



THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

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AUSTRALIA DAY

SURVIVAL DAY

celebrating 40,000+ years of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and survival • celebrating 200+ years since Captain Cook and the first fleet arrived • 1966 - abolition of White Australia Policy • 1975 - Racial Discrimination Act passed • 1993 - Native Title Act passed • 1995 - Racial Hatred Act passed • barbecue with friends • great beaches • 1967 - Aborigines counted as Australian citizens • 2007 - Racial Discrimination Act suspended so government can take control of Aboriginal land and quarantine welfare payments • public holiday • Hottest 100 • place of refuge • anniversary of citizenship

We all think about different things on January 26. Australia has come a long way but still has a long way to go. Let's use the day to celebrate our achievements, our uniqueness, and our diversity. Use the rest of the year to help make things better for everyone.

celebrate acknowledge

diversity history

On Australia Day we Australians come together as a nation to celebrate what's great about Australia and being Australian. It's the day to reflect on what we have achieved and what we can be proud of in our great nation. It's the day for us to re-commit to making Australia an even better place for the future. Australia Day, 26 January, is the anniversary of the arrival of the First Fleet of 11 convict ships from Great Britain, and the raising of the Union Jack at Sydney Cove by its commander Captain Arthur Phillip, in 1788 (you can read a comprehensive history of the evolution of Australia Day [here](#)).

Though 26 January marks this specific event, today Australia Day celebrations reflect contemporary Australia: our diverse society and landscape, our remarkable achievements and our bright future. It also is an opportunity to reflect on our nation's history, and to consider how we can make Australia an even better place in future. On Australia Day, half of the nation's population of 24 million attend either an organised community event, or get together with family and friends with the intention of celebrating our national day. Many more spend the public holiday relaxing with family and friends.

Yet Australia Day is much more than barbeques and fireworks. It is more than another public holiday. It is more than the pride and excitement of new citizens who call themselves Australian for the first time on 26 January after being conferred citizenship. At its core, Australia Day is a day driven by communities, and the celebrations held in each town, suburb or city – unified by the celebration of what's great about Australia and being Australian – are the foundation of its ongoing success.



The date of 26 January is part of history for all Australians. It marks the survival of our Indigenous people, our convict heritage, and the enriching of contemporary Australian culture by the millions of people who have since called this country home. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations had change forced upon them with the coming of European

laws, values and social constructs. Many see this day as a time to discuss issues affecting our national identity – it can be valuable for people to engage with Australia Day and add meaning in their own way.



AUSTRALIA DAY 2017



The Maltese Newsletter
The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

It's Free, Non-Political, Bilingual and Addictive



We thank you for your kind support
 Keep on sending us your comments, emails, suggestions
 news and articles. It's your journal!!!!



'Irreparable' damage done to Ġgantija Temples

A couple were caught etching love messages to each other on a megalith at the 5,500-year-old UNESCO World

Heritage Site. When caught in the act, one of the culprits reportedly reacted by saying: "Why are you making such a fuss?" **Ġgantija Temples: older than the Egyptian pyramids. Photo: Angelo Giampiccolo**



Malta's Mosta Church – when the bomb came through the roof

Malta is not all beaches and hedonistic fun. Take time out on your travels there to pop into some of the many historic sights.

Take the Mosta Church for example.

Malta wasn't at all prepared for the Second World War. She had no aircraft but British Prime Minister Neville

Chamberlain said, "this is a time to show strength, not weakness." Aircraft pilots were not trained or ready for battle.

In January 1941, the Luftwaffe (the German air force) came to Malta on bombing missions from Sicily and then in November they started using Stukas (dive bombers). In order to win the air battle, Malta needed Spitfires. Forty-seven had flown in on 20th April but they were



monitored on radar and bombed as soon as they landed. In what became known as the "glorious 10th of May," sixty-three German aircraft were damaged or destroyed.

During the Second World War, Malta was the most bombed place on earth. More than 14,000 bombs were dropped, destroying about 30,000 buildings but Malta still fought on. More than 1,500 civilians were killed in Malta during the Second World War.

However, the devout Maltese Catholics, were convinced Malta wouldn't fall to the enemy. In 1942 a bomb fell right down through the roof of Mosta church. This was one of the biggest churches and reputedly there were over 250 people attending a service at that time. No one was killed and this was considered as a miracle.

A replica bomb is now in the church. (photo) *A replica of the bomb*

LOUIS BEZZINA AND HAMEED ALI: Cut throat barbers discuss how to keep profession and customers alive in Queensland



[Photo: Inside a Mackay cut throat barber shop, Louis Bezzina \(pictured front\) and Hameed Ali show off their razors. \(ABC Tropical North: Sophie Kesteven\)](#)

Most hairdressers welcome chatter in their salons, but one barber assures it is best not to talk, especially while holding a sharp razor blade against their throat. According to Louis Bezzina, there is only one real barber.

"These days everybody wants to use the safety razor ... but the real barber is the cut throat barber," he said, smiling. "I say 'I think you better shut your eyes and relax and leave it to the barber otherwise we might both be in trouble'."

The 64-year-old opened up his barber shop 33 years ago after he migrated to Mackay, north Queensland, from Malta. Not only did he develop the skills to become a cut throat barber from his father in Malta, but he also represented his country as a cyclist in the 1972 Summer Olympics.

"I was a barber [in Malta], but it was hard to start a business [here] so I had to work elsewhere and get to know the people around Mackay and I decided to open in 1983, and I've really never looked back," he said. He said the role of the cut throat barber had changed over the years, and recalled using straight blades in the past that required sharpening.

"But it's easier to just change the blade these days, so it's still good and will still give you a good shave," Mr Bezzina said. The cut throat profession is not as common as it used to be, but the retired barber has continued to keep both the art and customers alive by passing down his knowledge to 25-year-old Hameed Ali.

"I could see he was promising ... we got on very well and he owns the business now and he's a good barber too," he said. Surrounded by razors, clippers and scissors, Mr Ali appeared to be in his element inside the barber shop after taking over the business a couple of years ago. Just like his former boss, Mr Ali also grew up in a foreign country. He spent his childhood in Fiji and originally worked in his uncle's cut throat barber shop from a young age.

"I used to run away from the shop because he used to make me sweep floors all day ... then my cousins would call me back and I started to enjoy it," Mr Ali recalled. "It is a good art ... and you learn every day," he said.

DEVELOPING TRUST IN THE BARBER Part of the role of being a cut throat barber does not only involve shaving faces, but includes shaving heads with the sharp razor. "They enjoy it because it's relaxing, they so often fall to sleep and we have to be careful if they fall asleep that they don't nudge us," Mr Ali said.

"Customers do get nervous, and I try to make them more nervous too sometimes," he laughed. "But they all trust me because I've been here long enough ... I started in 2009 when my parents moved to Mackay." Mr Ali said he enjoyed seeing their happiness in others after they have received a close shave. "I never use shaving gear on my face, I always use cut throat," he said. Although, Mr Bezzina retired two years ago after being involved in two bike accidents in six weeks, he said would like to one day return to his beloved profession. "I'm getting a bit better and I hope later on I could make a bit of a comeback casually," he said. "It's in the blood, barbering."

Agħmel xita agħmel!

Agħmel xita agħmel!
 Halli jikber il-ħaxix,
 il-ħaxix intuh il-mogħża
 u l-mogħża ttina l-ħalib.
*(Il-ħalib intuh lin-nanna
 u n-nanna tagħmlilna l-ġbejniet)*



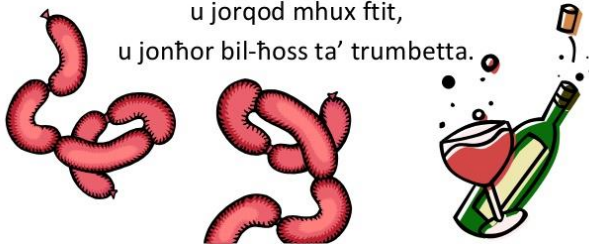
Ajma żaqqi

Ajma żaqqi kemm tuġagħni
 kilt il-ġhenab mhux misjur,
 iddendilt mal-kannizzata
 qisni kelb tal-kaċċatur.



Elf Zalzetta

Hawn raġel, qrajt darba f'gazzetta,
 li jiekol kuljum elf zalzetta.
 U mbagħad xarba nbid,
 u jorqod mhux f'it,
 u jonħor bil-ħoss ta' trumbetta.



Pizzi Pizzi Kanna

Pizzi pizzi kanna,
 Dolores ta' Sant'Anna;
 Sant'Anna tal-Morina
 Ħabba biċċa pellegrina.
 Mgħaref tal-fidda,
 Bandiera tal-ħarir.
 Noli kannoli,
 Insara qaddisin.



Ara Ġejja l-Mewt Għalik!

Ara ġejja l-mewt għalik,
 biex tixwik,
 biex taqlik,
 ara ġejja,
 ara waslet,
 din id-daqqa min tahielek?



Kaxxa Ġugarelli

Għandi kaxxa ġugarelli,
 din mimlija sa fuq nett,
 għandi l-pupa u l-karozza
 u tat-te jien għandi sett.



Ballun ċkejken u safrani,
 ors jiċċaqlaq u vapur,
 hemm xadina qisha ħajja,
 pupu ħelu fuq mutur.



MALTESE NURSERY RYHMES

These Maltese nursery rhymes are designed for children who are learning how to read Maltese. Preschoolers and Kindergartners enjoy picking out the words they can read in their favorite nursery rhymes. All children take great delight in the rhythms and melodies of tunes.

BETLEHEM F'GHAJNSIELEM, GHAWDEX

Mill-korrispondent taghna l-Kav Joe M. Attard



Jiena naħseb li din is-sena 'Betlehem f'Għajnsielem' reġgħet kienet l-akbar attrazzjoni matul il-Milied. Veru li ma' Malta u Għawdex kellna għadd sabiħ ta' presepji, kbar u żgħar, mekkaniċi u statiči li ġibdu ħafna nies; ma' moħħi bħalissa qed jaħbat dak li bena Joseph Attard ta' Triq is-Sagħtar Victoria li kellu madwar 45 moviment u li Ħadd minnhom in-nies ma qatgħetx tħabbat fuq il-bieb ta' daru bejn is-2.30pm u d-9pm u li rebaħ l-ewwel premju fil-kategorija tiegħu; suċċess ukoll kien il-presepju 'Suq u

Mexxi' li qaluli żaruh serbut twil ta' karozzi u dak li għamlet l-Għaqda Ħbieb tal-Presepju fin-Nadur fejn kikkra kafe iswed imsajjar u biċċa ħobż fil-forn ma naqsux!

Imma żgur li żjara lil 'Betlehem f'Għajnsielem' ġarrbuha eluf ta' Maltin u Għawdxin li setgħu jaraw ħafna snajja qodma, mixja fuq il-pont tal-ħbula u rikba fuq id-dgħajsa apparti li setgħu jiltaqgħu ma' numru kbir ta' atturi li bla dubju għamlu ħafna sagrifċju lebsin għal ħin twil il-kostum ta' żmien Kristu tarbija; fost dawn il-tqajna wkoll ma' Patri Marcello Għirlando, il-Gwardjan tal-Patrijiet ta' Giezu li ma kontx tagħrfu mill-ewwel ikisser il-qastan u jitbissem lil kull min inzerat għadda minn ħdejh.

Nghid id-dritt flimkien mal-familja tiegħi (*ara ritratt meħud fi frame li twaħħal apposta fil-qrib*) għaddejt parti mill-Ħadd wara nofs inhar indur u nagħqad u nħabbat wiċċi ma' mijiet ta' viżitaturi ġejjin minn kull rokna, wħud iduqu xi biċċa qagħqa tal-għasel, xi ponn karawett inkaljat, xi tazza mbuljuta, xi pizza, lewż, qastan jew xi xarba ħafifa.

Bla dubju lkoll kemm aħna dħalna nżuru l-għar fejn għal ħin twil stajna naraw lill-familja tal-mastrudaxxa Gużepi flimkien ma' martu Marija u daqsxejn ta' tarbija qrib il-maxtura bil-ħmara u l-baqra, nagħaġ u gidien flimkien ma' ħafna tjur u bhejjem oħra mxerrda ma' din il-medda ta' art li kienet qisha Betlehem oħra. Ma naqsux għadd ta' daqqaqa folkloristi u xi kor tat-tfal ikanta l-għanjiet tal-Milied. Naturalment il-wasla tas-Slaten Magi minn Greccio fejn il-Fqajjar t'Assisi bena l-ewwel presepju komplew żejnu l-cake bl-isbaħ ċirasa.

Prosit tassew lis-Sinku t'Għajnsielem Franco Ciangura li ħolom b'din l-inizjattiva li issa saret parti mill-kalendarju kulturali u edukattiv ta' gżiritna u lill-għadd kbir ta' tfal, żgħażaġħ u adulti li laqgħu l-appell tiegħu u flimkien ingħaqdu biex ta' kull Milied qed joħolqu dan l-ispettaklu soċjo-religjuż li jappella għall-membri tal-familja kollha li bla dubju tkun qed tistennih. Grazzi wkoll lill-għadd kbir ta' sponsors li jagħtu sehemhom għas-suċċess ta' din l-inizjattiva singolari fil-gzejjer Maltin.

LEHEN IL-MALTIN LI JGHIXU BARRA



JIKTEB MONS. JOSE' AGIUS (ROLANDA, PARANA' BRAZIL)

Ghaziz Frank, Qabelxejn nixtieq nibghat lilek u lil qarreja kollha tal- "Maltese Newsletter" kull fejn jinsabu l-isbah xewqat ghal sena gdida, 2017, mimlija sliem, gid u barka smewwija. Din in-newsletter ghalija hi barka fiha nnfisha ghax hafna mit taghrif ta' storja tghallimtu minha ghax qatt qabel ma kont nafu. Grazzi.

Illum qed nibghatlek poezija ohra li hi rizultat tax-xoghol missjunarju tieghi fost zghazagh li gejjin min familji mfarka u f' ambjent ta' qtil minhabba l-kummerc ta' droga, adolexxenti u zghazagh li, fil-faqar taghhom, ibieghu dan il-vizzju biex jaqilghu ftit flus. Nisthajjel lil Kristu, mimli hniena, inewlilhom drieghu biex il-labbra tidhol fih u mhux fihom. Niddedika din il-poezija lil **Fr. Rob Galea** li ma nafux personalmente, izda nisma l-kant sabih tieghu fuq l-internet. Ghax bil-kanzunetti tieghu jaghmel hafna gid fost iz-zghazagh mhux biss l-Awstralja, izda anki hawn il-Brazil.

FUQ SALIB

Iltaqajt mieghek, Mulej tieghi - Fost iz-zghazagh mitlufin
F'sakra d-droga b'labbra jniggzu – lill-gisimhom imsejknin

Newwiltlilhom id-driegh tieghek - Biex il-labbra tidhol fih,
It-tbatija, l-hemm u d-dieqa - Tat-tniggiza w kull ugigh.

Jigu fuqek, igorru mieghek - l-imrar kollu tal-bnedmin
Fuq salibek, terfa s-slaleb - Biex jinhafru l-midimbin.

THE XAGHRA ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE AUSTRALIA DAY 2017 WITH A DINNER DANCE ON SATURDAY 21 JANUARY 2017. DOORS OPEN AT 6.30PM FOR 7.00PM START AT MANDAVILLE FUNCTION CENTRE, 1788 THE HORSLEY DRIVE, HORSLEY PARK NSW. ENTERTAINER: JOE APAP. DINNER 3 COURSE MEAL, BEER, WINE, DRINKS, TEA AND COFFEE, PATIZZI AND FOOD PLATTERS. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: RAY AND JOSEPHINE BIGENI MOB: 0439 974 182 OR M'ANNE TEUMA – 9627 464



The Maltese Community Council of NSW invites the Maltese Community to attend, Australia Day Calibration, on Sunday, January 22nd 2017 at the (Wattle Room), 17 Miller Street, Merrylands NSW 2160, 4 pm. Admission is free. Light refreshments. Parking available. For more information, Contact Emanuel 0409 744 376



Illustrations showing all the European countries flags (Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Vatican City, flags of Kosovo (independence declaration 17th February 2008), England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and European Union

Ricotta Filled Ravioli - Ravjul Tal-Maltin



Maltese ravioli are filled with ricotta.

Our **ravioli recipe** is tasty and quite easy to make. Ravioli in Maltese are called *Ravjul*. Ravioli originate from Italy but on the Maltese Islands they have their own variation of this delicious type of pasta. Maltese ravioli are traditionally larger than Italian ravioli.

A quick search on how to make ravioli on the Internet will give you countless ravioli recipes. However, Maltese ravjul differs in the type of filling that is used. Typical ravioli filling recipes include ones made with meat, crab, lobster, mushroom and spinach.

Maltese Ravioli Recipe: Dough & Filling

Ingredients for Ravioli Filling

400 g (or 14.11 oz) ricotta
2 raw eggs
3 tablespoons grated cheese
A bunch of chopped parsley
Seasoning

Ingredients for Pastry

400 g (or 14.11 oz) plain flour
Salt
2 egg yolks
A little oil

Method

Step 1: How to make ravioli dough

First, sieve the flour together with a teaspoon of salt into a basin. Add the egg yolks and rub together between your fingers, adding 4 tablespoons of vegetable oil and a little warm water. Work the mixture into a smooth dough. Let it rest for an hour.

Divide the pastry into two. Sprinkle some flour on the table (or working space) and on your rolling pin. Roll out one of the halves flat on the table in a square shape. The dough should be rolled in one direction and you also need to turn it occasionally. The end result should be a dough which is about 3 mm thick.

Step 2: Making the ravioli filling

While the dough is resting, start preparing the filling.

Mix the ricotta, eggs, grated cheese and chopped parsley in a mixing bowl together. Add black pepper and salt. Mix well.

Step 3: Making the Ravjul

Take tablespoons of the ricotta filling and pile them up in rows on your flattened pastry square, each a few centimetres apart.

Lower the other pastry half, pressing and sealing firmly around each separate pile of ricotta. Cut out the individual ravioli.

Things are much easier if you have a ravioli maker. We recommend using the Norpro Ravioli Maker and Press.

This ravioli maker is very affordable and you'll be able to make 12 ravioli at once. You don't need a pasta roller, so you can make the dough with your own rolling pin. Quick and easy!

Leave the ravioli to rest for about 15 minutes.

Step 4: Cooking the Ravjul

Boil the ravioli in water (slightly salted) until just done. Drain well.

Step 5: Serving the Ravjul

Ravjul is best served with a simple ravioli sauce, so serve the ravioli with tomato sauce flavoured with garlic and basil. Sprinkle grated cheese on top.

As you can see, making ravioli is not that hard. So why not try this delicious Maltese ravioli recipe instead of buying ready made ravioli? After all, homemade ravioli are always better than the ones you usually buy from supermarkets and grocery stores!



Greeks in Malta

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Greek people have a long presence in Malta, since ancient times. The Greeks used the islands for commerce and it is assumed that the location was a place of competition against the Phoenicians. It is not very clear if the Greeks made any colonies here, but we know that the island was known in Greece under the name **Melite** (*Μελίτη*) a derivative of the Greek

word for honey (*μέλι*), and the Romans later transcribed the name to *Melita*, which evolved into the modern *Malta*.

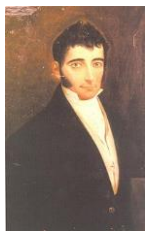
Later, the Eastern Roman Empire which evolved into the Greek-speaking Byzantine Empire, held Malta for almost five centuries, from 395 to 870 AD, until they lost it to the Arabs.

During the 18th and 19th centuries a number of Greeks moved to Malta, coming from the Ottoman held areas in Greece. A number of Greeks from Rhodes island migrated in Malta after 1523, due to the capture of that Greek island by the troops of Suleiman the Magnificent in 1522 after the Siege of Rhodes.

In 1192, Margaritus of Brindisi, a Greek admiral of the Kingdom of Sicily, became the first count of Malta. During the 19th century, the Greek minority built one (Church of St George, Valletta)-of the two extant Greek orthodox churches in Valletta. There is also a catholic greek community on the island.

The Greek Catholic Church of Our Lady of Damascus that houses an icon of the same name, was built in 1571 by Giannis Kalamia, a wealthy Greek, one of 500 Greek Catholics who arrived with the knights in 1530. The Church was destroyed during an air raid on March 24th 1942^[1] but was rebuilt in 1951 from funds collected by the great efforts of Fr. George Schirò, a descendant of one of the original 500. The last surviving descendant carrying the Kalamia name was a disclaled Carmelite nun living in the 18th Century.

One of the most important Greeks of Malta, was the national benefactor Ioannis Papafis, who was originally from Thessaloniki, and moved to Malta in the beginning of 19th century, and lived there - Valletta and Rabat - until the end of his life at 1886, contributing significantly to the local society as well as supporting financially the Greek War of Independence, and later the newly formed Greek state. The current Greek community of Malta is defined as being small by the Greek embassy in Malta.



Ioannis Papafis

Ioannis Papafis (Greek: Ιωάννης Παπάφης; Thessaloniki, Ottoman Greece, 1792 – Malta, 1886) was a merchant and entrepreneur from the region of Macedonia in Greece, considered a national benefactor of Greece. Papafis, after venturing shortly in Smyrna and Alexandria, established his fortuitous enterprise working as a broker in Malta, a place he later considered his second home. His legacy of philanthropic activities include the founding of orphanages and large donations directed to educational and public services and both in Malta and Greece. In Greece he is commemorated for helping in the funding of the Greek War of Independence and in financing crucial sectors of the newly formed Greek state. He was among the primary shareholders of the National Bank of Greece, donated to the University of Athens, and the Greek Orthodox Church through the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople.

His most famous contribution was the establishment of an orphanage in Thessaloniki, which he originally named "The Maltese" (Greek: "Ο Μελιτεύς"), now commonly known as **Papafeio** (Παπάφειο) after him. The male-only orphanage was most active after the Greek Civil War, when it sheltered orphans that numbered in the thousands. Designed by the architect Paionidis, the building of the *Papafeio* took 9 years



“Moving a nation through the promotion and development of sport for a healthy, inclusive and successful Malta.”

As a council under the responsibility of the Secretary Parliamentary for Research, Innovation, Youth and Sport within the Ministry for Education and Employment, Sport Malta's core purpose is to inspire Maltese and transform the nation through sport. Through innovative, fun and meaningful sporting experiences, our mission is to reach out and serve communities across the country with passion and pride. Our mandate goes beyond winning medals. Sport Malta uses sport to create greater sporting opportunities and access, more inclusivity and integration as well as broader development of capabilities. At Sport Malta, we work with a vast network of public-private-people sector partners for individuals to live better through sports

SportMalta's vision is targeted towards the:

- Development and implementation of policies, programmes and practices aimed at improving access and equity in all aspects of sport.
- Maximisation of available resources for the development of sport.
- Strengthen the current incentive schemes and introduce new ones to the benefit of local sport organisations.
- Registration of sport organisations.
- The Sports Act communicates a declaration of principles which inspires the Government in its national policies. These are:
- **Physical Education and Sport:** to be taught and practiced in all primary and secondary schools in accordance to the Education Act.
- **No Discrimination:** ensuring that no one is discriminated against when involved in sport.
- **Recognition:** everyone should have the opportunity to participate in sport, irrespective of gender and abilities.
- **Fair Play:** the Act provides for all participants in sport activities to follow the rules of fair play.
- **No Exploitation:** controls to ensure that when promoting and providing a service in sport, young people are not exploited.

The Federation of Underwater Activities of Malta



F.U.A.M. - traces its roots back to 1955 when a group of spearfishing enthusiasts decided to form a club in order to start competing in international competitions. The Malta Sub Aqua Club was thus constituted on the 30th of March of the same year. In 1959, the Malta Sub Aqua Club became a founder member of the ``Confédération



Mondiale des Activités Subaquatiques`` - the CMAS - and in that same year, the same club organised the World Underwater Spearfishing Championships.

With the increasing interest in SCUBA (self-contained underwater breathing apparatus) diving and scientific research, the Malta Sub Aqua Club became affiliated to the sports, technical, and scientific committees of the CMAS.

In 1979 other clubs started affiliating to the Malta Sub Aqua Club and it was decided to change the club's name to Federation of Underwater Activities of Malta. The FUAM organises several dives throughout the year and its standards and qualifications are internationally recognised. In 1987 the FUAM found its place in the

international scene when it was bestowed with the honour of organising the CMAS World Congress. The FUAM also organises international underwater photographic competitions (the Blue Dolphin of Malta being one of them), specialised courses and scientific research.

AUSTRALIA: It's a widely multicultural society



Australia is a society of people from a rich diversity of cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious backgrounds. Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have inhabited Australia for tens of thousands of years. Almost one quarter of people living in Queensland were born overseas, and over four million Australians speak a language other than English. Our government allows those who choose to call Australia home the right to practice

and share their cultural traditions and languages within the law and free from discrimination.



MCDONALDS IN MALTA

Established in 1940, McDonald's is the world's leading global food service retailer. With restaurants in more than 36,000 locations, McDonald's employs 1.9 million people across more than 119 countries.

In Malta, the first McDonald's restaurant opened its doors in 1995 in the heart of Valletta. Today there are 9 McDonald's restaurants scattered across Malta, Gozo and 6 McCafe's. McDonald's Malta employs over 500 people and serves more than 5 million diners every year.

McDonald's Malta is operated by Premier Capital, the development licensee for McDonald's in Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania and Malta. Premier Capital PLC generates revenue in excess of €90 million over 60 restaurants, employs over 2,800 people and serves more than 35 million customers annually. For more info visit www.premiercapital.com.mt

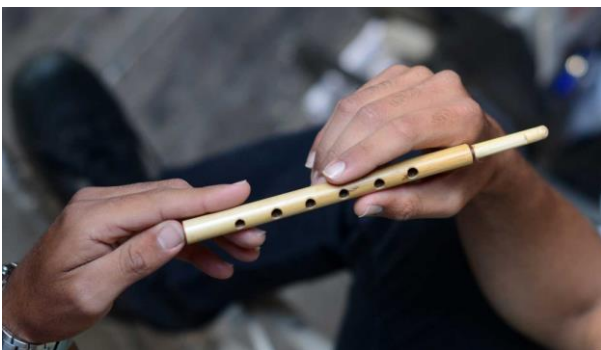
Traditional Maltese musical instruments that should not be lost - Melanie Drury



"Traditional music is dying. It-Tommy, who used to play the drum (*tanbur*), passed away; Ġużi Gatt can make traditional Maltese instruments and play them; Ruben Zahra can play them and could make them; but truly it is a lost art. I am quite sure that I am the last young man of my age to know how to make this," says Francesco Sultana as he indicates the Maltese bagpipe known as *iz-żaqq*, "and I try to excel in the manufacture and how to play."

I met 23 year old Francesco Sultana in his workshop in the limits of Rabat, the garage door leading to an open view of fields and the Maltese countryside. Various homemade traditional Maltese instruments lay on his work bench in the middle of the room, while jars of materials lined the walls of his workshop, the contents of each neatly labelled in three languages, mostly in Maltese, English and Italian, with some even in Latin: *serratura*, saw dust, *segatura*; *kolla taż-żibegħ*, pearl glue, *colla forte*; or *xilakk tal-indja*, *aleurites lacifera*, *gommalacca d'india*.

Francesco has become known locally for his manufacture of traditional Maltese instruments despite his very young age. He first played the clarinet in the village band club, and later got into percussions and flutes. Desiring more liberty to express himself musically, he preferred to play in his own bands, such as the Nisġa Project and Plato's Dream Machine. Unable to follow his musical passion at University due to a lack of certifications, since much of his musical knowledge was self-taught, he opted for a degree in restoration of inorganics such as stone, ceramics, glass and metal. His love of music coupled with the delicate hand procedures learned from restoration was the ideal foundation for making instruments.



Francesco makes three types of instruments: *iz-żummara* (reed pipe), *il-flejguta* (fipple flute) and *iz-żaqq* (bagpipe); featured below are also *iz-żafzafa* and *it-tanbur* (drum).

Iż-Żummara (reed pipe)

"I first tried making the *żummara* when I was at University out of curiosity to learn how they are made. *Żummara* is just a reed; it is listed in the first dictionary of the Knights as a *trumbettina di paglia* that

children used to play with – originally it wasn't an instrument and probably was used alone as a whistle. In fact, it has the sound of a whistle until it starts to be played, then it has an Arabic sound, which makes sense due to our heritage. We see many examples of it across the Mediterranean from Turkey and Greece through North Africa: in Calabria it is called *zummaretta*; in Morocco it is called *mizmar* and it has a horn, while in Egypt they have a double version."



İz-Żafżafa (left) and *it-Tanbur* (drum, centre)

Although Francesco does not make this kind of instrument, he knows what there is to know about it. "The *żafżafa* was originally used as a comical instrument during carnival; now it is often included in a traditional ensemble. The *żafżafa* - also sometimes called *rabbaba* - is a friction drum and there are only few examples of such a percussion instrument in the world. It is found in various forms in Africa, Asia, Europe and South America."

Il-Flejguta (fipple flute)

"The *flejguta* is the Maltese fipple flute. You can just imagine the shepherd out with his flock, and he would just make 6 holes in a piece of cane; it is also possible that somebody thought of making longer the short whistle known as the *suffara tal-pluvieri* used by hunters. In the past they used reed cane a lot to make curtains and several other things, so they always had some available to make their instruments - a tube ready made from nature. At the joint, the more open it is the more sharp the note, and the more you close it the more flat it is. I add the holes one by one so that they are in tune. Most people would play 7 notes, but 12 notes are possible if you know how to play."

For these instruments, Francesco personally hand picks the materials from some valley. He explained that the reeds he uses are not endemic and not protected by law, except in protected areas; to this effect he sought to get a permit from MEPA, but has not needed to use it as yet. He has learned to visually determine whether the reed cane is of good quality or not, which is remarkable as it must be green when picked and requires drying for about 18 months. But, he admits, "Sometimes I cheat by taking ready dried from the sun." In the process of learning how make traditional Maltese musical instruments, Francesco has also allowed himself to transgress the tradition and indulge his creativity to produce "new" traditional instruments inspired by other similar ones found in the Mediterranean region. One such inspiration is his *flejguta doppja*, or double flute, which he is seen playing in the video above. "Ruben likes to stick to the traditional, authentic sound, but I like to implement changes to the instruments

from manufacture and experiment with how I play them, while retaining the Mediterranean style."



It-Tanbur (drum)

It-tanbur (drum) is usually played with *iz-żaqq* (bagpipe) because it helps drown out the defects. Francesco does not make this kind of instrument but he fondly remembers it-Tommy, who

sadly passed away, as one of the best *tanbur* players of the island.



Iż-Żaqq (Maltese bagpipe)

The *żaqq* is a Maltese bag pipe made from the whole, uncut skin of a goat kid, fixed with a pipe and a horn. The *żaqq* includes the legs, the neck and the tail - the proper shape of the animal - and while manufacturing one needs to be careful not to pierce the skin. It is thus very complex to make, and certainly not a job for the faint hearted.

The goat kid needs to be of the right size and a nice colour, and it needs to be male otherwise air would

leak at the nipples. All the innards, including the bones, muscles and organs, must be removed from the neck so that the skin is not pierced. Also, one must be very careful not to leave any flesh inside which may decompose. Furthermore, the testicles and penis are tied up and left on the inside, and the anus must be sewn up. "I was in 4th year at university when I took Maltese Traditional Instruments, and learned also with Ruben, who had a credit. This is a rural instrument, which was made with what they had: animals. I made the *żaqq* myself in the traditional way but the procedure is really very disgusting and I don't particularly want to do it again. "

After the procedure is done, the skin is then cleaned with water and soap, then soaked in salt and aluminium sulphate to sterilise the remaining flesh and skin. After 4 days, the solution is changed regularly for 2 weeks. All this is very important to keep the whole animal, including the animal's fur, as per Maltese tradition; it is then dried and will flex by time and use until the sound comes out right. The Tunisian version, for example, is half the animal tied and turned inside out, and then oiled. Francesco is not sure of the lifespan of the *żaqq* since breath is wet, but he says that Ruben has had his for 7 years without problems.

When the skin has been prepared, an attachment is fixed at the neck where the chanter is connected. Inside the chanter are 2 reed pipes (*żmamar*) and a horn (*qarn*). "The horn of a bull is used for the mouth piece; the future is in synthetic material, which works just as well as it is just an amplifier of sound, but I wanted to have something truly authentic made in the traditional way."

Writer's Profile



I was born in 1977 in Malta, a small island in the Mediterranean, but today I consider both India and Malta my homes, alternating my time between them. I am specialised in travel writing about India and in interviews, while I produce features on various topics for on array of printed and online publications.

I have been writing since the age of twelve, mainly as tool for self-expression and reflection, but it was during my first trip to India in 2002 that my e-mails home to my family and friends were met with an

enthusiasm that surprised me, "You really manage to convey the feeling of the place, and take us on a journey with you – you should be a writer!"

Flattering as it was, I did not think much of it until my return to Malta, when a journalist friend pushed me to submit a feature about India to a local magazine. "Passage to India" was accepted immediately and published in the July 2002 issue of the Sunday Circle, a monthly distributed with The Sunday Times of Malta.

Eventually I took off on a back-packing trip lasting thirty months. My writing passion increased as I dealt with a myriad of new experiences: traversing the desert on an Enfield motorbike; crossing the second-highest road in the world in a decrepit bus; living in a Buddhist settlement in the Himalayas; sleeping in a hammock in a tropical jungle on a remote island for weeks; living and serving in a spiritual and humanitarian yoga ashram; running a mobile tea-stall at psychedelic trance festivals; hitch-hiking 1000 km in a day; rock-climbing in the most scenic spots imaginable; fruit-picking and living in a camper-van during a road-trip; snorkeling and swimming with sharks in the Great Barrier Reef; participating in a blockade mission in Tasmania... I hope to find the time to transform those journals into a book!

Returning to Malta I landed a regular contribution for a national daily newspaper, The Malta Independent, interviewing people in the artistic sphere. Later, my allocated double-page centre-spread transformed into a travel-diary that continued for over a year. Today I write a series named, "A day in the life of..." which delves into the lives of the common people. I also write various features based on the arts, culture and lifestyle for various publications. Regards Melanie Drury Freelance Writer



A very good reason to love the Maltese village way of life

Melanie Drury

Man from Gozo. Photo source: Flickr / Andrea D'Alba

"Good morning Madam," said the old man, smiling, as he stood at the entrance of his house. It was one of those traditional entrances with two heavy wooden doors and a decorative brass knocker on each. Beyond it was the "antiporta," a more delicate door with large glass windows, lace curtains maintaining a smidgen of mystery about the interior of the house.

"Bonġu," I replied, smiling back. "Maltese?" he asked. "I am," I replied, "but my friend here is from Germany."

The man seemed delighted that we seemed to have time for small talk. Within two minutes he told us about his family: his wife who passed away, his nine children and twenty-two grandchildren, and then proceeded to invite us inside to look at a small table packed with framed photos of all of them.

We did have time, as we were just wandering aimlessly, charmed by the narrow winding back streets of Victoria, Gozo. And he was so polite and had such a bright smile that we obliged.

We looked at the old photos – the youngest child in the picture was now a teenager, he said – and then noticed, at the end of the hallway, a statue of the holy mother amidst several plants behind glass. Noticing our curiosity, the man led us further in and talked some more about his house, offered us tea, and proceeded to tell us a few things about Gozo and how it used to be in his younger days.

We spent about half an hour with the man, and left with a smile on our faces and our hearts warmed by his hospitality and complete lack of fear of strangers. Perhaps his ease was born from his younger days, when it was customary in Gozo to leave the key in the front door to show your trust of the neighbours? I had a similar experience one day while working on a photo shoot in Siġġiewi. And I find such experiences most endearing.

Some might say that lonely old folk might do anything for a chat; I do not agree. Loneliness and friendliness are two very different things, and one does not necessarily call on the other. I perceive it as village culture, a culture that still persists today despite the influx of foreigners visiting and living on these islands which have, in general, contributed to Malta's more cosmopolitan feel and modern way of life.

In the villages, where few tourists might venture and the inhabitants are not concerned with the commerce related with them, Maltese people still live a traditional lifestyle; one where people say hello when they meet strangers in the street, get curious about outsiders and want to get to know them, feel inclined to offer tea as a gesture of amiability, and generally have time for interacting with their neighbours and anyone who might visit their village.

I recently moved to a village so that I could savour on a daily basis, the feeling of living among real people. I felt I had spent too many years living in various apartments where I never met the neighbours and didn't even know their names. There is something beautiful about the quaint way of life in a village, a way of life which nonetheless may also include curtain twitching and gossip when the fine line between familiarity and nosiness may be crossed.

In any case, while I genuinely enjoy the variety and excitement of cosmopolitan culture, I also hope the charm of small town community life will continue to be a reality in years to come.



Using Maltese in all sectors of society: Protecting our National Language

The National Council for Maltese language was established to adopt and promote a language society for the benefit and development of the national language. It was set up to ensure that the language is used in all possible sectors of society. The council is also responsible for updating the orthography of our national language, which has, over the years developed

The council is embarking on projects to ensure that the Maltese language is more exposed to visitors. "Road signs, formal letters, wedding invitations, and government web sites - they're all in English. Our language is a huge part of who we are. We should show it off, and trigger tourists' curiosity about a small island having its own language. As soon as one enters our international airport, s/he is welcomed with signs in English. Why can't it be in both languages?" Prof. Fabri asks.

Although the members of the council are responsible for protecting the Maltese language, they stress the importance of bilingualism. "Let's be clear, learning English in the correct manner is equally important. Malta needs to raise its English proficiency standards to allow for a competitive edge, one which attracts investment and places us on a global

sphere. But we should protect our national language. In an ideal world, our society would be exposed to both English and Maltese in the same manner.

"Ideally, one parent speaks to the children in English and the other in Maltese - that is the perfect model. But one often hears parents trying to combine both languages, and they do so in the wrong way. That is worse, because the child is not learning any of the languages adequately. There needs to be consistency." The council has also come up with resources, allowing for the promotion of the Maltese language, including calendars for schools and nursery rhymes in Maltese. It also offers proof-reading courses and orthography courses for parents who want to update their skills in order to help out their young ones with school work.

Ballun Pingut is a publication that has 930 definitions of football phrases to help journalists and sport commentators find the best one to describe the action on the football field. The listed phrases were confirmed by a group of experts including a referee, a player, a coach, a football committee member, a fan and a sports journalist.

"We have a tendency to speak in Maltese, but then write in English. School results show there are writing problems in both languages. Most often there is a correlation between both. If one is able to write Maltese properly, he would most often know how to write in English well too. At university, lecturers know that students hold back from asking questions. Often it is because they lack the confidence to speak in public, in one language or the other. We need to ensure that our students are not merely reaching the benchmark to pass assessments, but that they are able to express their ideas and work publicly."

The council is also responsible for updating the orthography of our national language, which has, over the years developed. Technological advancements have resulted in many English words being loaned and transformed into new Maltese words. Some being used on local media have caused controversy, however members of the council note that it is not being exposed enough to the Maltese Language that causes this. "You hear chefs using English words for ingredients and preparation methods, but we have Maltese words for all of those."

The council has now embarked on a digital strategy project, allowing for the creation of a Maltese dictionary and a spell-check. Apps on the IOS system will also have a Maltese keyboard. In a survey on identity carried out last year, two thirds of respondents said that the Malteselanguage is the greatest signifier of national unity. Seventeen per cent.

Have you heard about
the new Maltese TV show?



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screens on c31 (channel 44)

Sundays @ 4pm
with a repeat
Tuesdays @ 3pm

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www.facebook.com/MalteseDownUnder
maltesetv@gmail.com

*foreignaffairs.gov.mt**

Consul-on-the-Move PROGRAMME

The Consul-on-the-Move program was launched on 5 May 2016
and will provide certain consular services
normally available at Malta's Embassies and Consular posts,
in different locations.

Such services will include the collection of
biometric passport applications.

This programme conforms to the Government's vision
to have governmental services closer to the citizen.

The Consul-on-the-Move will be in

ADELAIDE

on 24 and 25 March 2017

To make an appointment contact the Malta High Commission
in ACT on 02 6290 1724
or the Consulate of Malta in South Australia
08 8269 2948



GHAQDA TAL-MALTI UNIVERSITÀ'

Nhar il-Ġimgħa 27 ta' Jannar 2017 ġewwa t-Teatru Orpheum, il-Gżira se titnieda l-pubblikazzjoni finali ta' TAĦŻIŻ4. L-editur għal din l-edizzjoni huwa Kit Azzopardi.

TAĦŻIŻ4 kien imqassam fuq numru ta' seminars residenzjali u laqgħat oħra, anke f'Għawdex, li fihom ġew iġġenerati kitbiet b'esperimentazzjoni. Il-partecipanti f'din l-edizzjoni kienu Michael Carol Bartolo, Diane Cutajar, Rachelle Deguara, Kimberly Hatherly, Maria Pellicano, u Victoria Pisani. Partecipanti oħrajn kienu Clive

Piscopo, Mireille Borg, Yana Mizzi, Matthew Schembri u Gabriel Pace.

Waqit it-tnedija se jkun hemm il-grupp ta' tfajliet, Cryptic Street, idoqqu mużika kontemporanja. Is-serata se titmexxa minn Glen Calleja.



Inheggu l-pubbliku jattendi. Is-serata hija b'xejn, waqt li daww preżenti jingħataw ukoll il-pubblikazzjoni. Ftit tnaqqir ma jonqosx!

Dakinhar se titthabbar is-sejha għal TAĦŻIŻ5. Żommu ruħkom infurmati! Id-dettalji ssibuhom fil-ħolqa tal-attività: <https://www.facebook.com/events/820529881421807/>

TAĦŻIŻ huwa programm ta' 'empowerment' u formazzjoni ta' tnax-il xahar li jgħib flimkien żgħażaġh bi interess fil-kitba kreattiva fid-diversi forom tagħha, kemm fil-kuntest tal-letteratura kif ukoll f'kuntesti artistici interdixxiplinari.

'Taħżiż' iħares b'mod ħolistiku kemm lejn il-proċess ta' kitba kif ukoll lejn l-iżvilupp tal-partecipanti. Għaldaqstant, il-programm iħares ukoll lejn il-proċess ta' produzzjoni ta' prodotti kulturali li fil-qofol tagħhom jitolbu element ta' kitba u l-preżentazzjoni pubblika ta' dawn il-prodotti.

Il-programm qed isir mill-Aġenzija Żgħażaġh bi sħab mal-Għaqda tal-Malti - Università u jinkludi 'workshops' residenzjali intensivi, eżerċizzji

ta' kollaborazzjoni kreattiva matul is-sena, kif ukoll publikazzjoni u preżentazzjoni pubblika tax-xogħol fl-aħħar tal-programm.



Socjeta' Missjunarja ta' San Pawl

"ahna lilkom"

"Ahna Lilkom" hija rivista mahruga mis-Socjeta' Missjunarja ta' San Pawl f'Malta. Issa qed nippubblikawha wkoll online.

Editur; Fr. Norbert Bonavia MSSP

http://mssproma.paulistmissionaries.org/ahnalilkom_mt.html

We thank the editor for sending us the MSSP NEWSLETTER regularly



Spiteri Lucas
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Catholic Institute Bar: 21 242 551 (all day), **Hotline:** 9989 6638, 9946 8429

VAT Permit No: 008/17



Design & Printing: Best Print Co. Ltd

<p>No. 149 December 2016</p>  <p>MCCV News</p> <p>Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc. 477 Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria 3052, AUSTRALIA Phone: (03) 9387 8922 Fax: (03) 9387 8309 Email: edwin@mccv.org.au Website: www.mccv.org.au Editor: Dr Edwin Borg-Manche Sub-Editor: Andrew Gatt</p>	<p>IN THIS ISSUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 • President's Descriptive — The President of Malta's second and last speech 2 • Appointment of new Australian High Commissioner to Malta 3 • PM A has a new Board of Management 4 • President of Malta speaks out against the life of Maltese society in Republic Day speech 5 • Malta outlines 'Conversion Therapy' — a first in Europe 6 • Pope Francis speaks out — Pope sends letter to Indigenous Australians 7 • New Year's Eve — New Year's Eve in Europe 8 • Pope Francis speaks out — Pope sends letter to Indigenous Australians 9 • New Year's Eve — New Year's Eve in Europe 10 • Maltese club inaugurated at Vatican apostolic apostolic need for solidarity 11 • Book launch of Dr. Tania Borg's annotated Commentary on Malta's Constitution 12 • Maltese Down Under set to return in 2017 as Community TV license extended 6 months 13 • Maltese community mourns the loss of a pioneer link 14 • MCCV Planned Activity: Grosse Pointe de la Chapelle Party 15 • Lappia General Award to Lappia Literature Malta 16 • Maltese Club Inaugurated at Vatican
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Maltese community leaders call for overhaul of SBS Radio criteria

Maltese community leaders in Victoria and New South Wales presented a joint submission to SBS Radio in response to the draft Language Selection Criteria 2016/17, calling for an overhaul of the draft criteria. In their view, the criteria are "fundamentally flawed, grossly inequitable and unfairly disadvantageous to communities of medium to small size". They believe that a complete makeover is necessary to ensure a fairer and more equitable distribution of radio broadcasting hours among the communities.

For several years, the Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV) and the Maltese Community Council of New South Wales (MCCNSW) have been working together in the interests of the Maltese community in Australia to fight for a fairer method of distribution of radio broadcast hours on SBS Radio among ethnic communities.

On 14 November 2016 SBS launched a public consultation on the criteria for the SBS Radio Review. The draft criteria are identical to those used in the SBS Radio review conducted in 2012, except for the increase from 20,000 to 25,000 in the threshold population figure that a community must have in order to qualify as a 'large' language.

The Maltese community organisations gave several grounds on which they based their call for an overhaul:

- Currently the largest six languages in terms of population size speaking the language at home are allocated 14 hours per week or 2 hours per day air time, which is way too high. This



overgenerous allocation to the larger ethnic groups has resulted in insufficient air time left over to be allocated to the remaining communities to meet their information needs. In the case of one of these six languages, SBS even set up a 24/7 radio station in March 2016 dedicated exclusively to programs in that language, while still retaining the allocation of 14 hours per week accorded to that language under the 2012 SBS Radio schedule review.

- The draft criteria are based on the flawed assumption that the information needs of a community are commensurate with the size of its population. Such an assumption leads to the absurd result that the largest six communities were allocated 14 times more broadcasting hours than the smallest, with some communities even missing out completely.
- Under the draft criteria, the high needs of communities, which exceed the arbitrarily set threshold of 25,000 to qualify as a 'large' community, are not taken into account at all. The

draft 'high needs criteria' only apply to communities whose population is below that threshold. This is a major flaw in the draft criteria. All communities must be subjected to the 'high needs' test as part of the determination of the number of hours they are allocated.

- To make an overgenerous allocation of program hours to 'large' communities simply on the basis of their size without applying the 'high needs' test to them is to discriminate against the remaining communities who are required to jump the 'high needs' hurdle before they can qualify for any program hours.
- In the draft criteria there is too strong a bias in favour of size and not enough importance given to other determining factors listed in the criteria for 'high needs' communities, particularly, that of ageing. The right balance can only be achieved if all communities, regardless of size, are subjected to the 'high needs' test.

Continued on page 4



**MALTESE
COMMUNITY
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*Come and enjoy a good
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FRIDAY BINGO WITH MALTESE MEALS

Bingo session every Friday night with Maltese meals served from 5.30pm

Venue: Maltese Community Centre,
477 Royal Parade, Parkville

Time: From 5.30pm

Bingo Eyes Down at 7.00 pm

*The MCCV appreciates
your valued support*

We would like to thank the editor of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Newsletter, Dr. Edwin Borg-Manche' for sending us regularly this journal which is always packed with information, news and articles of great interest to the Maltese/Australians. To subscribe send an email to: emb@mccv.org.au.



Dance Night!

MALTESE ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC (MAWAI)

Dance Night is held on the last Friday Night of the Month. Normal meals are served from 5:30pm - Dancing starts at 8pm to around 9:30pm EMail: mawai@bigpond.com

Address: 1 May Holman Dr, Bassendean WA 6054



TA' PINU SHRINE – AUSTRALIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

First of All,... Last year has come and gone.

We have all been waiting for a new year with hope,
Now New year 2017 is on the way...

Another year, another Challenge

We are lucky to have had you with us in prayer,
wherever you may have been ...

Let us now look forward a new year,
That brings new opportunities and Challenges in our life.

Happy and Prosperous New year 2017 From The

Team at Ta Pinu Shrine

God Bless you All

Msgr Benedict Camilleri - infotapinu@optusnet.com.au

Ta' Pinu Shrine – BACCHUS MARSH, VICTORIA

BUY A SIMSHAR



Anyone else if you have already ordered one or you would like to order one or more & have it/them posted to you the cost is just \$30:00 plus \$2:00 postage each. These are professionally made factory manufactured discs containing the film Simshar..90 mins.(in Maltese and English) Simshar is the first ever Maltese feature film which was entered & accepted for an Academy Award in the USA and which film has been internationally acclaimed & indeed has received Awards from various countries including Cyprus, Tunisia Zanzibar Germany France & others... Interviews with the Maltese & International Actors & the people working behind the cameras u ma il-brava Rebecca Cremona stess.. Special features include..Behind the Scenes Featurette Deleted Scenes, Trailers, Chapters, Interactive Menus. etc . If you have not already secured this DVD Kit...do yourself a favour and order one ASAP... my mobile is 0421 662 298 or email me..Thank You.. cnmifsud@gmail.com
Charles N. Mifsud..MQR..JP (NSW)

Submitted by THE MALTA RUGBY LEAGUE – AUSTRALIA

MALTA NAME SQUADS FOR FEBRUARY PHILIPPINES TEST



Malta Rugby League has named their squads for the upcoming international fixtures against the Philippines next month.

The clash will be the Knights first game since their 58-12 loss to Ireland last October at the Carlisle Grounds in Bray and only their second game on Australian soil in the last decade.

Peter Cassar will take charge of the team to face off against the Tamaraws and is eager to finally get a game under his belt.

"Since the postponement of the game in Thailand last year due to the unfortunate passing of their Monarch, we've been keen to pull together and play some footy" said the 50 year old who coaches Hills Bulls in the NSWRL Sydney Shield competition.

"We've been looking to add some players who have experience in a higher level of football, so there will be a few debutants plucked out of New South Wales and Queensland competitions" added Cassar.

St Patrick's Jake Lennox, and Illawarra Cutters Blake Phillips maintain their positions from the cancelled Chiang Mai tour, as does Blacktown Workers' Jake Attard who is vying for his International debut.



Hills Bulls Aaron Weston returns to national duties, as do James Redman and Kyal Greene after spending the last year playing in the English National League 1 competition for Coventry and Hemal Stags respectively.

Malta look set to enjoy a busy 2017 International schedule as the tiny nation seek to improve their ranking after dropping to 20th when the world body released the results back in November.

Several curtain-raisers to the main game will also include an U17's International with

Maltese Heritage vs Philippines kicking off at 4.15pm.

Main game: 7.30pm

Official event can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/405109739879490/>

U17 HERITAGE SQUAD: Keenan Alavisi, Liam Amato, Ryan Azzopardi, Luke Azzopardi, Joel Cauchi, Blake Chetcuti, Joshua Debattista, Charlie Frendo, Zarrin Galea, Lewis Mallia, Sampson Mirotsos, Zach Morrison, Roly Podista, Dean Scerri, Jasper Schembri, Brandon Wing, Jake Xuereb, Tanner Zadravec, Bill Zammit

MALTA KNIGHTS SQUAD: Jake Attard, Nathan Benson, Tyler Cassel, Luke Cauchi, Nathan Falzon, Jake Grace, Aaron Grech, Kyal Greene, Jake Lennox, Blake Phillips, CJ Rapinette, James Redman, Beau Sciberras, Ben Stone, Matthew Thompson, Jonathon Trott, Anthony Vella, Thomas Vella, Jake Webster, Aaron Weston, Dean Zammit

FIXTURE: Malta v Philippines - Europe meets Asia Saturday 4 February 2017 New Era Stadium Cabramatta Leagues Club Sydney, Australia.

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Ninsabu fil-bidu ta' Sena Ġdida — MILL-KAV JOE M ATTARD

Il-festi tal-Milied u tal-Ewwel tas-Sena għaddew ukoll u bdejna sena ġdida. Lili l-ewwel jum tas-sena, kull darba jgħibli memorji sbieħ għax kien fl-ewwel ġurnata tas-sena li twelidt. Issa toqogħdux tistaqsuni kemm għalaqt! Intant bdejt is-sena billi f'riġt għall-ikel mal-familja, biex infakkar din il-ġrajja f'ħajti. Meta nħares lura għandi għax niringrazzja 'l Alla li l-ġenituri tiegħi tawni trobbija tajba b'valuri u prinċipji li mexxewni fil-ħajja. Jalla din is-sena 2017 tkun għalina wkoll sena ta' paċi u saħħa u ta' għaqda bejnietna lkoll. Is-Slaten Maġi taw lit-tarbiya divina r-rigali tagħhom u l-poplu tagħna matul il-jiem li għaddew, ta prova tal-ġenerożità tiegħu kemm fl-Istrina kif ukoll fil-ġbir b'risq il-familji fil-bżonn u d-Dar tal-Providenza. Issa hemm bżonn li nżommu dan ir-rittmu ta' għaqda u ġenerożità anke fil-ġimgħat u x-xhur li ġejjin sa ma jerġa' jfeġġ fuqna Milied ieħor.

Mela ħalli nimxu pass pass. Bdejna Jannar u matul dan ix-xahar kiesaħ tas-sena nfakkru l-festa ta' Sant'Anton Abbati fix-Xagħra fejn insibu knisja ħelwa ddedikata lilu li tant toffri servizz tajjeb lil dawk li jgħixu madwar dawk l-inħawi bl-inizjattiva u l-insistenza tal-ħabib tiegħi Dun Gwann Sultana, saċerdot żagħżuġ li f'kull Milied jara kif joħloq tassew atmosfera sabiħa f'dawk l-inħawi. F'Jum il-festa tal-Qaddis, Patrun tal-annimali, issir Purċissjoni bis-sehem tal-Banda 'Victory', li fi tmiemha l-Isqof ibierek għadd kbir ta' pets li x-Xagħrin u tant Għawdxin jieħdu magħhom għall-okkażjoni. Jitqassam ukoll xgħir u ikel ieħor lill-annimali li huma ħolqien t'Alla u għalhekk għandna nħobbuhom u ma nħalluhomx jinħaqr jew abbandunati.

Fl-24 ta' dan infakkru l-festa tal-Isqof ta' Ginevra u Patrun tal-Gurnalisti, Kittieba u Xandara, San Frangisk de Sales. Ta' kull sena Mons Isqof Mario Grech, l-Isqof t'Għawdex, iqaddes għall-ġurnalisti, kittieba u xandara fil-knisja ħelwa tas-Sorijiet tal-Qalb ta' Gesu fi Triq Palma Victoria u jgħaddilhom messaġġ tal-okkażjoni. Wara jsib ukoll hin biex bejn tazza kaffe u oħra jitkellem ftit magħhom. Din l-attività hija organizzata mill-Għaqda Gurnalisti Għawdxin (imwaqqfa mill-Isqof N Cauchi u l-Kav Koli Apap fl-1960) u l-Kurja t'Għawdex. Importanti li nħallu lil dan il-qaddis patrun tagħna jdawwalna fil-kitbiet tagħna, hu li kellu l-motto matul ħajtu: Cor ad cor loquitur -- qalb ma' qalb tiddjaloga! Il-festa tal-Patrun tat-tfal u ż-żgħażaġ il-qaddis minn Torin San Gwann Bosco tagħlaq dan ix-xahar. Fil-Belt Victoria, fi Pjazza Sant Wistin, għandna Ċentru kbir u attrezzaġ ġmielu f'ġieħ San Gwann Bosco li tela' bl-inizjattiva tas-saċerdot Għawdxin Dun Pawl Micallef fl-erbghinijiet. Mas-snin kompli jikber u jiżviluppa taħt is-Salezjani u iktar tard taħt it-tmexxija ta' saċerdoti djoċesani. Id-direttur preżenti huwa Fr Effie Masini li hu ddedikat totalment u ma jiafex minuta. Bir-riħ tiegħu l-Oratorju Don Bosco mexa 'l quddiem b'passi ta' ġgant u llum sar bejta ta' attivitajiet li ma jaqtgħu xejn. Il-bini jinkludi Kappella sabiħa u moderna li kompliet tiegħu l-ħajja b'tant xogħol u għożża li rat mingħand Fr Louis Bezzina li b'xorti ħażina miet qasir il-ġhomor. Insibu wkoll il-palk li huwa ferm attiv għax id-Direttur preżenti jemmen shiħ fil-potenzjal ta' dan il-medium. Fuq dan il-palk u minn hawn ħarġu l-aqwa atturi Għawdxin. Il-Ħadd jintwerew ukoll films għal familja kollha. Matul is-sajf l-Oratorju jorganizza wkoll għadd ta' attivitajiet għat-tfal. Bla dubju l-qofol ta' hawn hija l-festa li ssir lil San Gwann Bosco li tintemm bil-Purċissjoni bl-istatwa tal-qaddis bis-sehem taż-żewġ baned li għandna fil-Victoria (sena tiegħu sehem banda u s-sena ta' wara tiegħu sehem l-oħra).

Tagħlaq il-festa il-Gozo Youth Orchestra, orkestra taż-żgħażaġ li tippreżenta programm ta' mużika popolari fuq il-palk taħt id-direzzjoni tal-fundatur u surmast tagħha Mro Joseph Grech. Ilni nippreżenta din is-serata sa mill-bidu li ilha ssir! Kif mistenni, il-kampanja tagħna terġa' tibda tiegħu l-ħajja u tħaddar ġmielha wara x-xita li kellna u passiġġata fil-kampanja fuq it-twapet tal-ħdura tiftaħlek il-pulmuni u timlihomlok b'arja friska u nadifa li ma ssibhiex fl-ibliet tagħna. Il-kesħa tinħass ġmielha wkoll u għalhekk wieħed irid jilbes sewwa biex ma jlaqqatx xi riħ. Il-bajjiet issa jisfaw vojta min-nies għaliex il-baħar jaf ikun qawwi u jaħshlek xi waħda jekk tgħaddi minn qribu. Is-swali taċ-ċinema jerġgħu jibdeu jieħdu l-ħajja u f'xi nħawi t'Għawdex taf tinzerta wkoll xi biċċa xogħol tal-palk. Fl-10 ta' Frar tigi l-festa tan-Nawfragju ta' San Pawl li nfakkru kemm fil-Munxar kif ukoll fil-Belt Valletta u ftit wara l-festa tal-maħbubin, San Valentinu! Id-dilettanti tal-Karnival bla dubju diġa bdew il-ġlieda kontra l-ħin biex jipprovdu spetaklu fl-Enclosure ta' Pjazza Indipendenza Victoria kif ukoll xi wħud mill-Kunsilli Lokali li wkoll itellgħu serati Karnivaleski fil-misraħ ewlieni tar-raħal. In-Nadur jibqa' magħruf għal Karnival Spontanju hekk kif jibda jroxx id-dlam u l-attenzenzi ma jonqsux. Naturalment it-temp jilgħab parti mportanti matul dawn il-festi qodma u folkloristiċi li jmorru lura lejn żmien il-Kavallieri, għax bexxa xita taf titfġhek il-baħar u xhur shaħ ta' xogħol u saġrificju jogħsfu fix-xejn f'kemm ilni ngħidlek. Dis-sena dawn il-festi ġejjin fuqna xi ftit tard; jintemmu fl-aħħar ta' Frar u l-għada l-1 ta' Marzu jibda r-Randan Imqaddes.

PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY FOR HEALTH: Cold weather alert**Reference Number: PR170021, Press Release Issue Date: Jan 05, 2017**

A spell of cold weather is expected over the coming days and temperatures are expected to drop significantly. The effects of cold can be severe, in particular for those who are over 65 years, have a long term illness, or are not mobile.

It is advisable that those in the above category to have plenty of warm food and drinks and to try to maintain indoor temperatures to at least 18degrees. Drawing the window curtains at dusk will help to keep the heat in. If mobility isn't an issue, it is also advisable to keep active.

This is also the time to think about how the cold temperatures may affect your friends and family, particularly if they are older, living alone, very young or have long term health conditions as they are particularly at risk from the ill-effects of cold. Think now what you could do to help them and ensure they have access to warm food, drinks and managing to heat their homes adequately.

The Ministry for Health reminds that the seasonal flu vaccine is still available free of charge for all Maltese residents and is available from all Health Centres.

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