CHOGM MALTA 2015 FINALLY HERE!
With CHOGM fast approaching, finishing touches are being laid. We are delighted by a significant number of accreditations and positive feedback from all those involved far and wide.

The figures are impressive. Coming to the island are 5,000 delegates and 1,000 journalists. They will be supported by 500 volunteers in 10 of the chosen venues.

Anticipation was instilled when Malta hosted the Valletta summit on Migration last week on the 11th and 12th of November.

This event saw the use of some of the 78 luxury vehicles provided by Volvo for these two special occasions. An announcement was made that these vehicles shall be auctioned off on Saturday 5th December with all proceeds going to L-Istrina 2015 – The Malta Community Chest Fund.

As one of the most anticipated events of the CHOGM, this newsletter shines the light on the official opening ceremony, taking place on the 27th November at the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta. This ceremony will be transmitted globally via CHOGM Malta 2015 and is expected to be an emotionally engaging, multi-media performance that will reflect the commonalities of Commonwealth nations and highlight the CHOGM theme of ‘Adding Global Value’.

We also had the pleasure of interviewing His Excellency Kamalesh Sharma, the Commonwealth Secretary General. This being his last tenure in this position, he speaks of his expectations for this year’s CHOGM and portrays confidence in the Commonwealth acting as an admirable global leader, equipped to back the global development agenda. He hopes that the commitment and diligence with which he led his position will be recognised as such – we are confident it will.

An overview of the programme of events for the state visit by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, in conjunction with the CHOGM, is available in the Events section of this newsletter. It also features details of the separate engagements planned for the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall.

We hope those travelling to Malta for the events will have a safe journey and we invite all those who cannot be physically present to stay updated via CHOGM Malta 2015.
THE PRINCE OF WALES AND THE DUCHESS OF CORNWALL IN MALTA NEXT WEEK
BY GOZO NEWS www.gozonews.com NOVEMBER 19, 2015

As previously announced, The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, will make a State Visit to Malta and attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) next week in Valletta. The Prince of Wales, accompanied by The Duchess of Cornwall, will also attend CHOGM in support of The Queen.

Highlights of the visit will include a full ceremonial welcome in St George's Square, Valletta, a reception hosted by The Queen for the people of Malta, as well as the colourful pageantry of the CHOGM opening ceremony and Heads of Government dinner.

The UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office said that the State Visit, as well as separate engagements undertaken by The Duke of Edinburgh, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall during the visit, will celebrate The Royal Family's enduring affection for Malta: its people, its history and its future.

Similarly, engagements centred on CHOGM will acknowledge the potential of the modern Commonwealth and its young people, reinforcing Her Majesty's Commonwealth message earlier this year when she said: "We are guardians of a precious flame, and it is our duty not only to keep it burning brightly but to keep it replenished for the decades ahead."

This will be the fourth time The Prince of Wales will attend CHOGM. The Prince of Wales's attendance at CHOGM will reflect his 40 years as an advocate for global sustainability and youth opportunity. Among other engagements he will attend the Special Session on Climate Action and address the CHOGM Business Forum.

Press Release – Malta High Commission in ACT Australia

A MINUTE OF SILENCE AT THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN CANBERRA

Governor General Peter Cosgrove signs the Condolence Book

In the wake of the Friday, 13 November terror attacks in Paris, which took the lives of 129 and left others physically and emotionally injured, a minute of silence was observed in front of the lawn of the French Embassy in Canberra on 16 November 2015, attended by His Excellency Charles Muscat, High Commissioner for Malta, and EU Ambassadors, led by EU Head of Delegation. H.E. Mr. Sem Fabrizi.

Also present were the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, H.E. General the Hon. Peter Cosgrove and Mrs. Lynne Cosgrove and other dignitaries and the general public. French Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Christophe Lecourtier addressed everyone and thanked them for their show of solidarity in this hard and trying times. The French National Anthem was sung immediately after.

The Governor General and Mrs. Cosgrove laid a wreath and were followed by others present. The Condolence book was also opened and signed by the Governor General and Mrs. Cosgrove followed by High Commissioners and Ambassadors, including H.E. Charles Muscat. Flags were flown at half mast at chanceries and residences of EU Member States.
MULTICULTURALISM IN CANADA

How did Canada become so multicultural? This answer has its roots in the 17th century where both French and English colonies settled in Canada, and continued through the next centuries. With the Revolutionary War in the US, many who were loyal to England fled the US for fear of being on the wrong side. As things settled, immigrants from Europe looked at Canada as a safe haven to get away from the overcrowding, poverty, disease, taxes, the banking system, and religious intolerance, to start a new life.

Although Canada was quite open to immigration, it was far from prejudicial freedom, as we can see from the treatment of first nations inhabitants, as well as other newcomers used to build the trans-Canada railway. However with the fur trades of the 18th & 19 centuries, interactions with aboriginals increased, and they began to intermarry (the Metis). In 1812, the US invaded Canada in an attempt to take over the country, but with the support of England, the eventually repelled them off. This is when the forts along the St Lawrence were built.

As conflict arose in the 1830’s between the French & English colonies, England began encouraging more settlement in Canada, and eventually the English overpowered the French. However the French were allowed to maintain their culture & language. As the American Civil War broke out (1860-1865), many slaves escaped to Canada (who had already abolished slavery), with the support of great Canadians like Laura Secord.

By 1867, the BNA act amalgamated 4 provinces (Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick , Nova Scotia), into a confederation, and in 1897 had its first Prime Minister Sir Wilfred Laurier.

In the years following, Canada experienced two new waves of immigrants with masses of Jews, Poles, Ukrainians and Asians recruited to work on farms & fisheries, and in mines & factories. The second wave hit with immigrants looking to escape the two World Wars (I &II), and the devastation left in Europe. With its centennial year in 1967, Canada was made a nation separate from England with its own flag, and began to open its doors wider to immigration. This gave way to visible minorities from China, India, Southease Asia, and the Caribbean.

In 1971 the P.M. Pierre Elliot Trudeau made Canada the first country in the world to develop a Multiculturalism Platform, adopting the two official national languages of French & English, and in 1988, Ottawa passed the Multicultural Act which was meant to ensure that all individuals of various cultures receive equal treatment from the government, to promote & respect diversity in Canada.

The Employment Equity Act of 1995 required all employers in Canada to hire a percentage of their staff from the groups containing: women, disabled persons, Aboriginals and other visible minorities. This gave place to immigrants to obtain jobs that appeared previously restricted, such as the RCMP, police, and military.

Today in Canada, multiculturalism is honoured in many ways, such as with festivals like the Quebec Winter Fair, Caribana, The International Film Festival, the CNE, and Multiculturalism Day on June 27. Throughout its history, its clearly evident that Canada has taken great strides in ensuring all cultures, visible minorities and ethnicities feel welcome in this country that is celebrated globally as a the most peaceful, friendly, multicultural nation in the world today.
MALTA MIGRATION MUSEUM - Dar l-Emigrant’, Castille Place Valletta VLT 1062

People of Maltese origin can be found almost everywhere in the world but mainly in the main destinations where European emigration started as from the middle of the 19th century, including in Northern Africa, England, France, Spain, Turkey, Australia, Canada, the US and South America. The size of the Maltese Diaspora living in these countries and others is estimated to be much greater than the population of the Maltese Islands.

The goal of this project is to create a Migration Museum as a primary attraction to both visitors to Malta (especially the several thousands of ex-Maltese migrants or their descendants) as well as local residents, given that almost all families in Malta have in some way or other been affected over the years by the phenomenon of migration. It will depict the status of Malta over the past 200 years, explain the existence of Maltese people who left, and their links to Malta with Maltese communities overseas. It will also record how emigration started and developed and how the communities of Maltese emigrants integrated in the various countries of adoption and what they contributed to these places.

Another aim of the museum is to enable the Maltese in Malta and the Maltese communities abroad to better understand the reality of the phenomenon of migration and the value of social inclusion. The council appeals to anyone who could offer migration related material to the museum for the history of Maltese emigration to be fully represented to contact the council. It is also interested in hearing from anyone who can offer personal services or provide financial assistance. Tel: (+356) 21222644

Or contact the Director – Father Alfred Vella Email: fravella@onvol.net or mecmalta@vol.net.mt

PS; THE MALTESE NEWSLETTERS – THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA ARE ALL ARCHIVED AT THE MUSEUM

Maltese Folklore

A traditional women’s costume which has disappeared completely from the Islands of Malta and Gozo is the Faldetta or ghonnella. Nobody knows the origin of this stiffened head dress. Some say it derives from the eastern veil, or from Spanish mantilla. Others maintain that it was first introduced in 1222 as a sign of mourning by the women of Cefalonia (Italy) who were expelled to Malta following the massacre of their men folk.

Yet another theory is that its origin is evolved from necessity for women to veil their head when entering a church; the poorer country girls, lacking cloaks or lace shawls, placed a spare skirt over their head. The Ghonnella is made of cotton or silk and is always black except around villages of Zabbar and Zejtun where it is sometimes blue.

Josephine Ebejer Grech

Il-Li‘eo Jamrun
San (or) Preca B.I.L
Malta
Malta and the ANZACS: The Nurse of the Mediterranean

MALTA’S role in helping and wounded Australian Diggers during World War I holds a special place in Prospect man Frank Scicluna’s heart.
Frank, who migrated from Malta in 1965 and is the Honorary Consulate of Malta in SA, says compiling a book to commemorate this ‘s Anzac centenary was a journey of discovery as he delved into the past of some of the 80,000 wounded Allied soldiers who received care in Malta. There were were 276 who never made it home and found their permanent resting in Malta.

Malta and the Anzacs: The Nurse of the Mediterranean acknowledges the link between his home country and the Anzacs who left to make the ultimate sacrifice.

“One book describes the events of World War I, the development of the Anzac tradition and some of the people involved through diaries, first-hand accounts and old photographs,”.

“Allen then Malta did not play a direct part in fighting, the Maltese were active in repairing ships, as well as crewing them. Over 600 Maltese were killed, mostly at sea.

“There were Australian nurses who served in Maltese hospitals who died and were buried in Malta and I have photographs of them in the book. ‘I also look at some of the many complications the soldiers had to deal with such as leprosy and malaria, dysentery, typhoid and trench fever.”

The author took copies of the book to Malta in April and presented a copy to several dignitaries including the President of Malta, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Archbishop of Malta, the Australian High Commissioner and the Chairman of the Malta Anzac Committee, Mr. Nicholas Bonello.
The Malta RSL Sub Branch of SA received funding from the Department of Veterans Affairs office for the publication of the book and for a memorial with the names of 18 World War I Anzac soldiers from SA who are buried in Malta, which was installed at Prospect Memorial Gardens in July.

Malta’s Anzac Legacy

CHRONICLING MALTESE AID IN WWI FIGHT by Sarah Spencer – Reporter – THE MESSENGER – ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA
HABANA PIONEERS FOUND TIME FOR SOCCER - 1926

The Maltese men of Mackay, Queensland, took another pioneering step when in 1926 they formed their own soccer team – believed to have been the first all-Maltese soccer team in Australia. Most of the players lived and worked in the Habana district so they played under that name, wearing jerseys presented to them as a sign of goodwill by Jim Love of the Imperial Hotel in Victoria Street.

Pictured are from back row left: Paul Bartolo, P Calleja, AF Vella, Tony Saliba, S. Portelli, Tony Borg
Middle row: Jim Camilleri, Andy Frendo, P. Camilleri, J. Deguara, C. Deguara
Front row from left: J Fenech, Paul Camilleri and Jim Camilleri.

NOSTALGIA FROM HABANA, MACKAY, QUEENSLAND

CARMELA, one of the first Maltese mothers to arrive in Australia, with her children Vince, left, Joe, right, and Grace, front. Grace left Malta with her mother when only two years old and the boys were born in Mackay. Joe Ellul is recognised as the first child of full Maltese blood to be born in Mackay.

MALTESE sisters of the order of the Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus, now staffing the St Vincent de Paul Home are, from front, Mother Ottavia, the Mother Superior who has worked at the home for 39 years, second row left: Sister Saveriana (30 years at the home), Sister Bonaventura, third row l-r: Sisters Firmina, Carmen, Josephine; back: Sisters Christopher and Pauline. A staff of 100 works at the home to care for the 138 residents.
Carmel Baretta, who is also the Hon Consul for Malta, is the co-author of
FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Multi-cultural festival Mackay

Posted 26 Oct 2015 Carmel Baretta helped out at the Maltese language, food and culture stall. "People are a little bit hesitant to learn Maltese; I believe it is not an easy language to learn," Carmel said. "But they certainly like trying the Maltese puddina which is a typical Maltese food made from dried bread and mixed fruit."


The history of officially organised Maltese migration to Australia, contrary to what has repeatedly been reported by some historical accounts published so far, dates back to 1882, not 1883; the date erroneously given by historians of Maltese settlement in Australia.

Having met a number of the protagonists during my extensive research ventures into the Maltese Australian settlement story as a whole, but more specifically in reference to individual leading personalities or of people of unusual interest, one appreciates the vastness of this unique Maltese saga.

This precious collection of pioneer family biographies of the Maltese of Mackay, without any academic pretence, is in itself living evidence of the indefatigable spirit of an appreciative generation with the strongest anthropological ties to its proud ethnic Maltese roots.

Such deep loyalty is graphically depicted in a number of contemporary photographs taken by descendants of the earlier folk upon their return to, or even their first ever journey to the land of their forebears.
Hi Frank, I find your Newsletter informative, non-biased and fascinating. Many thanks, and keep the good work up. I would appreciated if you could add my uncle living in Melbourne to your distribution list. Kind regards Tony Azzopardi


Dear Mr Scicluna We always look forward to receiving an email copy of the Maltese Newsletter and reading the informative contents. Thank you for the time and effort you apply in ensuring that this valued newsletter is distributed to many. We wish you and your family goodwill and blessings at Christmas time and peace and happiness for the New Year. Martese Wright from Adelaide

Grazziz Frank. Grazzi u prosit għal darb’ofra. Niskanta bik, kif dejjem issib biex timla b’tant informazzjoni interessanti ... u stampi wkoll! Kemm huma helwin dawk iz-zewg kartolini antiki ta’ Malta! M inn fejn irnexxilek issibhom! Tisliljet Lina minn Malta

Receiving The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora has been a very welcome newsletter in our home. It has kept us up to date of what has been happening between Malta and Australia. Because of the newsletter earlier this year I was able to purchase the book “The Nurse of the Mediterranean”. I found it very interesting reading, it taught me a lot of what took place in the 1st World War and how Malta and her people were involved with the Anzacs. Keep up the good work, and Congratulations to you on the 100th Edition. Mireille and Bruce Daw SA

A big THANK YOU. I enjoy go through The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora. In your next issue you should bring knowledge to your readers about the Malta Migration Museum. Kind Regards Mons Philip Calleja

Thanks Uncle Frank. A great issue with lots of interesting content as always :) Rebecca Galldies SA

I look forward to receive your newsletter because it is always full of most interesting information about Malta. It is non-political and you never try to discredit anybody, on the contrary you always praise those Maltese citizens who are giving a good name to Malta and striving to share the Maltese culture and heritage. PROSIT. Joe Saliba [Queensland].

I want to write just few lines to tell you that I have still one cousin, his wife and his 2 children in Malta. Every one having his life, we write to each other only once for the new year. nevertheless we love very much each other. My happiness is to listen the Maltese program of radio from Paul Vella located in Melbourne. The Radio is « 3ZZZ Maltese program » . then sometimes I receive your Maltese news written in Maltese. I must add that I have been lucky to have my other grandmother Concetta Spiteri who spoke with me always in Maltese from my birth to her death I was 16 years ago. I was in Malta in September 1958. Here, I have never the opportunity to speak Maltese but Maltese language is printed in my mind. I read it, I understand and speak it but I do too many mistakes when I try to write it . I am sometimes invited when the Maltese Embassy in Paris France has an event. Best regards. Georges Chetcuti from France
Brilli (A Game unique to Gozo)
Exploring the Traditional Lifestyle of Gozo

Brilli is a game still played by adults in Gharb Gozo. Part of this remote area is undisturbed by cars, where streets have retained their function as a meeting place for the villagers.

To play you need these objects..............................
Nine skittles (brilli) and a spherical wooden ball. The skittles are arranged to form a square with three rows, each row containing three skittles. A different term is used to describe the skittles according to their position in the square. The four brilli at the corners are called qriemec, while the central skittle is referred to as is-sultan. The remaining four skittles are known as is-sekondi. Each skittle is conical in shape, stability being provided by a metallic ring placed around the base. Is-Sultan has a spherical projection at its top to distinguish it from the other brilli.

To Play the game
At least five to six people are needed for the game to be played. The place chosen for the first throw (messa) is marked by a stone.

The first throw (il-moll) gains points according to the number and type of skittles dropped. Thus is-sultan gains 18 points, is-sekond 12 points while the qriemec 1 point. If however more than one type of pin is dropped (example: sultan and qarmuc) only 2 points for each dropped pin is gained.

A line (il-Hazz) is drawn at the place where the ball stops after the first throw. The second attempt is thrown from this line and gains two points for every skittle dropped.

I Love the Maltese Culture

A legend is a story passed on verbally from one generation to another. It can be partly true. Most Maltese legends are centred round our saints and heroes.

As part of our lesson on Maltese Folklore, we read quite a number of Maltese legends which we found fascinating. The legend of "Wied Speranza" is about a young woman named Sunta who was looking after her father’s sheep when the Turks landed. They tried to catch her and take her as a slave but she managed to hide in a cave. She prayed to the Holy Mary to save her. A spider then came and spun a web at the entrance of the cave. When the Turks approached and saw the web at the entrance, they turned back. Sunta was saved. A chapel, which still stands to this day, was later built over this cave.

Jean-Claude Ciantar
Now I’m going to relate the legend of "Il-Madonna taz-Zejt". This is the sad story of a young boy who fell seriously ill. His mother prayed the Holy Mary and oil was used to rub the boy with. He was then cured. A chapel was built where the oil was found.

Donovan Attard
I enjoyed reading the legend of "San Dimitri". A widow, Zgugina, lived with her only son, Matthew, in
Gharb, Gozo. One day, the Turks landed and kidnapped her son. She was heart-broken. Zgugina went to a nearby chapel where there was the painting of San Dimitri on a horse. She prayed so hard that she fell asleep in this chapel. She vowed that if she got her son back, she would light an oil-lamp in front of San Dimitri's picture. Her son came back. The chapel collapsed into the sea years later during an earthquake which hit Gozo. Fishermen say that they see a light coming from the bottom of the sea where the chapel is said to have fallen.

**Julian Vella**
The legend I enjoyed reading the most was "**L-Gharusa tal-Mosta**". This was about Marjanna, a young woman. Haggi worked in her father's house and he fell in love with her. However, another man, Toni, fell in love with her and her father was happy about this. Haggi was heart-broken and returned to Turkey. After a year, he returned with many Turks. They took Marjanna with them to Turkey. Toni, dressed as a Turk, went to Turkey to look for her and bring her back. He succeeded, but soon after Marjanna died.

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**MEET OUR FRIEND ENZO GUSMAN**

Enzo Gusman born in Sliema in the picturesque Island of Malta, He is a Singer, composer and author and Radio and TV Presenter. Married to another Maltese singer who, also, had a great career... Carmen Schembri and they have two daughters, Johanna and Greta.

Enzo Gusman is, practically, the only Maltese performer who has achieved International acclaim. He has represented his country, the Republic of Malta, in numerous Festivals all over the world. Top comic actor Johnny Navarro was the person who discovered Enzo and invited him as a resident singer on Rediffusion in a program called TIC TAC

Enzo started his career when he was 13...he, then, sang as lead singer with an all-Maltese band call The Boys way back in the early sixties. In 1968 he represented Malta in the Olympiade De La Chanson in Athens, Greece. Singing a romantic ballad, Enzo was an immediate success. Since that first success, he was also successful in the:-

World Popular Song Festival, Tokyo, Japan, Festival Internacional De la Cancion, Vina del Mar, Chile, Olympiad De La Chanson, Athens , Greece, Alexandria International Song Festival, Alexandria Egypt, Castlebar International Song Festival, Castlebar, Ireland, Cavan International Song Festival Cavan, Ireland, Istanbul International Song Festival, Istanbul, Turkey, Festival Menschen und meer Rostock. DDR, Festival Golden Orpheus Slantchev Bryag, Bulgaria.

His major achievement was when he won the coveted ‘First Prize’ at the Golden Orpheus Festival in Bulgaria. Enzo was also voted Best Foreign Artist at The Cavan International Song Festival, in Ireland, and was also declared Best Interpreter at the Istanbul International Song Festival in Turkey.

Enzo was also very well received during his tours of the United States, England, Australia, and Canada. Wherever he performs, Enzo is showered with superlative comments from the press. His vocal range, versatility, personality and joyful character are often a favourite subject with music critics and colleagues.

Enzo writes most of his songs. In fact he has been also quite successful as a composer / author. As if singing and song-writing was not enough.....he, also produces and presents a “live” Radio show, daily.....airing several current and yesterday’s years hits...adding a touch of humor and personal opinions, aimed at encouraging audience response !

Apart from singing and composing, Enzo Gusman also had a career as a broadcaster! He commenced broadcasting with Rediffusion in 1969, presenting The Italian Hit Parade, weekly. In 1976 joined the Voice of Friendship and Solidarity Radio Station, where he launched an intimate and interaction daily radio show entitled Bejn il-Htieb (Between Friends), that
made him ever more popular…… In 1979 Enzo had emigrated to the Canada along with his wife Carmen and two
daughters Johanna and Greta. In Canada, besides continuing his career as a banker, he also was a regular broadcaster
on CHIN Radio Toronto.

Back in Malta, in 1991, Enzo restarted his work as a singer and broadcaster….performing in most of Malta’s
entertainment venues, while continuing with the daily broadcast of “Bejn il-Ħbieb” on Xandir Malta, Bay Radio, P.B.S.,
Radio 101, Calypso Radio and Radio Malta. Today, grandfather of four, Enzo still managed to visit and spend time with
family, in Canada every January and during the Summer months All in all, Enzo is a very busy man, however, he still
finds time to watch TV and spend HOURS on the net, and sometimes even play his favourite sport……football. For some
time, Enzo was, also, an announcer at the National Stadium at Ta’Qali reading the line-ups before kick-off and
announcing scorers etc. He also enjoys singing the Maltese National Anthem, along with the visiting country’s Anthem,
before International matches! At December 2011, Enzo was honored for his career, with the medal Midalja Għal Qadi
tar-Repubblika. Enzo’s motto in life ‘In The World there are no strangers, there are only friends that we have ‘never met’

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Learn Maltese for pleasure, work or travel – Beginners,
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Website: www.mccv.org.au
Email: admin@mccv.org.au

FEDERATION OF MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS (Australia) INC
A united organisation of Maltese Language schools for the development and promotion
of Maltese language and culture in Australia and New Zealand.
WEBSITE: http://www.federationofmalteselanguageschoolsaustralia.com/
Diaa Mohamed launches Muslim the first political party in Australia

Dia Mohamed has launched a Muslim political party and hopes to get a seat in the Senate in the next federal election. Source: News Corp  www.news.com.au

MUSLIMS will be given more of a voice in Australia if a new political party is successful in the next federal election.

Western Sydney’s Diaa Mohamed has launched a political party representing Muslims in the wake of the terrorising Paris Attacks on Friday. Party candidates will be put forward in every Australian state ahead of the next election, in the hope of winning a seat in the Senate.

Mr Mohamed spoke to ABC radio this morning and said he launched the party because of the number of questions he expected over the coming days as a result of the Paris attacks. He is also the founder of Mypeace, an organisation to break down misconceptions and educate people about Islam.

Mr Mohamed told the ABC that he anticipated the 500 members needed to register for the Senate ballot paper would sign up. He also revealed on the AM program that his supporters almost called off the party launch due to the attacks in Paris but said it was as good a time as any to launch it.

The party has also been launched to respond to anti-Islamic parties that have been created in recent times, including the Love Australia or Leave party, launched by former SBS reality star Kim Vuga.

The Love Australia or Leave party’s Facebook page states it is not a hate page but took a stance against anything “un-Australian”, including Islamic teachings like Sharia Law.

Diaa Mohamed has launched a Muslim political party in response to anti-Islamic parties like Love Australia or Leave, created by Kim Vuga (pictured). Picture: Cameron Laird

Source: News Corp Australia
Filmat: "Quddiem id-diżordni ta' bħalissa se naqtgħu qalbna?"
Għaqda Ħbieb tal-Presepju Ghawdex-Malta,
FRIENDS OF THE CRIB – GOZO-MALTA

Francesco Pio Attard - 16/11/15


“It-twelid ta’ Ġesù, dak li aħna bil-Presepju nippruvaw inżommu memorja tiegħu, hu bidu ta’ epoka ġdida u jurina li ż-żmien ghandu tifsira fih. L-Inkarnazzjoni taghti sens ġdid lill-hajja, mhux skont il-kejl tan-natura imma fil-persuna ta’ Kristu nnifsu li hu n-norma u l-punt ta’ riferiment il-ġdid għal ħajji ta’ ġali mara”, staqsa Monsinjur Grech.


L-Isqof Grech faħħar l-inizjattiva tal-Għaqda li tqiegħed il-messaġġ Kristjan fuq quddiem nett tad-diversi aspetti artistiċi, folkloristiċi, storiċi u kulturali tal-presepju, għax fl-ahħar mill-ahħar dan hu li “jagħti dawl ġdid lid-dinja”.


Hodie Christus Natus Est

Xejn ma nbati sabiex niktet
Poeżija tal-Milied –
Hawn arawni hiereġ b’waħda
La darba dan wara l-bieb!

U x’ser naqbad niktet aktar
Dwar dil-festa hekk sabiha
Meta jiena s-sena kollha
Tal-Milied żgur nghix bir-riha.

Din il-ɡrajja lilha tfakkar
Fit-twelid ta’-t-darbijja
Li hekk kif ghajnejha fethet
Imliet lilha bl-armonija!

Għalkemm tgerbu elfejn sena
Minn dak illi ġara f’Betlem,
Dak il-ferħ u dink il-hena
Blu dubju jibqgħu ghal dejjem.

U kull sena kif Diċembru
Jibda lejna riesaq qrib
Fuq kull wċċ ta’ ferħ tbissima
Lil kull bniedem dan iġib.

Biex dal-ferħ ma jkun qatt nieqes
F’dawn il-ɡranet tal-Milied
Hemm bżonn li nxerrdu l-Presepju
Mal-irhula u l-ibliet.

Ghalhekk twieled f’Ghawdex taghna
L-Għaqda Ħbieb minn tal-Presepju;
Tul dawn l-ahħar tlelin sena
Ma waqfitx taghti l-eżempju

Biex dil-grotta fjira w helwa
Issib postha żo kull dar
Bil-pasturi, djar, xi mithna
U fil-bogħod anki xi swar,

U fiċ-ċentru l-Bambin ċkejken
Għan-nifs sħun ta’ baqra w hmar
Waqt li r-raghajja gharkubbtejhom
Mistaghħbin bl-ġhaġeb li sar!

Kemm nixtieq li kont nghix f’Betlem
Ĝo xi gorboq f’dark iż-żmien
Kieku żgur li l-bieb kont niftaħ
Lil dil-ħlejqa ta’ ffit jiem

U bil-ferħ nilqaghha ġewwa
Ma’ Gużeppi u Marija -
Ġenituri xxurtjati
Ta’ din iċ-ċkejna tarbija.

Imma il-Feddej tal-bniedem
Ma riedx vīlel u palazzi,
Xi castell jew xi dar kbira
Kollha twapet u arazzi,

Imma għar f’nofs il-kampanja
F’lejl tax-xitwa kollha kisieh
Biex hemmhekk ghajnejh ibexxaq
Għall-kant ta’ l-angli sabiħ.

Bl twelidek ibqa’ ferrah
Lilha Ikoll Gesu’ Bambin;
Ibqa’ saltan fid-djar taghna
Għalik dejjem ghandna l-hin.

Mank li kien dal-ferħ tal-ġhaġeb
Li jġib mieghu l-Milied
Jibqa’ magħna s-sena kollha
U jirbaħ fuq kull inkwiet.

Illum Kristu twieled fostna
Għaletx tant habb lill-bnedmin;
Jalla b’dan il-twelid tieghu
Nġhxu ghal dejjem henjin!

“L-Għaqda Ħbieb minn tal-Presepju”
Nawgurawla aktar snin
THE NATIVITY CRIB — A MALTESE TRADITION

In Malta, the Crib is part of the Christmas season and tradition. It is believed that the very first Crib to be built in Malta dates back to 1617, and although there is no official document which can confirm it, the crib has been built every Christmas since.

The History of the Cribs

The design of the Cribs was influenced mainly by the Neapolitan style. However, although this style was popular in Europe till the end of the last century, many Maltese disagreed with it, claiming, that such a style did not represent the Holy Night. The more acceptable style was that of Sicilian model introduced by Benedetto Papale, a Franciscan friar from Sicily, during the second half of the 19th century. Popularity of building cribs bloomed during the 19th and beginning of 20th century. The most common material used was the rustic stone, coal residue and eventually papier mache. Another interesting part of the crib, of course, are the statues called ‘pasturi’, which were made of arth clay or candle wax.

The Maltese cribs are part of the local culture, so if you happen to be visiting our beautiful Islands during the Christmas season, be sure to see some.

Nowadays you will find different displays of Maltese cribs in private homes, churches, and in exhibition spaces. Most of these cribs are hand-made and some are even life-size cribs. One popular life-size crib is “Bethlehem f’Għajnsielem” which is held at Għajnsielem in Gozo during December. In fact the place (a 20,000 square meter of fields) is transformed into a nativity village where several volunteers take part in the reconstruction of the Christmas story. Witness horses turning mills, villagers going about their jobs, shepherds inhabiting caves, animals roaming in enclosed spaces and a poor unknown couple tending their newly-born in a grotto. The perfect Christmas atmosphere for all the family.

Are you visiting Malta during Christmas and the Festive Season? Celebrate the Christmas spirit at a luxury 5 Star hotel in Malta. Should you wish to visit traditional Maltese cribs and
experience the local Christmas atmosphere during your Malta holidays please speak to Our Concierge Team who will guide you accordingly.

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DATE & TIME: 4th December 2015 – 7:30pm
NOTES OF FAITH

Program:
Albert Pace: In Amore illo Ardeas
Cristina Vilalonga: Aspiratio
Karl Fiorini: Rêves Obscurs
Doron Kima: Seeds of Hope

Conductor: Raoul Lay
Soloist: Bashir Abdel Al (Oud);
Nizar Al Issa (Nay)

Part of the Biennale Festival, and an initiative of the peacebuilding arts NGO CARAVAN, ‘Notes of Faith’ by Jewish composer Doron Kima. The concert offers the audience a stimulating and challenging opportunity to contemplate fundamental eternal questions of existence, faith, harmony and peace through the ethereal acoustic experience of outstanding musicianship. PRICE: FREE
LOCATION: St. Paul’s Cathedral

CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE

For tickets contact
Charles Farrugia,
President,
Maltese RSL Sub branch on
[08] 8260 1778 or email
cfarrugia@internode.on.au

A TASTE OF MALTA

During your next holiday to Malta try some typical Maltese dishes and delicious sweets…

Here are some traditional Maltese dishes that are worth a try:

- Gbejniet tal-Bzar – Peppered Cheeselets
  - Enjoy Gozo cheeselets
  - Try a traditional Maltese dish Fenkata in Mgarr
  - Taste the famous Maltese ‘pastizzi’, filled with ricotta or peas
  - Another must is to taste freshly made Maltese bread
  - Enjoy a bottle of Maltese wine

- Bebbux – Snails Stew
  - Taste bebbux (snails)
  - Try Maltese sausage, available from village butchers
  - Try one of the Maltese traditional liquors called Bajtra (prickly pear)
  - During summer months enjoy delicious local fish called ‘lampuki’
  - Have a pint of Cisk – Malta’s local beer.

- Imqaret – Deep Fried Date Pastry
  - Enjoy the delicious ‘mqaret’ the Maltese traditional date filled pastries.
  - Refresh yourself with a local soft drink Kinnie
  - Try a packet of Twistees a local snack
What The Heck Is Ftira?

*Ftira* seems like a simple concept, but it's not. And it might not even really be *ftira.* Malta isn't a big place, and Gozo (the "other island" in the archipelago) *really* isn't a big place either. But it's big enough to have culinary specialties, and *ftira* - or plural *ftajjar*? - is principle among them. We journeyed all over this speck of rock, getting confused, finding clarity, getting disappointed and, finally, finding the best ftira on earth (probably). So, what is this thing? It took us a while to figure that out.

*Ftira,* we knew, was a Gozitan specialty that was something like pizza, but also different from pizza. But I'll get to that in a minute. Trying to be good about tasting local specialties, we stopped - on our first noon in Gozo - at the Clock House restaurant in Victoria, in front of which was a blackboard advertising *Ftira.* There was a list of different options, and the waitress was very flattering when I ordered. "Ah," she said. "You've ordered the one that we order. That's the traditional Gozo choice."

Well, this is what I ended up with. A tuna sandwich. It turns out, *Ftira* is a little more complicated than I'd thought. The clockhouse wasn't being misleading. This is the second *ftira* I ordered, in the seaside town of Xlendi, and probably the worst. The sandwich, at least, was flavorful. So, here's the thing. *Ftira* is a specific type of Maltese bread - not Gozitan bread, but Maltese bread in general. So, sometimes, a sandwich made on Maltese *ftira* bread can be called a *ftira.* That's a country wide thing. But Gozo has a special kind of this bread, which is similar to a pizza. But a pizza with Gozitan *ftira* toppings - anchovies, olives, onions, capers and slices of potato - isn't really a *ftira* either. This was basically just a pizza, masquerading as something else. It was dry and uninteresting, with no sauce or cheese. I was beginning to think that eating *ftira* was a worthless experience. Here's one problem - what I was looking for is actually called *ftajjar,* but is listed on menus and referred to as *ftira* (or, even, pizza).
Here's the first good one I had a slice of, at a place called (inauspiciously) Victoria Hotspurs Sportsbar and Pizzeria. It had all the elements - a strange crust, all the traditional toppings and the thinly sliced potato, plus a generous drizzle of olive oil.

Just across the square, and even less outwardly appealing, we found Rizzle's pizzeria, which was attached to a sweets shop and sold a lot of deep-dish pies and green pea pastries called pastizzi (another local treat). In their window, though, were some excellent examples of classic ftira.

The crust is unleavened, but still bouncy and doughy. It's reminiscent, somehow, of focaccia or very thick eggroll wrapper. The texture is chewy and it oozes oil, almost as though it were fried.

Posted by Rebecca.

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**MEC Languages and Culture S.A.**

The Minister for Education & Development's Award for Excellence in Languages and Culture is conducted by the Australia Day Council of South Australia and provided by the Multicultural Education Committee on behalf of the Minister for Education. This Award is presented at the Australia Day Awards Ceremony.

**Nominees must be** An Australian citizen - 24 years or younger - Nominated by another person or a group: community organisation, school.

**Criteria** Commitment to advocacy for a multicultural Australia

- A high degree of competence in more than one language and culture
- Outstanding qualities, including community leadership
- The ability to operate across cultures.

Download the Nomination Form [here](http://sa.australiaday.org.au/programs/mec-languages-and-culture/)

Nominations close 27 November 2015

**Past Winners**

The Minister for Education's Award for Excellence in Languages and Culture 2015 - commendation - Solange Villanueva-Alvarez

Solange is a Peruvian born Australian who has an incredible passion for language and shows great energy in community activities. She is an advocate for the language of Spanish and South American culture, participating in many forums and public speaking engagements to promote understanding and awareness of the language and culture. She also speaks Italian, and has also studied French, Chinese and Korean. Solange is also...
involved in many community initiatives including fundraising for World Vision 40 Hour Famine fundraiser which raised over $5000.

**The Minister for Education's Award for Excellence in Languages and Culture 2015 - Rachel Nyiramugisha**

Originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo Rachels family went into asylum when she was 3 months old and lived in three different refugee camps. Knowing the challenges refugees face in adapting to a new life in Australia she has volunteered as a Youth Ambassador with the Australian Refugee Association assisting refugees and asylum seekers becoming settled and participating as citizens of Australia. Her ability to speak four languages, Congolese, Swahili, Kirundi and Rwandese in addition to English makes her particularly successful in efforts to assist refugees. Rachel is also well known for her effort in advocacy across Adelaide regularly promoting intercultural understanding and speaking about her story and creating awareness of refugee issues.

Rachel's experience not only supports and motivates new arrivals to Australia but also educates the wider community about the refugee experience and the settlement journey. Her efforts make an important contribution to a strong, diversive and cohesive community. For more information about this award please contact the Australia Day Council on (08) 8463 5436 or adcsa@dpc.sa.gov.au

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**Meet Robert Farrugia CHOGM VOLUNTEER**

I have been involved in volunteering for quite some years so it was natural for me to apply with the possibility of being involved in CHOGM 2015 and I was delighted that I'd been accepted as a volunteer. The idea of meeting different people from all around the world, is exciting. I’m sure it will be a learning experience and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, which will once again put my country on the global stage. I look forward for this opportunity and excited to give my contribution towards the success of this event which among-st other will address global issues such as climate change, the empowerment of youth, gender equality and human rights. *Source: CHOGM news*
Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull met with European Council President Donald Tusk, and European Commission President Jean Claude Juncker in Antalya, Turkey on 15 November. In the first ever meeting in this format between the EU and Australia, the leaders stressed the shared values and heritage of Australia and the EU and discussed a broad range of topics. They welcomed the finalisation of the negotiations of the EU-Australia Framework Agreement and announced the start of a process leading towards a possible EU/AUS Free trade agreement [see next article]. They established the EU-Australia Leadership forum to be launched in 2016 and stressed the importance of research and innovation as drivers of growth and employment. They discussed regional security and challenges such as Syria, Iraq and Ukraine. Their statement highlights further common ground between the EU and Australia on global challenges such as climate change, migration, trade and crisis management.
ilni 37 sena niği nixtri l-hobż minn hawn” - Paul Vella u Anton Conti, il-furnar.

Haz Zebbug


Imbagħad minn hemm bdejt nahdem għal rasi. Bis-saħħa tiegħu kbirt f’xogħli. Hdmt lil ġafna nies fosthom avukati, tobbia, nutara u anke nies barranin.” - Salvu Dimech....

The People of Malta's Photos · The People of Malta's Page

MALTESE HAMLETS IN THE FIFTEEN HUNDREDS

In 1514 in Malta there were about sixty small villages, or hamlets, scattered around the island and they lasted till the plague outbreak of 1592, when most of their inhabitants died. By time their names and identity were taken over by bigger, or different villages and hereunder is a list of these hamlets, with their respective number of inhabitants as it stood in 1514 and whereby they were situated.

Hal Dwin with 100 dwellings and Hal Muxi with 200 to-day form part of Zebbug (Malta)
Bubaqra with 38 dwellings and Nigret with 200 now form part of Zurrieq.
Hal Niklusi with 80 dwellings and Hal Xluq with 37 now are part of Siggiewi
Hal Warda with 15 dwellings and Hal Bordi with 18 have been taken over by Attard.
Hal Dghif with 30 dwellings and Musulmett with 35 now form part of Naxxar.
Hal Bizbut, Hal Tmin and Hal Gwann to-day have been integrated with Zejtun.
Hal Mula was to be found between Zebbug and Buskett
Hal Tartani was situated between Dingli and Buskett.
Hal Kbir was situated between Qrendi and Siggiewi
Hal Lew between Siggiewi and Mqabba
Hal Millieri was between Mqabba and Zurrieq
Hal Tabuni was to be found between Qrendi and Girgenti
Hal Manin between Zurrieq and Qrendi
Hal Qadi and Hal Saftan where next to Gudja
Hal Ferut and Hal Farrug where next to Luqa.
Hal Gawhar was next to Kirkop
Has Sajd was next to Zebbug (Malta)
Has Sajd (another one) was to be found between Zabbar and Marsascala
Hal Kaprat was situated between Birkirkara and Qormi
Hal Gharrat was between Cospicua and Tarxien (today’s Fgura)
Hal Far was between Zurrieq and Safi
Hal Dimech, Hal Pessa, Hal Arrig, Hal Militt and Bir Miftuh today all form part of Gudja.

I found this information whilst reading a book called “Is-Sahhar Falzun” (Falzon the Sorcerer) written by Agostino Levanzin who in turn, as he himself declares in the book, got this information from Castagna, Abela, and Ciantar from a letter that King Ferdinand sent to his ambassador in Rome in 1514. 

Sent by Harry Bugeja - Adelaide German

Chancellor Angela Merkel attends the Valletta Summit on Migration at the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta on November 12.

Photo: Darrin Zammit Lupi
Times of Malta
The Editor of the MALTESE NEWSLETTER invites the readers and friends to send a Christmas message and it will be published in the Christmas Special Edition 2015

MALTESE NEWSLETTER

That’s All Folks

SAHHA, SLIEM U BARKA