

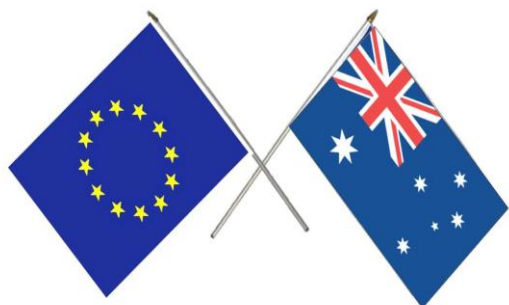
## THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

## MALTESE NEWSLETTER

BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN MALTESE ALL OVER THE WORLD



## Australia-European Union Free Trade Agreement



The Australian Prime Minister together with the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission agreed in a joint statement on 15 November 2015 to start the process towards a comprehensive and high-quality Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

As a bloc, the EU is Australia's largest source of foreign investment and second largest trading partner. In 2014, the EU's foreign direct investment in Australia was valued at \$169.6 billion and Australian foreign direct investment in the EU was valued at \$83.5 billion. Total two-way merchandise and services trade between Australia and the EU was worth \$83.9 billion.

The EU is Australia's largest services export market, valued at nearly \$10 billion in 2014. Services account for 19.7 per cent of Australia's total trade in goods and services and will be an important component of any future free trade agreement.

Australian and EU officials will now begin bilateral discussions on the next steps to launch negotiations. As part of this process, DFAT is seeking submissions from interested stakeholders.

### Key interests and benefits

- A comprehensive, high-quality Australia-EU FTA would help to ensure our trade and investment relationship reaches its full potential
- An Australia-EU FTA would **remove barriers** to trade in goods
- An Australia-EU FTA could expand **services linkages** and **investment ties**
- An Australia-EU FTA could enhance **regulatory cooperation** in specific sectors of interest to business.



## Maltese-Australian Women's Association

Bhal kull sena, il-Maltese-Australian Women's Association ser jorganizzaw Australia Day nhar l-Erbgħa, 20 ta' Jannar f'De Piro House Stanley Street Sydney.

Fl-10.30 am quddiesa mill-Kapillan tasl-ghaqda Rev Fr Tarcisio Micallef MSSP fejn qabel ikun hem mil-qrar u jingħad ir-Ruzarju.

Wara jkun hemm morning coffee u lunch.

Huwa 'mportanti li tibbukjaw minhabba l-ikel.

**Cemplu lil Joyce Nagy fuq: 9718 2795 jew lil Colleen Cassar fuq: 9718 3868.**

### Harga għal Frar

**Nhar l-Erbgħa 10 ta' Frar**, il-Maltese-Australian Women's Association, sejjrin Cockatoo Island bil-ferry.

Niltaqu hdejn il-Manly Ferry, Circular Quay fl-10.00 am. Tistax tixtru l-ikel jew iggibu magħkom. Uzaw il-card tat-trasport publiku.

Dak in-nhar tigi 'ccelebrata il-festa ta' San Pawl u ghalekk tkun xieraq li ngawdu dan il-jum flimkien.

**Cemplu lil Joyce**



## MALTA CARNIVAL 2016

5th-9th February 2016

Carnival in Malta is synonymous with 5 days of complete madness, bright colours, competitions, events and fun. Carnival is celebrated right before the start of Lent. It starts off on a Friday and goes on till Tuesday, before Ash Wednesday. This year's Carnival will be celebrated between the 5th and the 9th of February 2016, the festivities always takes place 7 weeks before Easter Sunday and children have a couple of days off from school as most families head for Valletta which bursts with parades, music, floats and people in costumes.

Carnival celebrations in Malta can be tracked back to the 1400s. The Knights of the Order of St. John celebrated Carnival in grand style and introduced strength competitions and carnival balls to Maltese traditions. The tradition of Carnival survived throughout all these centuries. Nowadays, Carnival is marked by a competition of colourful, gigantic floats accompanied by parades of dancers dressed up in grotesque masks and costumes. The main parades are held in Valletta and Floriana. Carnival balls and parties are organised in various localities around Malta and Gozo. For 5 days in a year, anyone can dress up, cover his face with a mask and fool around the streets.

Many young people gather in Nadur (a small village in Gozo) during the weekend. Carnival in Nadur takes on a different aspect of merriment from the one celebrated in Valletta. Carnival in Nadur is not televised and religious institutions often protest on the events that take place in this small village. However, Carnival in Nadur is not organised by any committee but is just a spontaneous gathering of people.

The Maltese take up any valid excuse to indulge in food, and associate particular food with yearly traditional events. A visit to Valletta or to any confectionery in Malta during Carnival will introduce you to the traditional 'Prinjolata'. This is a special cake, in the form of a bell made up of sponge, cake, almonds and eggs. This is then coated with meringue and decorated with chocolate and cherries. **Prinjolatas** are usually very big and are then sold by weight from street vendors, but one can also buy mini sized prinjolatas as a souvenir. All around the Maltese Islands there are various balls and many of the Villages have their own carnival celebrations.

<https://www.chevron.co.uk/events/malta-carnival-2016>



## ...wil-Karnival rega' magħna!

Jgħaddi ż-żmien, jitgerbu l-ġmieghi,  
Filli konna fil-Milied;  
Frar l-imqarqaċ jinsab magħna  
U għabilna l-karrijiet

Illi fuqhom qegħdin jiżfnu  
Guvintur, qabda tfajliet,  
Illi ġew fl-enclosure tagħna  
Mill-irhula u l-ibliet

Sabiex jaqbzu w jiddevertu  
F'dawn il-jiem tal-Karnival,  
Magħhom hemm xjuħ, irġiel, nisa –  
Għax darbtejn insiru tfal!

U fi hdanu l-Misraħ jilqa'  
Għadd ta' żgħażaġħ u xebbiet,  
Jiżżegilgu u jiżżarġnu  
Waqt li l-Banda ukoll ġiet.

K'tigri ġirja mal-irhula  
Briju tilmaħ kullimkien;  
Għal mument id-dwejjaq jogħsfru  
W il-bluh jirkebb dan iż-żmien.

Xi wħud jiżfnu l-Kumittiva  
Jew inkella fl-Isfilata;  
Oħrajn jidhlu għal Kukkanja,  
Ma tonqosx il-Prinjalata.

Dawn il-festi popolari  
Ftit jew wisq jogħġbu 'l kulhadd;  
F'dawn il-jiem titbellah, twerzaq,  
Ibqa' ċert ma jkellmek hadd!

Iżda l-għada li jintemmu  
Jiġu għanet b'differenza;  
Erbgħin jum ta' sagriċċju,  
Talb u sawm u penitenza!

Ħbieb immela, ħaffu, għaġlu,  
Ilbsu, xiddu l-kostum,  
Għax dal-festi dalwaqt jgħibu,  
Ma jiġux magħna kuljum!

Kav Joe M Attard Rabat, GHAWDEX

## Karnival rega' Magħna

jikteb il-Kav Joe M Attard mir-Rabat, GHAWDEX

Għaddew u tgerbu l-festi tal-Milied u tal-Ewwel tas-Sena l-Ġdida, u l-istudenti reġġu lura fuq il-bankijiet tal-iskola u kulhadd mar lura fuq il-lant tax-xogħol imma d-dilettanti tal-Karnival ma waqfux minuta biex ihejju għal wasla ta' dawn il-festi folkloristiċi u tradizzjonali li ilhom magħna sa qabel waslu fostna l-Kavallieri fis-sena 1530.

Dalwaqt jibda x-xahar ta' Frar u issa riesaq fuqna b'pass mgħaġġel il-Karnival u l-Kunsill tal-Kultura fi hdan il-Ministeru għal Ghawdex nemmen li ħadem bi sħiħ biex ikollna Karnival ikkullurit li joħloq atmosfera ta' festa u għal mument kulhadd iwarrab fil-ġenb il-problemi u r-rutina tal-ħajja ta' kuljum u joħroġ jiddeverti billi jieħu sehem inkella jgawdi l-ispettaklu li jsir kemm fil-Belt Victoria inkella fit-toroq, fl-imsieraħ u fl-irhula tagħna. Nixtieq minn hawn nagħti Prosit lill-artista żagħżuġh Paul Falzon mix-Xewkija li dis-sena ddisinja l-Poster tal-Karnival li fakkarni fi Fredu Spiteri tal-leverist li sena minnhom fil-Karnival ħareġ liebes ta' nofsu sinjur u nofsu fqir.

Nghid għalija jien trabbejt fl-ambjent tal-Karnival għax missieri, Alla jaħfirlu kull sena kien jara x'jivvinta biex jidhloq fl-Enclosure u jiddeverti lill-folla. Ta' tifel li kont tant kont nieħu gost nara attivita' sħiħa għaddejja fil-workshop tiegħu – min jisbogħ xi maskarun, min jarma l-float, min jivvinta xi apparat biex fl-enclosure issir xi operazzjoni medika inkella jittella xi rocket fil-qamar flimkien ma' tant u tant praspas oħra. Dak iż-żmien tar u għadda u donnu l-Karnival tilef ħafna minn dik il-komicità ta' ħamsin sena ilu! Dejjem iżda jibqa' żmien ta' divertiment u aljenazzjoni! Mela ħbieb inħeġġiġkom għal mument innew il-kontroversja u d-diskussjonijiet tal-politika, tal-partiti, tal-każini, tal-kaċċa u ta' dak kollu li jipprova jifridna, u xiddu l-kostum u oħroġu ddevertu jew ingħaqdu ma' xi kumpanija taż-żfin u ifirħu u ferrħu lill-ħaddieħor.

Qed nifli l-kalendarju u qed ninnota li dis-sena l-Karnival fil-gżira tagħna ġej kmieni mhux ħażin u dik li s-soltu tkun il-festa tan-Nawfragju ta' Missierna San Pawl fl-10 ta' Frar, se tkun Ras ir-Randan u allura l-Karnival Ċentrali jiftaħ il-Gimgħa 5 ta' Frar u jintemm it-Tlieta 9 ta' Frar. Il-festa tal-Appostlu tal-Ġnus li tfarrak fuq xtutna fis-sena 60 Wara Kristu din is-sena ser issir fil-aħħar ta' Jannar, meta fil-Belt Victoria jkun qed isir it-tmiem tal-festa ta' San Gwann Bosco. Nawguraw festa mill-aqwa lill-Maltin u l-Għawdxin kollha b'mod speċjali lill-Beltin f'Malta u lill-Munxarin. F'xi bnadi l-Karnival jaf jibda xi ftit qabel il-5 ta' Frar b'mod speċjali dak li jorganizzaw wħud mill-Kunsilli Lokali. Kif tistgħu tobsru, it-tfal tal-iskejjel tagħna wkoll jagħtu s-sehem ikkullurit tagħhom u dawn irridu nagħrfu nikkultivawhom għax dawn huma l-Karnival tal-futur. L-iskejjel kollha tista' tgħid jiehdu dan l-impenn bis-serjeta' u b'ċerta professjonalita tant li bosta drabi jonfqu iktar milli jdaħħlu. Ġeneralment il-qofol tal-Karnival ikun il-Ħadd wara nofs inhar, dejjem jekk it-temp jippermetti. Wara ħafna sabar u paċenzja, issa Pjazza

Indipendenza għandha pavement sabiħ u hawnhekk allura jiltaqgħu l-partecipanti kollha tal-Karnival Għawdxin u jipprovdu spettaklu li mhux ta' min jtilfu. Id- Defile' ġeneralment jimxi matul matul Triq ir-Repubblika bis-sehem ta' kumpaniji ta' żfin maskri grotteski, karrijiet trijonfali, baned u l-Kumittiva.

Bosta drabi matul il-jiem tat-Tnejn u t-Tlieta bosta mill- Kunsilli Lokali jorganizzaw il-Karnival fl-irħula tagħhom; u ċert li rħula oħra ma joqogħdux jistennu dan il-jum biex itellgħu serati ta' divertiment li għalihom tikkonkorri n-nies. Bla dubju fin-Nadur mhux biss isir programm fil-pjazza tar-raħal l-Ħadd kmieni wara nofs inhar imma jsir Karnival u divertiment

sħiħ bejn il-Gimgħa u t-Tlieta hekk kif jibda jroxx id-dlam. L-importanti li ma jwegġa' ħadd u jsir kollox bl-ordni u b'rispett lejn xulxin. Fix-Xagħra qaluli li ma tonqosx iż-żifna tal-Kumittiva quddiem il-Pjazza tal-knisja ta' Gesu' Nazzarenu flimkien ma' divertiment ieħor; programmi oħra jsiru wkoll quddiem il-knisja parrokkjali tar-raħal. Fix-Xewkija wkoll insibu ħafna dilettanti tal-Karnival li bosta drabi jiehdu sehem fil-karnival ċentrali waqt li anke jorganizzaw divertiment fir-raħal tal-Għammiedi.

Fl-Għarb, mhux darba u t-tnejn l-Kunsill ħabriei t' hawnhekk ġie li stedinni biex nipprezenta xi serata karnivaleska, organizzata mis-Sindku David Apap u sħabu, li nifhem ġa qed jaħsbu fuq il-Festival popolari li jsir ta' kull sena hawnhekk Seħer il-Punent. Niftakar is-sena l-oħra pprezentajt ukoll il-Karnival taż-Żebbuġ u l-Munxar.

Segwu l-gurnali u l-istazzjonijiet tar-radju u tat-Televiżjoni biex tkunu tafu x'inhu għaddej. Bla dubju l-ġenituri u l-għalliema jindunaw bl-atmosfera li taħkem lil pajjiżna f'dan iż-żmien, għax l-istudenti jkollhom long weekend twil billi t-Tnejn u t-Tlieta ikunu vaganza; xi ħaġa li jkun jistennu u jimmeritaw wara l-eżamijiet ta' nofs is-sena u qabel ma jidhlu għal żmien ir-Randan. U nagħlaq billi nawguralkom kull divertiment matul dawn il-jiem li matulhom titfaċċa l-Prinjolata li tant tinżel tajjeb waqt il-pranzu ta' Ħadd il-Karnival. Meta konna għadna tfal niftakar ukoll li konna nerħulha niġru wara xi jeep jew trakk armat bil-palm u b'xi erba' għannejja jdoqqu, ikantaw u għannu waqt li jwaddbulna xi żewġ perlini li kollha jgħibu hekk kif jisbaħ l-Erbgħa filgħodu, Ras ir-Randan, li jagħti bidu għal erbgħin jum ta' sawm u astinenza, għal min irid jidhol waħda f'qoxortu u jaħseb f'it minn xiex kellu jgħaddi l-Imgħallem Divin biex jifdina u jsalvana



## MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

*Come and enjoy a good atmosphere & friendship*

### 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**

NOTE: Friday Bingo resumes on 15 January 2016



## QUEEN VICTORIA

By Clair Gleeson

### The Queen and I Republic Square Valletta, Malta

Queen Victoria isn't every eight year old's idea of a heroine but she was mine.

Something about the unknown princess who became a queen and ruled for more than 60 years appealed to me. A biography I was given for my ninth birthday confirmed it – I was hooked on the queen and her empire.



Living in a country which had been part of the empire and having a family tree stuffed with Scots, when I was growing up ties to the United Kingdom were strong. On Christmas Day, despite the heat, we ploughed through a traditional roast dinner and Christmas pudding as Bing Crosby sang *White Christmas*. On Boxing Day we went to the beach. When Queen Elizabeth II visited New Zealand our entire school marched a mile to stand by the side of the road so we could wave to her as her car passed.

In my twenties I travelled to Britain where I lived and worked for two years, wallowing in the places I'd studied and read about. I visited castles and palaces, stately homes and villages, walked Hadrian's Wall and worked on an archaeological dig in Orkney. I loved it all.

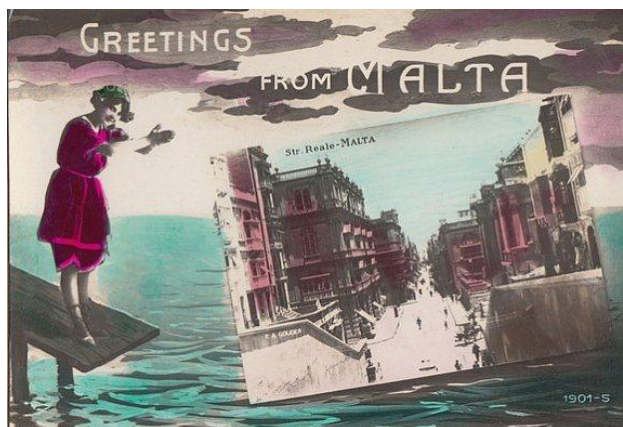
I've returned many times, always finding somewhere new to go and another legacy of Empire to see. And of course, it's not just in Britain. So many places around the world have associations with the British Empire that I know I'll never get to see all of them, but I'm giving it a go. I was delighted to find a statue of Queen Victoria in the centre of the Capital City of Malta, Valletta.

So that's me, a librarian and historian who travels as often as possible and is always on the hunt for any connection to Queen Victoria and the British Empire whether it be in a vintage shop or a foreign field. *The Wandering Historian* is an online journal of my travels, finds and anything else relating to Empire that I discover.

I've recently begun to collect historical postcards and now collect cards showing these statues, some of which no longer exist. When I was in Malta a month ago I visited Republic Square in Valletta and admired the statue of Queen Victoria outside the National Library.

It was carved in white marble by Giuseppe Valenti in 1891 to commemorate Queen Victoria's golden jubilee (1897). The square is a popular meeting place with shops and cafes so I enjoyed some Maltese pastizzi (cheese pastries) and coffee while admiring the statue.

## Greetings from Malta: the story behind a postcard



Clare Gleeson writes:

I've recently started to collect old postcards – the tinted ones of the 19th and early 20th centuries. I started my collection when my daughter and I did a vintage road tour of the South Island last year and I needed something to look at in the vintage shops as she tried on vintage clothes. My collecting obsession soon became as great as hers!

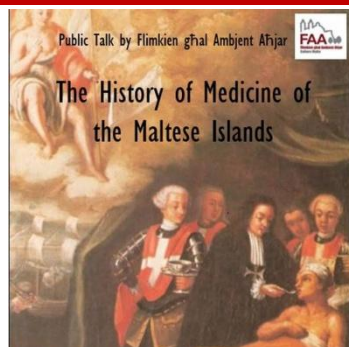
There are hundreds of tinted postcards for sale but I don't collect cards of just anywhere instead selecting ones of places I've been to, or places I'm interested in going to. After my visit to Malta I looked at various online sites for postcards and bought a few. The one I was most interested

in arrived today and from the front is a typical holiday card to be sent back to friends and family at home. It shows Strada Reale (now Republic Street) in Valletta and a girl in an Edwardian (the postcard is dated 1901 on the front) swimming outfit ready to plunge into the Mediterranean.

The postcard came from a dealer in Paris called Francis, who sent me a lovely note with it. Despite this it didn't occur to me that the card had originally been sent to someone in France and not Britain. Imagine my surprise when I looked at the back, saw the entire message was written in French and the date was 12 March 1915.

With my rather rusty schoolgirl French (and some help) it seems likely the card is from a soldier in Malta, writing to his aunt, uncle and cousins. He talks of "attacks" and "a miracle". He also talks of taking the card to catch "the courier". The card has not been sent by post but probably in an envelope which could mean it was one of a few he wrote to be dispatched to France via the courier. I've had a quick look on the internet and over 100 French soldiers from the First World War are buried in Malta, so it fits. Dated March 1915 this card pre-dates the beginning of the Gallipoli campaign and the huge influx of wounded to Malta, although it's not positive from the card that he was wounded; he may have been there for another reason. It seems such a lovely coincidence that this plopped into my letterbox today.

## History of Medicine of the Maltese Islands: Prof Carmel Lino Cutajar



*Flimkien għal Ambjent Ahjar* will launch its calendar of events this month with the first talk of the year – The History of Medicine of the Maltese Islands – delivered by Professor Carmel Lino Cutajar at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, formerly the hospital of the Order of St John. This talk, to be held on the 27th of January at 6.30pm, will discuss Malta's fascinating medical history. Prof Carmel Lino Cutajar will trace the evolution of medicine throughout the whole period of human activity on the islands.

Nebulous evidence of ancient times builds up to the grandeur of medical developments with the advent of the Hospitaller Order of St John whose hospital, the Sacra Infermeria, built in 1574, was among the most advanced in Europe. Professor Cutajar will relate the outstanding progress in contemporary medicine in Malta to medical advances on the European mainland. Important local medical developments, events and personages will

receive special mention in this lavishly illustrated presentation:

Members of FAA will also be able to purchase for a special price, a signed copy of Prof. Cutajar's acclaimed autobiography 'In at the Deep End: Reminiscences of a Maltese Surgeon' described by Laurence Grech, former Times Editor as "A gripping enjoyable narrative, informative, educational, entertaining and moving, with touches of humour, curious anecdotes." Tickets may be booked by visiting: <https://ticketengine.faa.org.mt/>. A €5.00 donation towards FAA's restoration project is solicited.

THIS ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED ON *THE ARGUS* (Melbourne)  
THURSDAY OCTOBER 19, 1916  
MALTESE IMMIGRANTS DENIED ADMISSION TO AUSTRALIA  
PRIME MINISTER WILLIAM HUGHES STATES POLICY.



The question of coloured labour has been given a good deal of prominence by anti-conscriptionists during the present campaign and much has also been said regarding an alleged influx of Maltese to take the place of Australians who are sent out of the country to fight. The Prime Minister (Mr. Hughes) yesterday gave a comprehensive reply to the curious statements that have been made under these headings.

"One of the devices of the anti-conscriptionists during this campaign he said has been to attempt to make the people of this country believe that the proposals of the Ministry are being put forward as a prelude to the introduction of coloured or cheap labour into Australia. I have already dealt with this matter at nearly every meeting at which I have spoken, and I have made a definite statement on behalf of the Ministry that during the continuance of the war no coloured or cheap labour would be allowed to enter Australia.

"This is not sufficient however for those who every day invent fresh misrepresentations in order to delude the public. Their latest invention has taken the shape of a more or less definite statement about a large influx of Maltese. At an anticonscription meeting recently it was stated that 4,000 Maltese had landed in the Northern Territory. At another meeting the feelings of the audience were harrowed by a statement to the effect that all arrangements had been made for the influx of coloured labour after the date of the referendum. There is of course absolutely no foundation whatever for those statements. They are wicked inventions put forward by men who know them to be quite without foundation but who hope to be able to fool a credulous public.

"The official figures regarding the arrival of Maltese in Australia," continued Mr. Hughes, "show that the number of Maltese admitted during this year was considerably less than in 1913 when 193 were admitted, or in the first six months of 1914 when 404 arrived/ Information has been received that another batch of 200 are on their way to Australia on the Messageries Maritimes s.s. Gange. These men in the ordinary course of events would have been admitted but owing to my having given an undertaking that during the war no coloured labour would be admitted into Australia, I have notified the British authorities that it is not the intention of the Commonwealth Government to admit them into Australia, The Governor of Malta, as the result of a communication from me has also undertaken not to issue any further passports for Australia."

#### **DR BARRY YORK – AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN**

Dr Barry York, PhD, OAM, is a widely published author and historian. Despite the surname - York - Dr. Barry York's dad is Maltese. He was born Loreto Meilak but he changed his name after the Second World War when the Air Force (which he joined in Malta) stationed him in London. Dr. Barry York's dad brothers and sisters, parents, etc., were all from Ghajnsielem, Gozo. The nickname was "tan-Nassi". His dad, however, being the eleventh child, happened to be born in Sliema, Malta, as the family moved there from Gozo around 1916. His dad was born in 1918. On Sunday 31st of May 1998 at the Maltese Cultural Centre in Albion, Australia, his new audio-CD, "Maltese Voices Down Under" and a book "Maltese in Australia" were launched. He researched and wrote in depth the ugly episode of the history of the MALTESE OF CALEDONIA.



## Fr. William Bonett (1884 -1928)



Born in Gibraltar of Maltese migrant parents who, however, returned to Malta in 1905 when William was 21 years old. He entered the seminary and was ordained priest in September 1913. A couple of years later he applied for a passport to travel to Australia. He arrived in Sydney on the

Osterley, on 2 January, 1916. By September of the same year he found himself involved in the Gange debacle, when 214 Maltese (mostly Gozitans) were forbidden to land because of the current unrest relating to the referendum about conscription.

Fr Bonnet took it on himself to try to convince the authorities that the Maltese migrants on board were legal migrants, carrying British passports and who had every right to land in Australia. He wrote letters to the Minister concerned (Mr Mahon) and the Prime Minister himself (Mr Billy Hughes) and to the Governor General of Australia (Rt Hon Ronald Crawford Munro-Ferguson). He wrote to the papers both in Australia and in Malta to highlight the plight

of the migrants who were languishing in Noumea waiting for a final decision.

In Malta, capital was made by those who were against migration in the first place (e.g Dr Enrico Mizzi) but no formal action was taken by the Government. Eventually, they were allowed to land, - a few at a time not to attract undue attention from the labour unions and the press! Fr Bonett has rightly earned the reputation of being the person most responsible for highlighting the state of these migrants.

He also tried his best to improve the lot of those migrants whom he saw as ill-prepared for their life in Australia. He also tried to convince the ecclesiastical authorities in Malta to send more priests who were deemed necessary both for the spiritual needs but also to influence the behaviour of unruly members of the congregation. Mgr G. DePiro was one of the few who heeded his words. He wrote back saying : "You know the Maltese as well as we do and you know how limited the missionary spirit is among us." Fr Bonett died at the young age of 44 years. [For further information see: Profiles in Maltese Migration by Fr Lawrence E. Attard, 2003, PEG, Malta] <http://www.maltamigration.com/settlement/personalities/bonnetwilliam.shtml>

## The Maltese of New Caledonia, 1916

*Author: Dr. Barry York,*

The incident involving the biggest single group of excluded Maltese has been well documented through my own publications and those of others, such as Mark Caruana and Frank Zammit of Sydney. The group of 214 Maltese 'prohibited immigrants' in 1916 comprised a boatload of agricultural labourers who were turned away at their intended port of disembarkation, Sydney, after having failed the dictation test while their boat was offshore at Melbourne. The method used by the Hughes' federal government was to have the test administered to the Maltese in the Dutch language.

On failing the Dutch dictation test, the Maltese became prohibited immigrants, unable to disembark anywhere within the Commonwealth of Australia, and liable to six months imprisonment and deportation should they somehow make it to shore. In addition to the official immigration statistics for 1916 which clearly show that 208 Maltese were kept out by section 3(a), there is evidence in the form of letters written by a Maltese priest in Sydney, Fr William Bonett, who had boarded the Gange, the ship on which the 214 travelled to Australia, and



spoken directly with them. According to Fr Bonett's letters, the men were tested in the Dutch language, and the test was administered by a professor from Melbourne University.

The 1916 incident is remembered throughout Maltese communities today as either the 'Maltese of New Caledonia' incident, because that is where they ended up for a while, or as 'the Children of Billy Hughes', after the Australian prime minister who made the political decision to keep them out. Further details and analysis may be found in the following publications:

Frank Zammit's *Il-Ballata tal Maltin ta' New Caledonia* and my book *Empire and Race: the Maltese in Australia 1881-1949*, especially chapter 5. Also, the National Library of Australia holds an interview that I recorded with Mr Emmanuel Attard, who was on the ill-fated *Gange* in 1916. A copy of Fr Bonett's letter to the Australian Governor-General, dated 1 December 1916, appears as an appendix in my research paper, published by the Australian National University, *Exclusions and admissions: Maltese arrivals at Australian ports 1911-1946*.

It was rare indeed, by 1916, that such a large group - regardless of nationality - should have been excluded. As mentioned earlier, the Immigration Act proved highly effective in deterring Asian immigrants during the first five years of its implementation. A penalty of one hundred pounds for each prohibited immigrant was imposed on the masters, agents, charterers and owners of ships that brought such persons to Australia.

Thus, after a few years of harsh experience, shipping companies dissuaded persons who stood a chance of being excluded at an Australian port from proceeding with their intended voyage. The French shipping company *Messageries Maritimes* clearly had no idea that the Maltese on the *Gange* would be declared prohibited immigrants and excluded from Australia.

## **Daniel Mannix – Archbishop of Melbourne**

Statue of Daniel Mannix outside St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne.



**Daniel Patrick Mannix** (March 4, 1864 – November 2, 1963) was an [Irish-born Australian Catholic](#) priest, Archbishop of Melbourne for 46 years, and one of the most influential public figures in twentieth century Australia. Mannix was the son of a tenant farmer near Charleville, in County Cork, Ireland and was educated at Irish Christian Brothers schools and at the prestigious St Patrick's College, Maynooth seminary, where he was ordained as a priest in 1890.

In 1895 he was appointed to the chair of Moral theology, and in 1903, not yet 40 years old, he was appointed president of St. Patrick's seminary—in effect becoming the intellectual head of Irish Catholicism. Although he was an outspoken Irish nationalist, he disapproved of violence against the British authorities, and personally welcomed Edward VII and George V during their visits to the college. Mannix was devoted to the Roman Catholic teaching of the sanctity of all members of humanity. He opposed violence and other forms of injustice from all sides. He urged pacifism and supported the causes of the Labor Party and trade unionism. He openly opposed Australian involvement in World War I and the conscription of Australia's youth to fight in that war. He stood in opposition to militancy and strikes. He also opposed Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) and the Communist Party of Australia however. True to his priesthood, on all matters of personal and sexual morality, Mannix maintained a lifelong position as a traditionalist and upheld the authority of the Roman Catholic Church. He maintained his authority as Archbishop of Melbourne and lived until four months before his 100th birthday.

## Wedding Customs and Superstitions in Malta

There are many customs and superstitions



associated with weddings. In the past a wedding was seen as a time when people were particularly susceptible to bad luck and evil spirits. Many originated or are modifications of customs which began many centuries ago. They are maintained in the belief that they will bring good luck and happiness to the couple at a time when their lives are changing, hopefully for the better. **SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW ... Something old, something new Something borrowed, something blue.**

And a silver sixpence in your shoe The rhyme originated in Victorian times although some of customs referred in it are much older. The 'something old' represents the couple's friends who will hopefully remain close during the marriage.

Traditionally this was an old garter which was given to the bride by a happily married woman in the hope that her happiness in marriage would be passed on to the new bride. 'Something new' symbolises the newlyweds' happy and prosperous future. The 'something borrowed' is often lent by the bride's family and is an item much valued by the family. The bride must return the item to ensure good luck. The custom of the bride wearing 'something blue' originated in ancient Israel where

the bride wore a blue ribbon in her hair to represent fidelity.

The placing of a silver sixpence in the bride's shoe was to ensure wealth in the couples married life. Today some brides substitute a penny in their shoe during the ceremony as silver sixpences are less common.

**THE WEDDING DRESS** It is thought unlucky for the bride to make her own wedding dress. It is also unlucky for the groom to see the bride in her wedding dress before until she arrives at the ceremony.

**WEDDING DRESS COLOUR** Most brides today marry in white which symbolises maidenhood. This tradition started by the rich in sixteenth century. The tradition was given a boost by Queen Victoria who chose to marry in white instead of silver which was the traditional colour of Royal brides. Before the white dress brides wore their best dress. The colour was a matter of preference.

**THE VEIL** Traditionally, brides have been thought to be particularly vulnerable to evil spirits and many of the customs and traditions associated with weddings are to provide protection. The veil was originally worn by Roman brides. It was thought that it would disguise the bride and therefore outwit malevolent spirits. **ON THE WAY TO THE WEDDING** When the bride is ready to leave the house for the wedding ceremony a last look in the mirror will bring her good luck. However returning to the mirror once she has begun her journey will result in bad luck. Good luck omens when seen on the way to the ceremony include lambs, toads, spiders, black cats and rainbows. In some cultures rain on the wedding day is considered a good omen. – See more at: <http://www.bridemalta.com/index.asp?t=4&s=61&i=208#sthash.YMh2jf56.dpuf>

## Watches

FROM TIMEKEEPERS TO TRENDSETTERS

6 NOVEMBER 2015 - 10 JANUARY 2016

PALAZZO FALSON HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM, MDINA

ENTRANCE FREE



EXTENDED UNTIL 14 FEBRUARY 2016



## Watches Exhibition at Palazzo Falson extended until 14 February 2016

Palazzo Falson Historic House Museum, in collaboration with Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti, is continuing with its series of temporary exhibitions with one dedicated to antique watches. Over 50 watches specially loaned from private and museum collections highlight the technological and artistic qualities of antique watches. The exhibition considers their variations and functions, and takes an in-depth look at particularly important watches belonging to notable personalities.

This show not only delves deep into these marvellous little machines to see how they work, but also demonstrates their aesthetic qualities and how they were once indispensable items of costume, merging beauty and function in a

wearable objet d'art. This exhibition is guest-curated by David Thompson, who occupied the role of Senior Curator of Horology at the British Museum until his recent retirement. Opening hours are Tue-Sun 10.00-

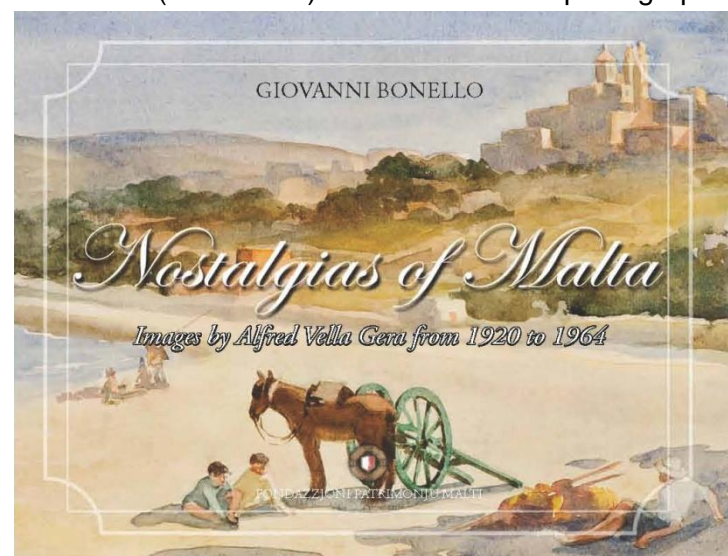
## Nostalgias of Malta - Images by Alfred Vella Gera from 1920 - 64

**Title** Nostalgias of Malta - Images by Alfred Vella Gera from 1920 to 1964 **Author** Giovanni Bonello **Date** 2011

**Pages** 224 ) **Price** €55 (hard cover) / €45 (soft cover)

Giovanni Bonello has issued his sixth volume in the *Nostalgias* series that is recording works of the classical photographers of Malta and Gozo. This time round the camera artist he chose was Alfred Vella Gera, a banker with a passion for capturing the essence of Malta, its people and its chronicles, on film.

Vella Gera (1901-1989) became an active photographer and film-maker in the 1920s and his production turned



out to be truly vast. Many of his images he published in postcard format, though substantial numbers remained in his private archive. The author includes in his book over 250 of these images, many of them seen by the public for the first time here.

This book is an invaluable memory of the Malta and Gozo we no longer know. Many of the cityscapes and panoramas can today be identified by the younger generations only with considerable effort.

Vella Gera also took an interest in current events and readers will have a golden opportunity to keep and cherish a record of important events, ranging from carnivals to funerals, from political satire to epoch changing events. In this series of volumes Bonello has made sure that posterity will still be able to participate in the splendor and fascination of an era now no more..



**1929 - MOSTLY GOZITANS***(Photo Courtesy: Wenzu Refalo, Blacktown, N.S.W.)*

STANDING L TO R: Joe (believed to be Zammit); Joe Refalo (Xewkija); Sam Refalo (Xewkija); Nikola Caruana; Frank Buttigieg (Gala); Emanuel Cini; Joe (surname not recalled) Gharb); Paul Bartolo (Mosta); and an Australian canecutter.

SQUATTING: Sam Cini (Emanuel's brother); Michael Refalo (nephew of Joe Refalo); Jean (niece of Joe Refalo); Joe Portelli (Gala) Dick (surname not remembered) (Nadur) and Sam Bartolo (brother of Paul).

The occasion was a farewell party to Frank Buttigieg who was leaving Queensland to return to Malta.

**1927 - HAPPY CUSTOMERS***(Photo Courtesy: Bob Vella, Brisbane, Queensland).*

Maltese-owned General Store at Habana, via Mackay, Qld. Andrew Vella, the owner in white shirt (X). Mother and child in arms is Pauline Caruana and son, Charlie tan-Niklita (Tarxien). Boy beneath child in arms is Bob Vella. Andrew Vella (X) and wife Antonia holding hand on shoulder of daughter, Mary. Next is son, John Vella. Man holding bike is Joe Vella Tas-Santi (Mgarr, Malta), then Charlie Camilleri Tax-Xoghol (Mosta); Nicholas Caruana Tan-Niklita (Tarxien); John saliba (Hamrun); Tony Grech Goz (Mosta); Mary Fenech Zekziek (Mosta); Mick Camilleri Ta' Palalu (Mosta); Angelo Mifsud Tas-Sur Ang (Mosta); Angelo Vella tal-Lastku (Mosta); Bob Schriha; Bertu Schriha (Ta' Matra) and Paul Bartolo ta' Vennura (Mosta).



**PATRI ANASTASIO CUSCHIERI O.Carm** għalliem il-Filosofija. Kiteb bosta poeziji ddedikati lill-Madonna. Kien magħruf għall-umilta' tiegħu. Kiteb għadd ta' poeziji bil-Latin u t-Taljan. Din hi wahda mill-poeziji tiegħu. TIFTAKARHA??

### IL-GIDEB TA' TONINU

“Ma, ma mmurx skola! Ma tmurx l-għaliex?

Qum, qiegħda ngħidlek, Minn dak il-friex,

U agħtti sidrek Ghax ġej ir-rih:

Isa, Toninu, Isa, sabiħ.”

Le, ma mmurx skola, Le ma mmurx żgur!

B'dan l-uġiġ kollu Kif tridni mmur?

Ajma b'did-darsa Kemm jien muġuġh!

Hares f'tit wicci Kemm hu minfuħ.

Gej, ġej! Min ma? Gej il-papa'

Għadek fis-sodda Dan il-għaliex?

Kont sejjer nilbes Staqsi 'l mama.

U hareġ jiġri minn taħt il-friex

## Biography **TREVOR ZAHRA**

Trevor Żahra was born on the 16th December 1947 at Zejtun (Malta). In 1971, Żahra married Stella nee Agius and they had two children, Ruben and Marija. Stella died in 1989 at the age of 38. Żahra was an Art and Maltese teacher for 33 years. At present he is retired.



He has more than 100 publications to date which are all written in Maltese. His first children's adventure, *Il-Pulena tad-Deheb* (The Golden Figurehead) was published in 1971. From that time onwards he never stopped writing novels, poems, workbooks and short stories. His adult novel *Taħt il-Weraq tal-Palm* (Under the Palm Tree), won first prize in the *Klabb Kotba Maltin* (1974) novel competition. He was awarded the 1995 Literary Prize for his fantasy novel *Is-Seba' Tronġiet Mewwija* (The Seven Enchanted Citrusfruits). He was also awarded the Silver Medal in the 1997 Literary Prize for his collection of short stories *Lubien* (Drowsy). He was also awarded first prize for his second collection of short stories

*Provenz* (North-West Wind), first prize for his children's book *X'Tixtiequ Jagħmel il-Fenek?* (What Would You like the Rabbit to do?) and was awarded Best Illustrator Trophy for his book *Din l-Art u Kull Ma Fiha* (This Land and all it holds). He won the national literary prize nine times.

On the 13 December 2004, H. E. the President of the Malta decorated him with the *Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika* (Medal for Service to the Republic) in recognition for his contribution towards children's literature. His pleasant style of writing, full of humour and imaginative thinking, and his clear illustrative drawings that complement his writings make Żahra the most popular writer of children's books in Malta.

[www.trevorzahra.com/kotba](http://www.trevorzahra.com/kotba)



## Australia Hall – It is DISGRACE of a historical building



This article was published in the journal **LIL DIN L-ART HELWA** October 28, 2013

The former Australia Hall in Pembroke is today a sad carcass of a once dignified public building, with its interior totally gutted out and left in a state of utter dilapidation.

During World War I (1914-1918), Malta had a special role to play as a nursing station within the Mediterranean where several hospitals and convalescent camps were set up to tend to the casualties of the war. Australia Hall was built in 1915 by the Australian Branch of the Red

Cross who raised funds to finance a combined recreation centre/theatre building that would serve to entertain wounded soldiers belonging to the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC). In its heyday the hall could accommodate up to two thousand men as stage productions, dances, and other forms of recreation were regularly held there. Later a library and reading room were introduced and around 1921 a projection room was added to the structure so that the hall could also be used as a cinema.

When the British military facilities in St Andrew's Barracks were closed down in 1978, it was returned to the Maltese government and transferred to the Labour Party in exchange for other property. In December 1998, a fire gutted the hall's entire roofing system of metal trusses and sheeting. Only the external masonry shell has survived. Today the roofless shell of a building is vulnerable to the natural elements and vandals have left their marks on what remains of the building.

Public consciousness and awareness of the need to safeguard our historic architectural heritage has increased notably in recent times. However, I suspect that our appreciation for buildings and structures dating to the time of the Order of St John is distinctly greater than that of British colonial architecture, this being even more so in the case of military architecture. British military buildings and complexes have explicit political associations loaded with the trappings of colonial rule. In asserting our identity as an independent island-state we seem to have unconsciously rejected the legacy of our former colonial masters. This is the sad predicament of an important part of our architectural heritage.

Australia Hall is one of the few remaining buildings reminding us of our British and Commonwealth heritage. Information received from the Australian High Commission confirms that in 1915 the Australian Red Cross donated 2000 pounds for a hall to be built in the village of Pembroke intended to be used as a rest and recreational facility for the thousands of war convalescents. The facility was also used for shows between the wars and during WW2. In the 1970s after the departure of the British forces, the Malta Labour Party took over the building and used it as their office. The building was subsequently abandoned. On the 18th April 1997 the building was scheduled as grade 2 in terms of Structure Plan Policy UCO 7. On the 23rd May 2005 an application was submitted to MEPA by Perit Joe Cassar on behalf of its owner Lawrence Fino for a supermarket. I believe the restoration of the building will be a good project to complete by 2015 celebrating 100 years from its conception and also celebrating DLH's 50 years of saving Malta's built Heritage.



## **Australian High Commissioner to Malta calls for restoration of Australia Hall**

Australian High Commissioner to Malta H.E. Jane Lambert said she would like to see Australia Hall in Pembroke restored as a place for the community to use, news.com.au reports. She said the fact it was built on Australian donations at the time of the Turkish campaign was indicative Australians at the time understood its worth. "I think it has a very strong place in the history of the Gallipoli and the ANZAC story but perhaps it has been a story that has not been well known," she said.

"That is quite surprising even when you consider just the statistics. There were about 55,000 troops from the Gallipoli campaign brought to Malta for care, so it is surprising their experiences here were not recorded or understood in any way outside the local Maltese community. The 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign and also the centenary of the First World War is a time for reflection and looking back in history and making sure we haven't forgotten the important things that need to be remembered," she added.

## **Malta - Education and Schools**

The children of expatriates living in Malta can be educated in one of the private international schools, or enrolled in the local state, church or independent schools. The local school system is based on the British model, and provides an excellent standard of education. Education is compulsory between the ages of 5 and 16. Kindergarten facilities are also available, free of charge, for all children aged between 3 and 5.

Malta currently has two international schools: St Edward's College, a Catholic boys' school which follows the British curriculum and prepares students for GCSEs at age 16; and The Verdala International School for boys and girls, which offers an American-style education and prepares students for the international baccalaureate or IGCSEs. The Verdala School offers boarding facilities. Private school tuition fees in Malta are very reasonable by international standards.

Around 30% of all children in Malta are educated in the non-state school system, mainly in Catholic schools, which are subsidized by the government and charge no fees. There are also some local private schools which operate as parents' foundations. Local schools which are popular with expatriate families include De La Salle College in Cottonera, St Aloysius' College in Birkirkara, the Sacred Heart School in St. Julian's and St.

Dorothy's in Mdina. There are primary schools in virtually every village in Malta.

Malta's local primary schools educate children between the ages of 5 and 11. National examinations are taken at age 11, after which students progress to one of three types of secondary school: Junior Lyceums (like grammar schools), which take around 50% of all students, Area Secondary Schools, or Opportunity Schools.

Some students transfer to trade schools, which provide technical or employment-related training, after three years of secondary schooling. Others will go on to take the Maltese form of the British GCSEs at the end of their fifth year of secondary school, and may enter the sixth form for two years to take intermediate and advanced level examinations, in preparation for entry to University.

Malta has its own University, which awards accredited certificates, diplomas and degrees at Bachelor, Masters and Doctorate levels, in a wide range of subjects. The University's Mediterranean Studies program is highly popular with visiting students from other countries. There are also more than 60 English-language schools in Malta



**Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.**  
Serving the Maltese community in Victoria, Australia since 1958

## LEARN MALTESE IN 2016 For Travel, Pleasure or Work

Join us and to embrace our beautiful culture and

language. Classes open to both adults and adult-accompanied children

Registration for Maltese Language Classes in 2016 is now open. The Maltese Language classes, sponsored by the MCCV at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville are held on Thursday nights. Students pay a nominal enrolment fee. Families pay a heavily discounted fee.

Ms Edwidge Borg, a past President of the MCCV, coordinates the Maltese language classes in Parkville. Other teachers include Ms Laura Schembri, Ms Alexandra Scibberras and Ms Danica Micallef. Classes provided at three levels: Beginner, Intermediate and Conversation Classes. All tutors are qualified LOTE Victorian teachers and attend regular professional development training in Victoria and interstate.

The MCCV Education Committee overseeing the classes is composed of qualified LOTE tutors, class coordinators as well as an independent advisor Mrs Frances Bonnici.

The Co-ordinator of the Maltese Language classes, Ms Edwidge Borg, is also the delegate to the Federation of Maltese Language Schools Inc. (FMLS) and President of the FMLS. She has attended various meetings with interstate Maltese Language schools teachers in Australia to organise and attend professional development for Maltese Language teachers in Australia as well as visited Maltese Language Classes for foreigners in Malta.

### MCCV Maltese Language Classes 2016

**Beginners(B1) Class:** 6.00 PM – 7.00 PM

**Intermediate (B2) Class:** 6.00 PM – 7.00 PM

**Conversation (C1) Class:** 6.00 PM – 7.00 PM

**WHEN:** Semester 1 – Thursdays from 4 February 2016 to 16 June 2016 at 6.00 pm

Semester 2 – Thursdays from 14 July 2016 to 24 November 2016 at 6.00 pm

**WHERE:** Maltese Community Centre, 477 Royal Parade, Parkville

Courses are intended to provide participants with a basic knowledge of reading, writing and speaking Maltese. Courses run for one semester. **Please click here to download and fill in the registration form** and email/fax or post to “Att: Maltese Language Classes” at the address stated in the form by **Jan 15th for Semester 1** and **July 15th for Semester 2**. Lessons coincide with school terms. A token fee of \$90 per semester covers some expenses. The tutor will advise student of other resources that are appropriate. The classes run for one hour extended to 0.5 for student queries. Students receive guided self-learning activities equivalent to 1 hour. The total Unit context hours are 2.5 hours per week. Adults wishing to learn Maltese and require further information should contact the Maltese Community Centre during business hours 9387 8922 and leave a contact phone number or email: [admin@mccv.org.au](mailto:admin@mccv.org.au). Children accompanied by adult can attend these classes.

**Victorian School of Languages** The Victorian School of Languages also provides Maltese Language Classes. Currently classes are available on Saturday mornings between 9.00 and 12.30 at Taylors Lakes Secondary College. Expansion of classes in other metropolitan areas will occur if a viable number of students enrol.

## Finance Minister in China for new bank inauguration

Edward Scicluna with the Maltese Ambassador to China, John Aquilina.



Finance Minister Edward Scicluna is in Beijing for the inaugural meeting of the Board of Governors of the newly-formed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), a China-led multilateral development bank in which Malta is a founder member along with 56 other countries.

These include a number of other EU member states including the UK, France, Germany and Italy. The Maltese Parliament approved the ratification of the articles of agreement that establish the AIIB as an international organisation in its last sitting before Christmas.

“Malta is proud to be among the founding members of the AIIB. Although the bank is based in Asia, we too are benefiting and can continue to attract

Asian investment, especially from China. Asia is a region with enormous economic potential, and this is a golden opportunity for us to have an active, although modest, presence where things are really happening,” Prof. Scicluna said.

The bank, which is being hosted by the Chinese government in Beijing, will provide financial support for infrastructure development and regional connectivity in Asia.

**MALTESE NOW!!!!** The whole matter is gradually getting out of hand and the language is fast losing its identity.

**Fjuwil (FUEL), Bajsikil (BICYCLE), Rawndebawt (ROUNDAABOUT), Mowbajl (MOBILE), Kexx (CASH), Bejbi (BABY), Rabix (RUBBISH), Bagit (BUDGIT), Picc (Pitch) Trej djunjins (trade unions), Dizil (diesel), Studjow (Studio), Fultajm (Full-time), Partajm (part-time), Tim (TEAM), Kowc (COACH), Grawnd (GROUND) Tojlit (Toilet), Pejper (PAPER) Tenkju (Thank you), Lejber (Labour).**

## **Taste of Malta to land in Latrobe Valley - Victoria**

By cher jimenez



The first ever Latrobe Valley Maltese Festival will be held at Kernot Hall on 27 February. Lead organiser Frank Tabone (second from left) is joined by his father Frank senior, mother Jeanette, and friend Stella Bella in putting the event together with support from the Maltese Club and Latrobe City Council. photograph cher jimenez

A Morwell man's passion to keep his father's heritage alive has given rise to the first Latrobe Valley Maltese Festival. Frank Tabone, whose father was born in the tiny Mediterranean island of Malta, said the idea came to him after noticing traditionally close Maltese families had begun to drift apart.

"I grew up with Maltese grandparents and experienced the language, the culture, the stories, the food and the way it was with family back in the 1970s and 80s," Mr Tabone said.

"I don't see large families being together as much as back then.

"I wanted to allow a day where Maltese people could all come together as a group enjoying each other, remembering their heritage and culture, experiencing some of the old traditions and never forgetting where they came from."

Mr Tabone said he first noticed the Maltese tradition slowly fading away within his own family after his paternal grandmother died. Following her death, his extended family no longer saw each other as often as they used to. He first raised the idea of a Maltese festival with his boss, John Buhagiar, who is also the president of the Maltese Club in Morwell.

Together with Latrobe City Council, the club and Mr Tabone formed a committee tasked with organising the festival to be held on 27 February at Kernot Hall, Morwell.

The festival will run from 10am to 6pm and feature traditional Maltese food, products and music.

It will also include native drinks such as Cisk beer and Kinnie, a Maltese soft drink that was made as an alternative to sodas in post-war Europe. Mr Tabone said there would be more than 20 stalls selling Maltese and local products to welcome not just those with a Maltese background, but the entire community.

Maltese music will be played by Gippsland bands Destiny and the Maltese Brass Band, and local acts Mark Andrew and Charles Attard will provide entertainment. A jumping castle, face painting, balloon-tying, and entertainment by Luna Moonies and Koko the Clown will cater to the young Maltese contingent.

The event will feature a raffle offering more than \$8500 of prizes, including a return ticket to Malta for two.

Mr Tabone said all proceeds from the festival would be donated towards Gippsland Rotary Centenary House.

About 2000 people are expected to attend the festival with busloads of Maltese people from Melbourne confirming attendance. Mr Tabone said there were about 3000 Valley residents who were either born in Malta or had a Maltese background. **Contact Details Frank Tabone Mobile 0409 102 713 franktabone1971@gmail.com**



**building virtual bridges**  
**MALTA AND THE DIASPORA**



WE STICK TOGETHER AND HELP EACH OTHER

## Maltese migrant takes the Inglott surname to Japan

Ivan Fenech

Maltese migrant Roger Julius Inglott spent most of the first half of this century living in Kyoto but he never learned to

□ Nine grandsons plan to join members of the Maltese branch of the family next year to celebrate the centenary of the arrival of "Grandfather Roger" in Japan

Dear Frank Thank you for regularly sending us a copy of your monthly Newsletter. Congratulations on high quality and content. We always send a copy to our cousin in Canada and he reads it from beginning to end. I was more interested than usual with this month's issue NEWSLETTER 109, with the report on the Maltese community in Japan. I was familiar with Roger Inglott's story as he happens to be my grandmother's brother, on my mother's side. I met his son Edward in Malta in the 1960's and my brother met some of his grandchildren when he visited Japan, some years ago. I am attaching some other information about Roger and his Japanese family for your perusal. Best regards Mario Bonnici (Melbourne)



Great grandson Mario Serracino Inglott (left) and grandson Profs Ogata Inglott discussing their forebear



Roger Julius Inglott proudly wearing Emperor's medal

Whitehall, July 20, 1939.

The KING has been pleased to give and grant unto Roger Julius Inglott, Esq., His Majesty's Royal licence and authority to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class, of the Order of the Sacred Treasure, which Decoration has been conferred upon him by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, in recognition of valuable services rendered by him in the capacity of ateacher at the Japanese Naval Engineering College.

Also, my wife is Japanese, so I've asked her to translate some web pages which reference him, and they state he died in 1950 and that he was 79 years old, which would put his DOB at 1870-71, which would also put him 12 years

before my great-grandfathers birth, though records state he was born in Malta and my great grandfather was born in Egypt. Karl Inglott

## MALTESE ARE FOUND EVERYWHERE EVEN IN NORFOLK ISLAND

Thank you for another Newsletter full of wonderful facts about Malta and the Maltese. They must be everywhere.

A few years ago my husband Reg and i were on holiday in Norfolk Island. It is not a well known fact that the sailors who had settled in Pitcairn Island after the mutiny on the Bounty with Captain Bligh, had increased so much in number that they had to be transported to Norfolk Island with all their possessions etc. There is a Museum in Norfolk Island with some of their effects, including sewing machines etc etc. The man who had led the mutiny was Fletcher Christian. On a little excursion on a boat in Norfolk Island we got talking to the boatman. His surname was Christian and his mother was Maltese!! Howzat? I am sorry I did not ask more questions as to how they came to live on this remote Island, but I found it fascinating. Best wishes, Georgina Scillio (Melbourne)

## FAMILY OF MALTESE DESCENT TRACED ON TINY BOUNTY ISLAND

### Where on earth is Norfolk Island?



#### Flag of Norfolk Island

Greg Magri is one of four siblings born to Maltese emigrant Peter Magri, who happens to have married a woman

who is in fact a descendant of the mutineers of the British warship HMS Bounty. About a third of the Norfolk Islanders are descendants of the Bounty mutineers, who settled there in 1856 after leaving Pitcairn, another island in the southern Pacific Ocean, which was getting over-populated.

The Magri family, now in its fourth generation on Australian territory. Mr Peter Magri was clearly overwhelmed when I contacted him by telephone. He left for Melbourne with his parents when Malta was suffering the aftermath of the Second World War. "It was 1951 and I was a 10-year-old kid," he told me.

When I asked whether I could speak to him in Maltese, he said that unfortunately he's forgotten the language, "but I'm very proud to be Maltese, I've been back (to Malta) twice and I hope to visit again sometime," he enthused. Maltese tourists always want to visit "Sliema" – Mr Magri's home on Norfolk Island.

He explains that the tightly-knit community of the island has a cultural group where various countries are represented by the emigrants. During activities of the group, Mr Magri proudly carries his little Maltese flag, together with another islander having Maltese connections.

Although a few other residents on the island have links with Malta, with surnames like Borg and

Scerri, Mr Magri told me that his is the only family on Norfolk Island which has direct Maltese ancestry. All of his four children and six grandchildren also live on the island, although they were born in Melbourne for medical reasons.

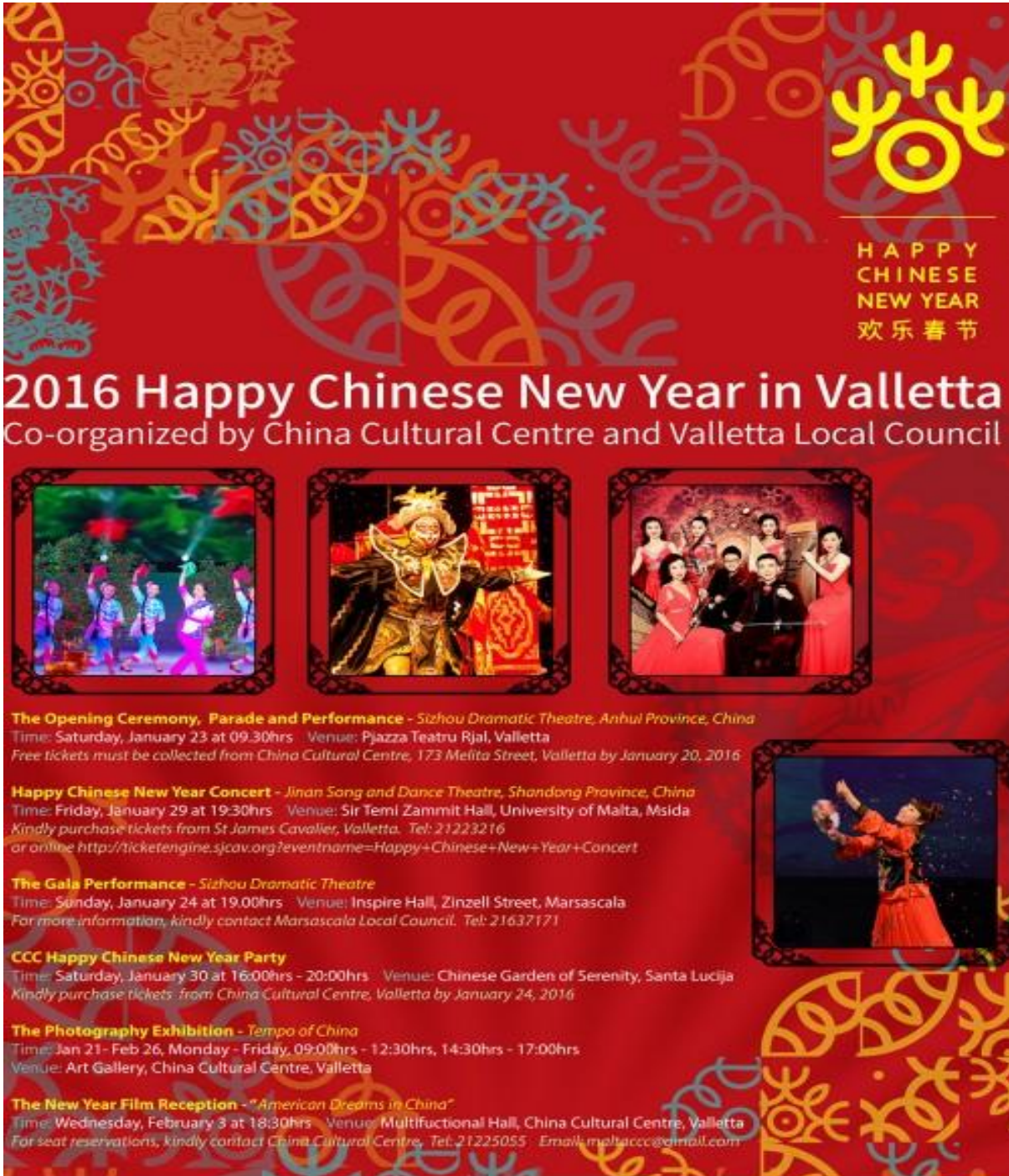
Following his marriage to Patricia, whom he met on the island while on holiday, Mr Magri lived in Melbourne for about five years, but has permanently resided on the south Pacific island for the past 34 years. Jenny, his second wife, has been working as a medical doctor on Norfolk Island for 30 years.

Mr Magri said that they receive a satellite transmission of the news bulletin from Malta once a week, but he regretfully told me that he only follows the pictures since the broadcast is always in Maltese.

He recalled that his family was from Spinola in St Julian's and his father, Alfred Magri, was a mineral collector. He told me that his father visited Malta on several occasions and passed away here when he visited in 1989 specifically to donate part of his collection to a priest, whose name Mr Magri couldn't recall.

Before the arrival of the Bounty mutineers, Norfolk Island was a former convict settlement which the British government decided to colonise to prevent it from falling into the hands of France in 1788, a mere 14 years after the first European – Captain James Cook – is believed to have sighted the island. **The independent 06**





**HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR**  
欢乐春节

## 2016 Happy Chinese New Year in Valletta

Co-organized by China Cultural Centre and Valletta Local Council

**The Opening Ceremony, Parade and Performance** - Sizhou Dramatic Theatre, Anhui Province, China  
Time: Saturday, January 23 at 09:30hrs Venue: Piazza Teatru Rjal, Valletta  
Free tickets must be collected from China Cultural Centre, 173 Melita Street, Valletta by January 20, 2016

**Happy Chinese New Year Concert** - Jinan Song and Dance Theatre, Shandong Province, China  
Time: Friday, January 29 at 19:30hrs Venue: Sir Temi Zammit Hall, University of Malta, Msida  
Kindly purchase tickets from St James Cavalier, Valletta. Tel: 21223216  
or online <http://ticketengine.sjcav.org?eventname=Happy+Chinese+New+Year+Concert>

**The Gala Performance** - Sizhou Dramatic Theatre  
Time: Sunday, January 24 at 19:00hrs Venue: Inspire Hall, Zinzell Street, Marsascala  
For more information, kindly contact Marsascala Local Council. Tel: 21637171

**CCC Happy Chinese New Year Party**  
Time: Saturday, January 30 at 16:00hrs - 20:00hrs Venue: Chinese Garden of Serenity, Santa Lucija  
Kindly purchase tickets from China Cultural Centre, Valletta by January 24, 2016

**The Photography Exhibition - "Tempo of China"**  
Time: Jan 21 - Feb 26, Monday - Friday, 09:00hrs - 12:30hrs, 14:30hrs - 17:00hrs  
Venue: Art Gallery, China Cultural Centre, Valletta

**The New Year Film Reception - "American Dreams in China"**  
Time: Wednesday, February 3 at 18:30hrs Venue: Multifunctional Hall, China Cultural Centre, Valletta  
For seat reservations, kindly contact China Cultural Centre. Tel: 21225055 Email: [maltacc@imail.com](mailto:maltacc@imail.com)

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Local GovernmentCHINA CULTURAL CENTRE  
中国文化中心VALLETTA  
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LEISURE CLOTHING



PIAZZA TEATRU RJAL



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Look out for the next edition MALTESE NEWSLETTER 111