda doqqlok noti –  
Dmugh jisiltu mill-ġħajnejn

Ibqa' dieħel fid-djar tagħna  
U fejjaq kull hemm u mard;  
Ibqa' magħna l-jiem kollha,  
Kemmm jekk xita nkella bard

Fuq kull wiċċ ġib it-tbissima,  
Neħtiġuha dan iż-żmien  
Meta l-gwerer u l-flagelli  
Inikkturna f'dawn il-jiem!

La thallix il-festa tgħaddi  
Imma aġħmilna ferħanin  
Imla 'l qlubna bl-akbar hena  
Ġħalkemm għad itulu s-snin!



**Dear God,  
you gave  
St. George the  
strength of  
character to  
overcome his  
fear and to die  
for his beliefs  
Please help us to  
develop the  
qualities of St.  
George, to take  
responsibility, to  
be truthful, to do  
our duty  
willingly, to have  
courage and  
determination  
and to dedicate  
our lives to  
helping others.  
Amen**

*Kav Joe M Attard*  
23 t'April 2024

**We thank our readers who sent a contribution  
towards the production of this journal**

**If you would like to send a donation these are the bank details**

**Bank - Commonwealth (Australia)    BSB - 065 106**  
**Account - 0050 2597    Name - Frank Scicluna**



## THE ZAMMIT LEGACY

In this extraordinary rags to riches story, an illiterate and impoverished Maltese immigrant rises from destitution to become Queensland's 'Sugar King'. A citizen of the British Empire, Paul Zammit arrives in Australia (1912) and is caught in the crossfire of racial and political hostilities, where his Arabic-sounding dialect and swarthy complexion clash with immigration law designed to keep Australia 'British and white'. Undertaking an epic journey on foot from Sydney, he secures a convincing reign over the sugar industry of North Queensland. As hard-working pioneers of Bartle Frere, he and his Maltese wife Pauline endure crippling privations and discrimination in pursuit of acceptance and the right to belong. Raising ten talented children, the family's musical concerts benefit welfare, migrants, war-time patriotic clubs, the community and Zammit's 'eleventh child', the Roman Catholic Church. Calamitous setbacks with polio and alleged tax evasion contrast starkly with gold mining, a 10-month world tour, King George VI's coronation, and the Vatican's conferral of the first Benemerenti Medal in Queensland. Holding firm to a vision of progress, Paul and Pauline Zammit espouse traditional Maltese values in parallel with fervent loyalty to their new

homeland of Australia. **Benemerenti Medal**

The John Oxley Library has been fortunate to receive a donation of a medal awarded to Paul Zammit by the Catholic Church in recognition of his services to the church and the Catholic community in North Queensland. The Benemerenti medal was first awarded by Pope Pius VI (1775-1799) in recognition of military merit. In 1925 the Catholic Church broadened the scope of the medal to serve as a mark of recognition for services to the church in both a civil and military capacity. Paul Zammit, a Maltese pioneer of North Queensland, was awarded the medal by Pope Pius XII in January 1948 for building the Church of St. Paul amidst the cane-fields of Bartle Frere. Zammit was the first person in Queensland to be awarded the Benemerenti Medal for distinguished service.

The story of Paul Zammit is a remarkable one. He was born in Malta in about 1888 and immigrated to Australia in 1912 where he worked in the Chillagoe mines and later in the cane-fields of North Queensland. He eventually settled in Mooliba, near Bartle Frere, around 1919. By December 1913 his wife, Paulina, with their first child had joined him in Queensland and over the following twenty years the couple had nine more children, all of whom were talented musicians.

Paul Zammit became one of the most successful sugar farmers in North Queensland and prospered financially with numerous property investments. He used his growing prosperity to support many migrants from Italy and Malta and his deep faith led to him funding the construction of the Catholic Church of St. Paul in the cane-fields of Bartle Frere. The little concrete church was opened on 31 August 1947.

Paul Zammit died in 1959 after contributing so much to the business and community life of North Queensland. The Church of St. Paul was unfortunately destroyed by Cyclone Winifred in 1986 and the Benemerenti Medal was transferred to St. Rita's Catholic Church in Babinda where it was on display for many years before being donated to the State Library of Queensland by the descendants of Paul Zammit. The beautiful medal, housed in a velvet lined box, may be viewed at the John Oxley Library, Acc: 28911, Box 16917 O/S A3. Lynn Meyers - Original Materials Librarian, State Library of Queensland.



## BONNIE LEE GALEA JAZZ in CHEEK Quintet

Wed 8 May 2024

(with Josh Chenoweth on trumpet)

Wed 29 May 2024

(with Peter Raidel on saxophone)

Wed 5 Jun 2024

(with Josh Chenoweth on trumpet)

Wed 26 Jun 2024 (with Peter

Raidel on saxophone)

**THE ROYAL OAK, 123 O'Connell St, North Adelaide**

7pm - 10pm (FREE ENTRY)

JOIN US FOR SOME .... Cheeky JAZZ, Smokey BLUES & SWINGing Rhythms



from Billie Holiday, Ella, Jobim, Nina Simone & Ruth Brown to Melody Gardot, Madeleine Perouyx, Beth Hart to Blossom Dearie & more.... DANCE - DRINK & DINE the night away.

**Featuring** Bonnie Lee

Galea | Quinton

Dunne | Richard

Coates | Steve Todd | Josh

Chenoweth

(FREE ENTRY)

Wanting to book for dinner?

Call (08) 8267 2488 Facebook Event

Link:- <https://fb.me/e/1SILxUP4I>

### Bonnie & the BoyZ!

(Classic Hits 70's-90's)

SAT 11 MAY 2024

NORWOOD HOTEL - Finn McCool's, The Parade

9pm - Midnight (FREE ENTRY)

*NB: NOT JAZZ ... Just classic funky, soul, soft rock, contemporary pop, reggae and more hits of the 60's -- 90's. Sharing around the duets and vocals come enjoy Bonnie & the BoyZ! choice songs and have a bevvie or two and 3 hours of an eclectic assortment of favourite hits by Rickie Lee Jones, Fleetwood Mac, Blondie, Bob Marley, Indigo Girls, Nora Jones, Steely Dan, Smokie & Suzie Quatro, Beatles, Otis Redding, Linda Ronstadt and more.*

### BONNIE LEE GALEA

FROM WHENCE SHE CAME

South Australian born singer Bonnie Lee Galea of Maltese Heritage, first left Australia in 1991 at age 25 to work on gambling ships as a croupier, in Singapore & Indonesia. A year and a half later she found herself swimming the waters of the Malacca Straits after her ship was hit and sunk in 1992. Returning to Adelaide all too soon & contemplating her next move she planned

her escape in 1993 and ran away with the circus, to be one of 3 dancers, touring regional Victoria for Silver's Grande Magic Circus. But soon again her Mediterranean gypsy blood enticed her to leave the circus behind and travel the countries of the world exploring various professions, cultures & arts.

#### **HOW & WHERE THE MUSIC BEGAN**

During this time Bonnie had the opportunity of supporting James Morrison's brother, John Morrison at the Darwin Casino's 'Jazz on the Lawns' with her band Firewater, and also performed for charity organisations where the main act would be a great Australian Artist such as Glenn Shorrock & James Blundell. Bonnie also appeared in two or three different roles in the 2004 production of 'Guys & Dolls' presented by Kris Stewart at the Darwin Entertainment Centre.

*Leaving Darwin in late 2007, Bonnie relocated to QLD where she spent three years gigging and honing her talents more towards the Blues & Jazz genre, alongside well respected, talented Qld musician friends. Performing up and down the East Coast of Australia in her newly named line up BONFIRE from a duo to 6pc band. Soon though her gypsy within decided it was time to return to her hometown - Adelaide* Bonnie has such an eclectic taste in music and styles from country, reggae, classic pop hits to jazz, blues, swing and foreign songs, she performs all styles under individual band names. Although her natural tone seems to gravitate to the Jazz Era, Cabaret seemed to be an effortless fit. She loves to keep those wonderful masterpieces of music and famous musicians alive, specifically enjoying selected songs with quirky, powerful lyrics that tell a story and singing them with the sass & attitude required to connect heart to audience.

Performing interstate & locally accompanied by some of the most talented local musicians from SA or in each state, on a huge variety of instruments including double bass, guitar, sax/flute, congas etc. Reviving memorable compositions in their own unique style, tailored to suit each individual demographic, venue or event.

**Bonnie Lee Galea's** performances range from large corporate public & private events, weddings & festivals to intimate dining experiences & cocktail parties, wineries, golf clubs etc. Whether you are looking at this website in view of a band for your Wedding or a Party, maybe a Corporate Event or Function – possibly even with a theme, or for a Theatre Show, Festival or General Venue performance. You will find a few different selections here to choose from, as Bonnie will tailor her music & band to suit any of the above and also has four current shows tour ready – BESSIE BILLIE DINAH, YOU MUST REMEMBER THIS, Our Christmas Favourites & BLONDE BOMBSHELLS OF JAZZ, available for Theatres locally, nationally or Internationally.

#### **Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.**

(Inc. No. A1737) A.B.N. 66 736475 892

**477 Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria 3052, Australia**

**Telephone (03) 9387 8922      Facsimile (03) 9387 83 09**

**Internet Website: <http://www.mccv.org.au>**

**Email Address: [admin@mccv.org.au](mailto:admin@mccv.org.au)**



#### **Avviz Kommunitarju/Community Notice**

Join us for an unique experience of a journey around the globe, all in one afternoon, at the **Bowery Theatre, St. Albans Community Centre, located at 33 Princess Street, St. Albans. Next Saturday, 4 May, 2024 from 1.00 pm to 5 pm. Admission is free!**

A special invitation to young people of Maltese descent for this unique opportunity to meet other young Maltese. The program includes performances, bands, and dancing. This World culture festival is being organized by the International Youth Fellowship together with other ethnic organisations, including the Maltese Community Council of Victoria. Visit the Maltese stand where you will find, Maltese food, Show Bags full of surprises, Giveaways and information about other activities held by the Maltese Community in Victoria..Obo

The President and Executive Committee

**MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA**



## Greystanes – the “Little Malta” of NSW had many poultry farms

*The Late Frank Cefi. 17, February, 2014. Picture: Gene Ramire*

*Construction of Our Lady of Queen Peace Church. 17, February, 2014. Picture: Gene Ramirez*

**Greystanes** is a suburb in Greater Western Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. Greystanes is located 25 kilometres west of the Sydney central business district in the local government area of Cumberland Council. Founded in the late 1790s, Greystanes is one of the oldest suburbs in Sydney

Greystanes area was dubbed “Little Malta” by the Sydney Sun newspaper due to the influx of Maltese migrants since the 1910s who had settled in the area and taken up poultry farming or market gardening. By 1932, 30% of the produce sold at the Sydney fruit and vegetable markets was supplied by Maltese market gardeners. Gozo Road, Greystanes is named after Gozo – the second largest Island in Malta. Thus, giving recognition to the Maltese influence in Greystanes.

Many of the Maltese operated poultry and pig farms. Some of these businesses from Greystanes and surrounds, have become household names throughout Australia and are still in operation. Baiada Chickens and Cordina Farms, are two of the biggest commercial success stories to emerge from the local Maltese community. Others include Zammit Smallgoods and Fresh Farm Eggs.

Former Maltese corner shop in front of OLQP Catholic Church, corner of Ettalong Rd & Old Prospect Rd

The Maltese Club, previously owned by the Catholic Church, was located on the current site of Genista Aged Care Facility at 185 Old Prospect Road. The former corner shop across the road from the Catholic church, was one of many Maltese stores in the area, which sold pastizzi, kinnie and ravioli. There was also The Maltese Herald newspaper, which was published from 1961 to 2013. The Maltese Herald’s office was situated in nearby Merrylands.

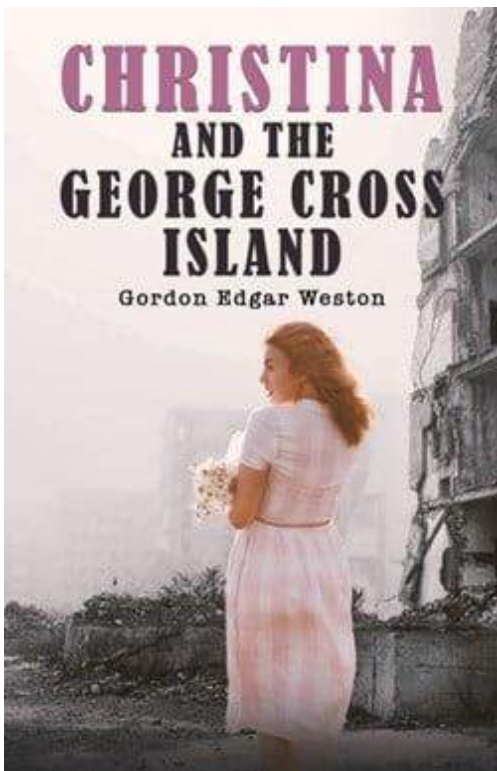
Greystanes still has a large Maltese Australian community, which can still be seen today. The Maltese began a strong culture of Christmas lights and nativity sets in Greystanes, starting officially in Darling Street (no longer participates), then Camellia Street (no longer participates) and now Cumberland Road (still active). There are still stand-out displays annually, every December throughout Greystanes.

In 1965, the fourth centenary of the Great Siege of Malta, the statue of Our Lady of Victories (il-Bambina - a patron saint of Malta) arrived in Greystanes to the great joy of the Maltese; not only from the immediate area, but also from many other parts of Sydney. She is the centrepiece of the Greystanes Catholic Community and Our Lady Queen of Peace church, and is the centrepiece of the annual Maltese Festa procession.<sup>[6]</sup> She is a beautifully hand crafted statue from Bolzano, Italy; a replica of il-Bambina from Gozo, commissioned and funded by the Greystanes Maltese Community. Il-Vitorja or Victory Day, is a public holiday celebrated in Malta, which also coincides with the commemoration of the birth of the Virgin Mary (il-Bambina). Hereby giving the traditional name to this statue.



The first procession in honour of Our Lady in the parish was held in 1962, under the title of Our Lady of Lourdes. However, since the arrival of the statue, the Maltese community have celebrated an annual Festa (il-Vitorja & il-Bambina) every October since 1965, in and around the Catholic Church (as every village in Malta traditionally does).

Our Lady Queen of Peace church and parish was intended to be named and dedicated to Our Lady of Victories, in honour of the aforementioned statue. However, despite hundreds of years of tradition surrounding this statue, the clergy of the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta deemed it incorrect to have the moniker Victories attached to Our Lady. The church and parish were to be known as Our Lady Queen of Peace, when Frank Cefai finished construction in 1975. The statue of Our Lady of Victories is on display inside Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church. She is carried by hand, traditionally, at the annual procession of the OLQP Maltese Festa



## CHRISTINA AND THE GEORGE CROSS ISLAND

by [Gordon Edgar Weston](#)

*Christina and the George Cross Island* by Weston, Gordon Edgar;; 354 pages; ISBN 978-1-03-584724-2

**PAPERBACK 12.99**

  
**AUSTIN MACAULEY PUBLISHERS™**  
 LONDON • CAMBRIDGE • NEW YORK • SHARJAH  
 EST. 2006

In the years leading up to the Second World War, amidst an economic depression, a young cabaret dancer from Northern England accepts a job at a modest music hall in Malta, a Mediterranean island. Unbeknownst to her, the outbreak of war following Italy's declaration against Britain and France in the summer of 1940 would leave her stranded in Malta for the entirety of the conflict. In these challenging times, she finds herself working for the Royal Air Force and embroiled in a

passionate love affair with a distinguished RAF pilot. The author, drawing on contemporary eyewitness accounts and historical resources, sets the scene against a backdrop of bravery, resilience, and sacrifice. This period marks the two and a half years when Malta's population and its defenders valiantly withstood the relentless onslaught of the Italian and German air forces. *Christina and the George Cross Island* weaves a narrative that blends fact with fiction, infusing both humour and heartbreak into this compelling tale of war, love, and endurance.

### UK Office

Austin Macauley Publishers™ Ltd, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5AA - United Kingdom.

mail@austinmacauley.com +44 (0) 203 515 0352 +44 (0) 207 038 8212

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austinmacauley.com/us/ Email-usa@austinmacauley.com +1 (646) 512 5767

### UAE Office

Sharjah Publishing City Austin Macauley Publishers, PO Box 519201, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates  
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2024**  
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### **GHANA GHAND TAL-IŻGEJ**

18/05/24, 03:00

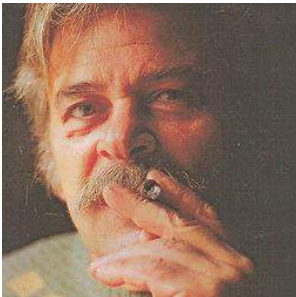
57, Minżel E. Attard Bezzina, Żejtun

Another exciting opportunity to immerse yourself in the authentic and grassroots context of għana Free

### **IL-QAGHDA TAL-MUMENT**

20/05/24, 03:00 The Splendid, Strait Street, Valletta

An audio-visual installation dedicated to exploring the poetry and music of Frans Baldacchino 'Il-Budaj'



Audio-Visual Installation

### **NIFTAKAR FIK, FRANS 'IL-BUDAJ' - CONCERT**

20/05/24, 04:00

Splendid, Strait Street, Valletta

An intimate concert paying tribute to the legacy of Frans Baldacchino 'Il-Budaj'

### **TRADITIONAL MALTESE INSTRUMENTS - A**

### **PRESENTATION ON LOCAL PIPES AND WIND INSTRUMENTS.**

21/05/24, 00:30

The Splendid, Strait Street, Valletta

An introductory workshop on Maltese wind instruments

Workshop

### **THE MALTESE TAMBOURINE AND PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS**

21/05/24, 02:00

The Splendid, Strait Street, Valletta

A presentation which aims to give a historical and musical overview of the design, context and use of percussion instruments in the Maltese folk tradition.

Workshop Register

### **DAQQ TAL-PREJEM: AN INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW TO THE USE OF TRADITIONAL GUITAR IN MALTESE GHANA**

22/05/24, 01:30

The Splendid, Strait Street, Valletta

This workshop is the first of its kind, dedicated to enlightening the public about the use of traditional guitars in Maltese għana.

Workshop





# MALTA NATIONAL FEASTS

## Arts Council Malta

### Freedom Day

Freedom Day is a Maltese national holiday celebrated annually on the 31st of March. This holiday marks the day when Malta officially became free from British occupation.

### Sette Giugno

The Sette Giugno is a national holiday celebrated annually on the 7th of June. This day commemorates the tragic historical event when six people were killed in the wake of a riot against the British administration.

### Victory Day

Victory Day is a national holiday celebrated annually on the 8th of September. The holiday commemorates Malta's three greatest victories: The Great Siege in 1565, The Siege of Valletta in 1800 and The Second World War in 1943

### Independence Day

Independence Day is an annually celebrated national holiday that marks the day Malta was granted its freedom from the British Empire's rule on the 21st of September 1964.

### Dun Karm Day

On this day, Malta celebrates the memory of Dun Karm Psaila, the author of the Maltese National Anthem and the island's National Poet.

### Remembrance Day

This event, usually held on the Sunday closest to the 11th of November (the day the Armistice was signed in 1918 bringing the end of the first world war),

### Republic Day

Republic Day is an annually celebrated national holiday that commemorates the day Malta became a Republic State on the 13th December 1974. This day marks the election of Malta's first ever president: Sir Anthony Mamo.

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Sir Anthony Mamo.



Freedom Day  
31st March  
1979

Sette Giugno  
7th June 1919





**Victory Day**  
8th September

**Independence Day**  
21st September 1964

**Dun Karm Day**  
13th - 18th October

**Remembrance Day**  
11th November

**Republic Day**  
13th December 1974



## MMG CONCERT BAND OF VICTORIA AUSTRALIA



What an amazing event to be a part of on Saturday! Celebrating our diverse cultures we have in Brimbank, at an event arranged by [IYF Melbourne](#) with support from Brimbank Council, the [Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.](#) and the many other cultural groups and Associations. Thank you for inviting and having us, to share a small slice of our Maltese Culture. A huge thank you to our Junior Band for coming along and

showcasing your love of music. You make us all proud. Thanks also goes out to Tanya and Harry for preparing both bands for the event. A special thanks to our musicians who joined us. Another day of amazing music.

# Australia, Best Place For Migrants —

## SAYS MALTESE SETTLER

*By A Staff Reporter*

The stretch between Malta and Australia is too long to allow migrants to seek a holiday with their families a few years after settling down in the Dominion.

Mr. Anthony Grima of Birzebbuga, however, has managed to come back for a three-month visit after five years — and to sandwich a visit to the United Kingdom in this period — in spite of a story of adversity which beset him after his second year in Australia.

Twenty-eight-year-old Anthony Grima left Malta in 1948 to seek a new fortune in Melbourne where he had relatives. In Malta he was a shipwright in H.M. Dockyard where he had served his apprenticeship. He worked as a joiner and shipwright on the waterfront in Melbourne.

### Serious Injury

In April 1950, Mr. Grima was seriously injured in the leg while he was at work and spent 11 months in hospital as a result. He lodged a private claim for compensation and received £3,000 in a settlement with his employers and insurance agents which was reached out of court.

**Times of Malta**  
**8 September 1953**



*Mr. Anthony Grima*

Since that time, Mr. Grima has been working as a despatch clerk with an American firm owning major chemical works in Melbourne. He has returned to Malta to pay a visit to his family who were very keen to see him since he emerged from hospital.

He came to Malta accompanied by his uncle and cousin. Mr. Grima's uncle has been in Australia for the last 33 years. During most of this time, he has been running a successful fruit and vegetable business.

Mr. Grima thinks that Australia is the best place in the world for the emigrant. Conditions of life — social and economic — are attractive and no other country in the world has so much to offer as Australia in the way of social services, he concluded.



### THE HISTORY OF MALTESE EMIGRATION

They left their  
homeland  
MALTA  
in their thousands  
in the 50s, 60s and 70s  
to find a better  
future for their  
families  
and went to far away  
places like  
Australia  
Canada  
United States  
United Kingdom  
because Malta  
was overpopulated  
and there were  
no jobs for them  
and for their children

*Many of them passed away  
We remember and thank  
them for their sacrifices*



14 April 1944

PANDORA'S BOX - SLIEMA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Get ready to sail back in time and immerse yourself in the turbulent history of the Great Siege of Malta. Join us on a harbour cruise on the 18th of May 2024, reliving the violent and climactic events of the summer of 1565.

# Harbour Tour

## The Great Siege

This unique experience will take you on a journey around the Grand Harbour and Marsamxett Harbour, focusing on the bloodied highlights of this sensational siege.

18th May  
18:00

With limited seating, tickets are selling fast, so be sure to book your spot now at Store – Heritage Malta or at any of our museums and sites.



# Malta's "Endless Mediterranean Summer" of Events & Festivals Beckons

by [Linda Hohnholz](#)

Summer is always a busy season of festivals and events, but Malta and its sister island Gozo continue to be a vibrant hotspot in the Fall, offering a diverse array of concerts and festivals. With a packed year-long event schedule, Malta promises something for everyone, while also inviting visitors to explore its three sister islands: Malta, Gozo, and Comino.

## **Village Festas – at Parishes Across Malta and Gozo**

[Village "Festas,"](#) also known as *Il-Festa*, an annual community event with religious roots, is held in village parishes across Malta and its sister island, Gozo. This traditional Maltese village feast has now been recognized by the [United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization](#), UNESCO, as part of Malta's intangible cultural heritage. Malta's main *fešta* season kicks off annually in late April and extends until early October, featuring numerous events in various villages.

## **Malta**

### **Malta Jazz Festival – July 8 – 13, 2024**

Considered by the international jazz community as a "true" jazz festival and a beacon of artistic integrity, the Malta Jazz Festival presents a panorama of jazz music in all its facets. This Jazz Festival stands out as an event that achieves a perfect balance between the savant and more popular elements of jazz.

### **Isle of MTV Malta – July 16, 2024**

Held in partnership with the Malta Tourism Authority, Isle of MTV Malta will return to the island's il-Fosos Square on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, with headlining performances from DJ Snake and RAYE. Promising huge, open-air sets, Europe's biggest free Summer festival is in its 16th year.

Isle of MTV 2023

### **Dance Festival Malta – July 25 – 28, 2024**

Dance Festival Malta is a multi-disciplinary festival that strives to cultivate a dance environment in Malta. The festival will host a series of workshops, masterclasses, and performances that welcome international and local artists and choreographers. This unique festival will allow attendees to immerse themselves in the dance culture of Malta.

### **Victory Day National Feast (*Festa*) – September 8, 2024**

Victory Day is a national holiday celebrated annually on September 8. The holiday commemorates Malta's three greatest victories: The Great Siege in 1565, The Siege of Valletta in 1800 and The Second World War in 1943. Each year, Malta gathers as a nation in order to remember the bravery and resilience of its forefathers. The festivities commence two days prior with a commemorative event held during the evening in front of the Great Siege Monument in Valletta.

### **Notte Bianca – October 5, 2024**

*Notte Bianca* is one of Malta's biggest annual arts and culture festivals. For one special night, every first Saturday of October, the Valletta cityscape lights up with a spectacular celebration of the arts, open to the public free of charge. Local museums, piazzas, state palaces, and churches transform their property into venues to hold live performances and concerts, while other restaurants and cafés extend their hours to serve the festival celebrants.

### **Rolex Middle Sea Race – Beginning October 19, 2024 in Valletta's Grand Harbour**

Malta, the crossroads of the Mediterranean, will host the 45th Rolex Middle Sea Race, an iconic race, featuring some of the world's premier mariners on the most high-tech vessels in the sea. The race begins in Valletta's Grand Harbour beneath the historic Fort St. Angelo. Participants will embark on the 606 nautical mile classic, traveling to the Eastern coast of Sicily, up towards the Strait of Messina, before heading North to the Aeolian Islands and the active volcano of Stromboli. Passing between Marettimo and Favignana the crews head South towards the island of Lampedusa, passing Pantelleria on the way back to Malta.

## **Gozo**

**DANCE FESTIVAL MALTA, 25 – 28 JULY 2024**

Dance Festival Malta is a multi-disciplinary festival that strives to cultivate a dance ecosystem in Malta by providing dance students and professionals with a platform for intense training and professional development. Spread over four days in July the festival will host a series of workshops, masterclasses, and performances that welcome the richness of the universal language of dance cultures, featuring established international artists and choreographers. Through this varied programme, audiences and participants can be part of a unique festival that not only celebrates movement but aims to be a reference point where dancers forge links with the global dance community and encourages intercultural exchanges. Dance Festival Malta represents a re-examination of how we look at dance, inviting you to share in a world of passion, movement, and connection in Malta.

**DELICATA WINE FESTIVAL, AUGUST TBA 2024**

The Delicata Classic Wine Festival will provide a sophisticated evening with world-famous Maltese wines at the Upper Barrakka Gardens in Valletta! This festival, to be held at the local Delicata winery, offers visitors the opportunity to sample the best local vintage wines. Visitors can enjoy music in this beautiful setting and try new, classic, and vintage wines.

**SUMMER DAZE MALTA, AUGUST 11 - 18, 2024**

Summer Daze Malta is a music and dance festival. The festival hosts world-famous artists every year. So far, many different artists have performed, from David Guetta to Rita Ora, Tyga to Paul Kalkbrenner. Summer Daze Malta, held in São Paulo Bay and Ta'Qali National Park, attracts many locals and foreigners who love music.

**VICTORY DAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024**

In Malta, September 8th is a very special holiday because it commemorates three different occasions: the religious celebration of the Virgin Mary's birth, the end of the 1565 siege, and the day the British defeated the Italian army in World War II. The festivities take place in Senglea, Naxxar, Mellieha, and Xaghra in Gozo. Since 1878, a rowing regatta has been held every year in the large harbor basin between six teams from Malta's major harbor areas—a great spectacle!

**Independence Day, September 21, 2024**

Malta gained its political independence from Britain on September 21, 1964. In the evening, the Maltese flag was raised at Independence Arena in Floriana, to the applause of a huge crowd of people. Since then, many festivities and activities have been taking place every year on September 21 to properly celebrate this day.

**September**

This is the closing month of the festa season in Gozo as summer slowly comes to an end, yet the sea is still perfect for a swim and various water-related activities. There is usually a wine festival organized in Nadur in the first week of September. A series of live music events are organized all summer long in village squares and seaside villages, which culminate in September.

**Opera in Gozo – October 12, 24 & 26, 2024**

Malta has long been influenced by Italian culture, particularly opera. Artists, including singers and musicians, arrived in 1631 from nearby Syracuse to perform at the invitation of the Italian Knights of the Order. The Manoel Theatre in Valletta, Europe's third-oldest working theater, showcased baroque operas from 1736. Then, on October 9, 1866, a more spacious Royal Opera House in Valletta was officially inaugurated. However, the Royal Opera House was destroyed during World War II, leading to a decline in Malta's operatic prominence. This vacuum was filled through the inauguration of Gozo's Aurora Opera House on October 9, 1976. This brought about the rebirth of opera on the Maltese Islands. The first opera ever in Gozo, Giacomo Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, was presented here on January 7 & 8, 1977. The Astra Theatre, originally inaugurated on January 20, 1968, ventured into the realm of operatic production on September 15 & 16, 1978, with Giuseppe Verdi's *Rigoletto* and Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* respectively.

Over the years, renowned singers like Nicola Rossi-Lemeni, Aldo Protti, and Maltese artists Miriam Gauci and Joseph Calleja have graced both opera houses.

This year's productions in Gozo are Puccini's *Il Trittico* at the Aurora Theatre on October 12 and Verdi's *Giovanna d'Arco* at the Astra Theatre on October 24 & 26.

**November**

At the end of November (date yet to be determined), a concert is usually held to commemorate the start of the Christmas period in Gozo while the street decorations in Victoria are lit up.



## Local and Canadian choirs join forces for Hospice Malta

The St Monica Vocal Ensemble and the Vancouver Island Choir from Canada in concert

The St Monica Vocal Ensemble and the Vancouver Island Choir from Canada are holding a joint concert in aid of Hospice Malta at Robert Samut Hall in



Floriana, on May 11.

*Voices of Two Islands* unfolds with the Canadian choir, who will present *Fa Una Canzone* by Orazio Vecchi, *Kyrie* from *Mass in A minor* by Antonio Lotti, *Ecco Mormorar l'Onde* by Claudio Monteverdi and the traditional spiritual *Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel*, among other pieces. Following this, the choir, together with the St Monica Vocal Ensemble, will perform an arrangement of *Nella Fantasia*, composed by Ennio Morricone.

In the second part of the programme, the St Monica Vocal Ensemble will take centre stage with a diverse selection of pieces, such as *What a Wonderful World*, accompanied on the trumpet by Nicholas Busuttill, the traditional Italian song *Bella Ciao*, arranged by Jerry Estes, *Irish Blessing* by

Bob Chilcott, *Da Pacem Domine* by John Purifoy, and an *a cappella* rendition of Leonard Cohen's timeless classic *Hallelujah*.

As the evening draws to a close, the Vancouver Island Choir will interpret *A Canadian Mosaic*, featuring excerpts from various songs. The finale sees both choirs unite as they perform *Għanjiet Maltin*, a collection of traditional Maltese songs arranged by former St Monica Vocal Ensemble choir member Mario Attard.

The St Monica Vocal Ensemble will be under the direction of Jean Paul Attard, along with Roanna Vella as assistant director and pianist, while the Vancouver Island Choir is led by Patricia Plumley and accompanied by pianist Andrea Lahmer.

The concert starts at 7pm and attendees will be asked to donate €10, with proceeds supporting Hospice Malta. Tickets can be secured in advance, by filling out this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/eRbvSjiyQG>

For more information and updates, visit the choir's official Facebook page.

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# ‘Go Back To Your Country? Malta Is My Country’ – Teenage Indian Activist Speaks Out



By Tim Diacono

A 15-year-old Indian activist who has been living in Malta for most of her life has called out people who told her to “go back to her country” in response to a recent powerful speech about climate change.

“These comments really sadden me,” Rhythm Garg told Lovin Malta. “I wouldn’t even dream of writing something like that; what does writing something so racist say about you as a person?”

**“Moreover, when you tell me to ‘go back’ to my country... this *is* my country. I see Malta as my country and my home. India is my country, but so is Malta. I think I am part of Malta and people have welcomed me as one of them.”**

Rhythm said her family moved to Malta around ten years ago after receiving medical advice that she should live in a sunny place with clean air, as a result of her asthma and other health complications.



**While in Malta, she learned the Maltese language and grew fascinated with its unique blend of Semitic and European elements.**

“It’s a beautiful language,” she said. However, in a special Parliament session organised by PN MP Eve Borg Bonello, she warned that the air is no longer as clean as it was when she moved here some ten years ago.

“As a girl who sees Malta as her home, I felt I had the duty and the responsibility to speak about this serious topic,” she said. “We can already see the consequences [of climate change] and I’m worried about my future, because if we continue down this path I don’t think its going to be a very good one.”

