

THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

MALTESE NEWSLETTER

BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN MALTESE ALL OVER THE WORLD



Maltese Queen of Victories Band South Australia



Challenges

Devotion

Achievements

Dedication

Commitment

Culture

ESTABLISHED 1981

THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER SALUTES THE MQVB

We salute the Maltese organizations in South Australia for their sterling work among the members of the Maltese community

The Maltese Guild of South Australia

The Chaplain Festivities Group

The Maltese RSL Sub branch

The Maltese Queen of Victories Band

The St Catherine Society of SA

The Maltese Senior Citizens of SA

The Maltese Community Radio EBIfm

The Blue Grotto Maltese Program PBAfm

The Society of Christian Doctrine

The Maltese Aged Care Association of SA

Other institutions

Consulate for Malta in SA

Maltese Chaplaincy

Maltese Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart

THE MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER - JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA



CROSSING OVER

One last step in Malta, one first step in Australia,
two steps that changed me from an emigrant to immigrant,
as I took the plunge and crossed the Rubicon of an uncharted destiny.
Can a migrant change his identity the way he changes his nationality?
This is the question that seeks an answer.

MINN NAHA GHAL OHRA

L-ahhar pass f'Malta, l-ewwel pass fl-Awstralja,
zewg passi li bidluni minn emigrant ghal immigrant,
xhin qtajta li mmur 'il hinn mir-Rubikon ta' dad-destin.
Jista l-immigrant jibdel l-identita' l-istess kif jista jbidel in-nazzjonalita'?
Din hija l-mistoqsija li tfittex it-twegiba.

(The late) Manwel Nicholas Borg - Victoria - Australia



MALTESE PEOPLE ARE IN EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD

MALTESE AT BROKEN HILL NSW

Broken Hill is an isolated mining city in the far west of outback New South Wales, Australia. The "BH" is the world's largest mining company, BHP Billiton, refers to "Broken Hill" and its early operations in the city. Broken Hill is located near the border with South Australia on the crossing of the Barrier Highway and the Silver City Highway, in the Barrier Range. It is 315 m (1,033 ft) above sea level, with a hot desert climate. The closest major city is Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, which is more than 500 km to the southwest. Broken Hill has been referred to as "The Silver City", the "Oasis of the West", and the "Capital of the Outback"

Although over 1,100 km (684 mi) west of Sydney and surrounded by semi-desert, the town has prominent park and garden displays and offers a number of attractions such as the Living Desert Sculptures.



Charlie said that when they left Malta, they had so much bad weather between Malta and France, they almost drowned three times...

From Afghan cameleers to Filipino book-keepers and Maltese miners, this is the story of Broken Hill's non-English speaking migrants; people who arrived in a harsh and alien outback mining town and chose to call it home.

- It was really difficult in Malta. I had an uncle who had migrated to Broken Hill fifty years previously. He was really happy, so when I was seventeen I decided to leave Malta and join him in Broken Hill. *Rosina (Rose) Micalef*
- Dad had a house ready for us in Crystal Street. There were two or three houses with one big yard. No fences between us and we were all Maltese. *Emily Tonna*
- We chose Broken Hill because there was work available on the mines; we brought our families out to join us and helped them become part of the Broken Hill community.
- We had the Maltese Club. It was next door to where the Duke of Cornwall is now. The Club was for Maltese only. We used to gamble at baccarat. *Paul Sultana*
- We travelled by ship or aeroplane to reach this country. Often the trip was long and uncomfortable. We were apprehensive about the new life that awaited us.

- I realised I didn't want to leave here. My home may not be as beautiful as other homes but to me it is beautiful. *Dina Spagnol*
- Ten of us left school together; a few decided to go to Australia and we were like sheep; we followed one another. *Paul Sultana*
- We left on the "Orsova" on the 22nd of May, 1961. The trip out wasn't very easy or pleasant. The first few days were really sad, because we left our family. It was an English ship so we couldn't talk to anybody because we didn't know the language. *Marija Zammit*
- I can remember my grandmother dressed in black, waving her hanky at us. Many arrived and knew no-one. We were apprehensive, lonely and confused in a land about which we knew so little. Some were greeted by family and friends. We shared tears, laughter and a wonderful sense of relief that we had finally arrived. We experienced language difficulties, isolation and loneliness. We shared extreme weather conditions with our neighbours. Dust storms water restrictions were part of life.

Life was not easy for the early Maltese migrants in Australia

The Maltese Queen of Victories Band at the Australia Day Parade in Adelaide



On the 26th January this year the Maltese Queen of Victories Band of South Australia participated in the Australia Day Parade which started from Franklin Street to Elder Park near the Adelaide Oval

The band assembled at the starting point at 4.30pm, where a large open tray truck was assigned for our band. This truck was decorated with the Australian, Maltese, Band and State flags. It had many other decorations such as the colourful Band emblems, many blue, red and white balloons and streamers. On the tray of the truck there were 20 chairs set up to be occupied by the musicians of the MQVB band.

Flinders Street was closed to all traffic. There were many other participants of different nations and cultures taking part in the parade with their colourful costumes and various musical instruments. There were also many vintage cars, trucks and service vehicles taking part in the parade

At 6.00pm sharp the parade started its way along Flinders Street then on to King William

Street until it reached Elder Park. Our Band played joyful pieces of music all the way though. During the entire route there were many people lined up on both sides watching and enjoying the parade, many waving the Australia Flag.

As the parade reached Parliament House there was a stage set up for the Governor of South Australia Mr. Hieu Van Le and Mrs Van Le and other state dignitaries watching the parade. Our team, [the Committee, Musical Director, Musicians and Volunteers] worked very hard and did a great job to organise our contribution in this parade. It was a great honour for our band to participate in the Australia celebrations. (Joe Chetcuti)

Darwin welcomes 67 new Aussie citizens - NT News



New Australian citizen

Sharmaine Warnakulaarachchiralalage

from Sri Lanka at the Flag Raising and Citizenship Ceremony held at the Darwin Entertainment Centre DARWIN welcomed 67 new Australian citizens at the Entertainment Centre on Tuesday morning. The new Australians originate from 23 countries including Brazil, Belgium and Canada.

Darwin Lord Mayor Katrina Fong initiated the ceremony, saying the service was a "very special time". "It's a chance to reflect on what we can become," she said. "I love providing the citizenship ceremony and inducting new citizens to end their old citizenship journey but begin their new Australian citizen journey."

The Maltese Community in Belgium attends a reception to mark the 41st Anniversary of Malta becoming a Republic



Reference Number: , Press Release Issue Dec 2015

On Friday 11 December 2015, the Maltese community in Belgium attended a reception to mark the 41st anniversary of Malta becoming a Republic as well as the festive activities. The reception was organised by the Embassy of Malta in Brussels with the cooperation of Mons. Alfred Vella, Special Delegate of Mons. Archbishop Scicluna for the Maltese living abroad.

Mons. Alfred Vella celebrated a holy mass with the participation of an accompanying choir. The choir consisted of employees from the Permanent Representation, as well as children of the Maltese community living in Belgium, who prepared a repertoire of Christmas carols for the occasion. Later, Consul General Stefan Muscat and Mons.

Alfred Vella presented traditional Maltese cribs to the children.

In her speech H.E Marlene Bonnici said the Permanent Representation is currently undergoing extensive infrastructural work ahead of the preparations of Malta's Presidency for the Council of the European Union, which in turn will be accommodating all the personnel concerned. Ambassador Bonnici welcomed the new recruits and augured best wishes for Christmas and New Year.

H.E Ray Azzopardi expressed gratitude towards the work of Mons. Alfred Vella and the services offered to the Maltese community living in Belgium and Luxembourg. Ambassador Azzopardi explained that Mons. Alfred Vella commutes every month to offer his services to the Maltese community living both in Belgium and Luxembourg. Furthermore, Ambassador Azzopardi commended the initiative of Mons. Alfred Vella, which made it possible to hold a reception after the celebration of the holy mass. Ambassador Azzopardi welcomed the aid of Air Malta as well as that of the caterers. Ambassador Azzopardi expressed his appreciation towards all the volunteers who formed the choir specifically for this event.

Towards the end of his speech, Ambassador Azzopardi referred to the 41st anniversary of Malta becoming a Republic, and commended the duties of all the employees, who were involved in the Valletta Summit and CHOGM 2015. Ambassador Azzopardi reiterated that the employees involved worked meticulously towards their country, which in turn made both activities a success. Ambassador Azzopardi greeted all the personnel who were involved in diplomatic duties in the past year and augured them and their families a peaceful Christmas and a successful New Year.

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The reception was attended by the employees of the Malta Permanent Representation to the EU and the Embassy of Malta in Brussels, as well as a number of Maltese living in Belgium and Luxembourg.

Tliet pjazez sbieħ f'Ghawdex

Kitba tal-Kav. Joe Attard – Victoria, Gozo



'Non e' mai troppo tardi' – qatt mhu tard wisq! Wara xhur ta' stennija, paċenzja, sabar u taqtigh il-qalb, issa fil-Belt Victoria għandna tliet pjazez ewlenin li tassew għandhom dehra sabiħa. Lejn żmien il-Milied, is-Sindku żagħżuġ tal-Belt Victoria, Dr Samuel Azzopardi u sħabu tal-Kunsill Lokali ta' beltna stiednu lill-President ta' Malta biex tiġi tinawgura x-xogħlijiet li saru fuq it-tliet pjazez li huma tant qrib xulxin fil-Belt Victoria; **Pjazza Indipendeza** magħrufa sa mill-qedem bħala 't-Tokk', **Pjazza Savina** u **Pjazza San Gorg**.

Issa li għandi iktar ħin liberu, ta' spiss ngħaddi minnhom u nieqaf ukoll nitkellem ma' tant ħbieb waqt xi capuccino taħt xi tinda li teħilsek mir-raġġi tax-xemx li jdawlu u jsaħħnu dawn l-imkien matul il-parti l-kbira tal-gurnata. Tassew Prosit lil dawk kollha li ħadmu fuq dan il-proġett. Sbieħ matul il-gurnata mimlijin ħajja u nies mhux biss mir-Rabat tagħna, imma wkoll minn Malta u minn tant pajjiżi barranin. Grazzi wkoll lil tant Bars li jipprovdu ikel u xorb għal min jittlobhom.

Pjazza San Gorg rari taraha vojta jew kwieta għajr għal xi saġhtejn wara nofs inhar meta niesna tftitx is-siesta; matul in-nofs ta' nhar ta' filgħodu u mill-ġdid wara l-erbgħa timtela bin-nies imdawra mal-imwejjed tiekol, tixrob u tiddiskuti. Pjazza li jien inqisha bħala s-salott tal-belt Victoria li tintlaħaq minn erba' treqat dojoq. Sewwa li hawnhekk ma jeqfux karożzi u muturi biex il-paviment ġdid li tqiegħed issa u li min jaf kemm sewa flus lill-Kunsill ma jittebbax b'xi rqajja ta' żjut u ħmieġ ieħor! Imdawla tajjeb ukoll hekk kif jibda jidlam u xi kultant tospita wkoll xi kunċert jew spetaklu mużikali apparti li tinbidel bħal lejl min-nhar fil-gimgha tal-festa tal-Patron San Gorg. Forsi għalhekk ukoll ma tqegħditx xi funtana hawnhekk għalkemm forsi mbagħad kienet tkun iċ-ċentru ta' tant ħamiem li jimpesta kullimkien!

Pjazza Indipendenza wkoll issa fiha għaxxa u tassew tinsab imdawla sabiħ u artistikament b'sett ta' fanali matul il-lejl bil-bini tal-Banka tal-Gurati li jsaltan f'dan il-misraħ u li serva lil Ghawdxin għal mijiet ta' snin u li issa tlesta wkoll fuqu r-restawr; pavement sabiħ li sfortunatament bosta drabi jithammeġ bil-ħmieġ ta' tant għasafar li jsibu kenn fil-friegħi tas-sigār qodma li nsibu hawnhekk; bosta drabi jfixklu wkoll il-gost ta' dawk li jkunu qed jippruvaw jisimgħu xi kunċert vokali u orkestrali meta mhux ukoll iħammgu lil dawk bilqegħda. Nappella biex ħadd ma jiffa' żibel u skart fil-konki tas-sigār! Din hija pjazza mzejna wkoll bil-monumnt sabiħ ta' Kristu Re, xogħol l-artist Ruman Carlo Pisi waqt li quddiem il-knisja qadima ta' San Gakbu (meta se timtela dik in-niċċa vojta li naraw fil-faċċata!) insibu wkoll mafkar lill-Arcipriet Saverio Cassar li kien ħeles lil Ghawdex mill-Franċiżi. Nittama li din is-sena wkoll il-Kumitat tal-Karnival jieħu ħsieb jagħmel xi tined għal dawk li jkunu jixtiequ jidhlu fl-enclosure biex igawdu l-ispettaklu tal-Karnival għax inkella nibza' li l-bejgħ tal-biljetti jibqa' wieħed baxx!

Pjazza Savina wkoll issa tinsab iktar organizzata u mdawla tajjeb u komplet tiġbdek bit-tqegħid tal-Monument f'gieħ l-istoriku u patrijott Rabi Monsinjur Luigi Vella li tana l-Knisja tal-Adorazzjoni Perpetwa Ta' Savina mnejn dan il-misraħ qadim u popolari kien ħa ismu u fejn insibu lapida li tfakkar il-mewt ta' xi Ghawdxin li mietu hawn matul il-gwerra. Teżisti issa hawnhekk sistema ta' parking tajba u mportanti li tibqa' nadifa minn żjut u skart. Issib ukoll fejn tiehu drink jew kafe qabel forsi tiħajjar tidħol issellem lil Gesu Ewkaristija u mferrxa mal-bankijiet issib il-Bullettin li tant jipprepara tajjeb ir-Rettur t'hawnhekk Monsinjur Arcidjaknu Giovanni Bosco Gauci. Fl-aħħar ta' dan issir hawnhekk il-festa tal-Gwardji tas-Sagrament. Inħoss li kien importanti li nagħmlu kumment fuq dawn il-tliet pjazez fil-qalba tal-belt Victoria għax tassew inbidlu għall-aħjar u tassew ħaqqu Prosit il-Kunsill tal-Victoria li mhux darba u tnejn ġie kkritikat li rari jagħmel xi ħaġa għal Belt Victoria.

Nifhem li bħalissa qed jirraġa wkoll il-Playing Field tal-Victoria qrib il-Villa Rundle u nittama li ma ddumx ma tasal il-gurnata li naraw jasal fi tmiemu wkoll ix-xogħol ta' restawr li qed isir fuq iċ-Ċittadella, gawhra oħra li tiftaħ tieqa beraħ fuq l-istorja tagħna u li tant hija mfittxa mill-barranin, fejn ukoll insibu l-pjazza tal-Katidral li wkoll messitha x-xorti tar-restawraturi u kontinwament tilqa' b'idejha miftuħa lil dawk kollha li jiddeċiedu jidhru jżuru lill-Assunta u jammiraw il-koppla unika li nsibu fil-gzejjer Maltin! Bdejt bit-Taljan u sa nispiċċa bl-Ingliz: Give merit where it is due! Prosit lill-Kunsill Lokali tal-Belt Victoria!



F'Jum San Valentinu 14 ta' Frar

Jgħidu illi Frar imqarqaç
Xejn mhu ħelu, pjuttost kiefer,
U aħjar toqgħodlu ġewwa
Għax imqit u għandu d-dwiefer!

U għalkemm hu l-iktar qsajjar
Jaf ifawwar anke l-bjar;
Joħloq ħerba fi treqatna
Wil-widien jimtlew sax-xfar.

Imma għalkemm dan il-gwaj kollu
Miegħu jgħib grajjiet sbieħ;
Kien f'daž-żmien li San Pawl tfarrak
U lil ġensna ħabb bi sħiħ.

Tul dax-xahar in-nies titbaħrad,
Titbaħnan fil-Karnival
Għax kif jgħid il-qawl minn tagħna
'Mhux darbtejn insiru tfal.

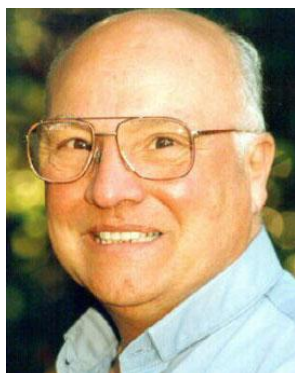
Il-borma fuq tlieta toqgħod –
Il-festa tal-maħbubin
Ma' Frar tasal, mistennija
Rigal nixtru lil xulxin.

Ja ħanini kemm inħobbok
Kieku taf x'nagħmel għalik
Kieku għandi flus bix-xabgħa
Villa sbejħa kont nagħtik!

Imma għalkemm dawn bwieti vojta
Tibqa' l-mimmi ta' għajnejja;
Kieku nista' l-jum kollu
Ma taħrabx minn taħt idejja!

Għax l-imħabba hija l-qofol
Tal-ferħ kollu tal-bnedmin
Tixbah ġnien mimli bil-fjuri –
Friefet, vjoli, ġizimin!

Kav Joe M Attard
Victoria Għawdex 2015



Fr Carmelo Sciberras is amongst several Broken Bay residents who have honours this year in the 2016 Australia Day Awards. Rev. Father Carmelo John SCIBERRAS OAM, Summerland Point - For service to the Catholic Church in Australia, and to the Maltese community of N.S.W.

Catholic Church: Padre, NSW National Servicemen's Association and Affiliates, current. Chaplain and Crew Member, NSW Marine Rescue, since 1996.
Chaplain, NSW Police Force, 1991-1998. Chaplain to several units of the Australian Defence Force, 1983-2000, including: 1st Recruit Training Battalion Kapooka, 1993-1995; 1st/15th Royal New South Wales Lancers, Australian Army Reserve; and 8th Brigade. Senior Chaplain, 2nd Division. Attained rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Ordained Catholic Priest in 1964.

Are you planning to travel soon – will it affect your Age Pension?



Did you know that if you're planning on leaving Australia your Age Pension could be affected?

You can generally be paid Age Pension for the whole time you're outside Australia, regardless of whether you leave temporarily or live in another country.

However, the amount you receive may change at certain points based on how long you have been away and your personal circumstances.

You should tell us you're leaving Australia if you;

- are going to live in another country
- are leaving Australia for more than six weeks
- are paid under the terms of an international social Security

agreement or

- have returned to live in Australia within the last two years and you started being paid Age Pension during this period

. You can use Centrelink online account through myGov to tell us about your travel plans and get tailored information on how your payments or concession cards could be affected.

If you don't have a **myGov account**, you can create one at **my.gov.au**

Find out more at **humanservices.gov.au/paymentsoverseas**

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Tuesday, January 26, 2016, TIMES OF MALTA.COM by Philip Leone-Ganado

## High Commissioner weighs in on Australia Hall future

The High Commission is discussing possible uses for Australia Hall. Photo: Matthew Mirabelli

The Australian High Commissioner is in contact with the owners of Australia Hall over possible uses for the site, having called for the dilapidated historical building to be restored for the benefit of the community.



"The private owners have been very helpful in keeping me in-formed as they develop their plans," Jane Lambert told the Times of Malta yesterday regarding the 100-year-old building, currently at the centre of political controversy.

The High Commissioner, however, refused to give her opinion on the possibility of the site being developed in a manner that excluded access to the public, insisting that any comment would be "just speculation".

Ms Lambert also declined to comment on whether the Australian government would be willing to step

in financially to support the restoration of the building. According to Australian media, the country's government has made it clear it would like to have the building restored as a meeting or conference centre, serving as a continuing memorial to the thousands of Australian and New Zealand troops who have used the hall, but is yet to commit to any financial involvement.

The High Commissioner's cautious tone came ahead of a hearing this week on the Labour Party's legal efforts to avoid paying tax on the controversial transfer of the building in 2014. *The private owners have been very helpful in keeping me informed as they develop their plans*

The PL declared the value of the property to be just €582,343, but an architect commissioned by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue had originally valued it at €5.5 million. Tax due on the sale of the site, measuring over 6,000 square metres, had already been slashed to €14,426 from an estimated €49,176 by the Inland Revenue Department after the original valuation was reduced to €2 million.

The PL is arguing in an appeal filed before an administrative tribunal that the party is, in fact, exempt from paying tax. The party has consistently objected to the department's valuations, arguing the property was worth less because it had been subject to a promise of sale and judicial proceedings, as well as restrictions on development and a political attack.

Australia Hall dates back to World War I when Malta was converted into a hospital centre and rest area for thousands of the wounded and sick ANZACS from the Dardanelles campaign. During that period, the Australian Red Cross built Australia Hall as a recreation centre for its co-nationals

The hall became the property of the Maltese government in 1978 and was later acquired by the Labour Party. It was gutted by fire shortly afterwards and has remained in a dilapidated state ever since.



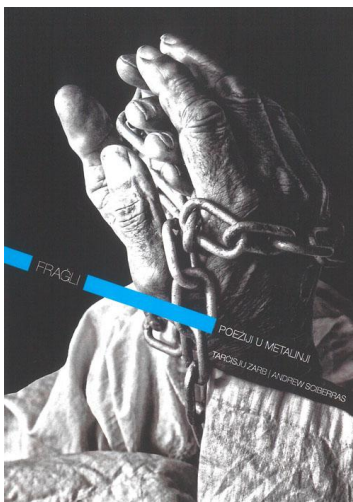
## “Il-ġurnalists għandu missjoni li jwassal aħbar tajba”

Charmaine Attard - 26/01/16

L-Isqof ta' Għawdex Mario Grech saħaq li l-ġurnalists għandu missjoni li jwassal aħbar tajba. Waqt l-omelija fil-quddiesa għall-ġurnalists Għawdxin fil-Knisja tas-Sorijiet Frangiskani fil-Belt Victoria, l-Isqof fakkar fl-istedina ta' Gesù lill-Appostli biex immorru fid-dinja kollha u jxandru l-bxara t-tajba, “liema stedina hi miftuħa għall-insara kollha.” Semma li hu minnu li fost il-ġurnalists hemm dawk li ħsiebhom biss biex iwasslu l-aħbar il-kerha. Spjega li għalkemm għandna nkunu nafu bil-kronaka s-sewda, din trid tistimula lill-ġurnalists biex jagħmlu xi ħaġa biex jегħlbu n-negattiv bit-tajeb.

L-Isqof saħaq li meta l-ġurnalizmu jirrapporta aħbar negattiva, forsi wkoll b'mod sensazzjonali u jieqaf hemm, “minflok jaqdi lis-soċjetà jkun qed jinqeda bid-dgħufija tal-bniedem għal skopijiet ulterjuri.” Fid-dawl tal-Gublew tal-Ħniena, Mons. Grech appella lil dawk kollha fil-midja, speċjalment lill-ġurnalists ta' ispirazzjoni Kattolika, biex jinqdew bl-għodod qawwija biex jippromwovw l-miżerikordja fis-soċjetà.

Appellalhom ukoll biex jippruvaw jagħtu tama lil min m'għandux, ikunu solidali u jimbuttaw ‘il quddiem il-kawża ġusta ta' dawk li m'għandhomx saħħa biex jiddefendu d-drittijiet tagħhom. L-Isqof Grech saħaq li hu importanti li l-ġurnalists joħorġu t-tbatija, il-frustrazzjoni u l-ingustizzja li ma tidhirx, kif ukoll li joħolqu kuxjenza soċjali, b'mod partikolari dwar dawk li d-dinjità tagħhom tiġi mkasbra. Żied jgħid li mhux il-mezzi ta' komunikazzjoni kollha jagħtu vuċi lil dawk li m'għandhomx, għax f'xi każi l-ġurnalizmu hu għodda f'idejn min għandu l-flus u l-poter, li jkollhom ukoll agenda partikolari. Ritratti: Joe Grech <http://www.newsbook.com.mt/>



## FRAĖLI – Poeżiji U Metalinji – Tarčisju Zarb U Andrew Sciberras

Nixtiequ niringrazzjaw lis-Sur Charles Magro President tal-Għaqda Poeti Maltin u editur tar-Revista Versi talli għoġbu jgħib kelmtejn ta' Patrick Sammut dwar il-ktieb ta' Tarčisju Zarb u Andrew Sciberras 'Kritika Prattika L-ewwel Volum'.

L-għan ta' dan il-ktieb kellu biss skop edukattiv u nista' ngħid li ntlahaq għax s'issa wasal għand aktar minn 1,000 ruħ.

Min irid kopja tiegħu PDF u tal-ktieb tal-poeżiji Awtoskatti PDF jista' jikkuntattja fuq Facebook jew fuq l-e-mail [artist@melita.com](mailto:artist@melita.com)

Ktieb Ta' 140 Paġna Jinkludi 2 Kitbiet Ta' Tarčisju Zarb

L-Aħjar Poeżiji Ta' Andrew Sciberras Minn Samsara Sa Frammenti Minn Moħħi

Metapoeżiji Ta' Tarčisju Zarb Riflessjonijiet Tal-Awturi U Ħassieba Kbar

Prezz Ta' 10 Ewro Posta Inkluzi

Min Irid Kopja Jista' Jikkuntattja Lil Andrew Sciberras [Artist@Melita.Com](mailto:Artist@Melita.Com) Jew Fuq Facebook



# MALTESE ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC

Maltese Association of WA Incorporated.

1 May Holman Drive Bassendean WA 6054 Phone: +61 8 93772902

Email: [mawai@bigpond.com](mailto:mawai@bigpond.com) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/malteseassociationwa](http://www.facebook.com/malteseassociationwa)



Maltese Association  
of Western Australia Inc.

## Our History

Maltese migrants began to arrive in Western Australia in significant numbers in the early 1950's. The need for an organization to promote and protect the interests of the growing community became apparent.

The Association's inaugural founder was Joseph Calleja who migrated to Perth with his young family in 1947. In 1959 Joseph Calleja formally approached Father Galea a priest from The Missionary Society of St Paul' to assist in the formation of the club. Mrs Molly Asphar, who had been residing in Australia for over 25 years, suggested that the club should provide Maltese migrants with social outlets and official representation to Governments and other institutions. By 1958 the Maltese community in Bassendean and the surrounding districts continued to grow and they still did not have an organisation which could act and speak on their behalf. In those early days the Association had a number of different titles. The first attempt was the "WA Maltese Australian Club"; and this was in existence for twelve months. The club hosted one social function, and to its credit, one reception for a VIP from Malta. The club was disbanded thereafter.

Again, Joseph Calleja approached the Missionary Society of St Paul's with the aim of forming a Maltese club. At this time Father Galea had been replaced by Father Cini. He agreed to assist and between them, they recruited Joseph Calleja's brother Felix and Fred Wright to form an interim Committee. The first meetings were held at Joe's home in Anzac Terrace Bassendean. Felix Calleja suggested "Maltese Settlers Association of Western Australia" as a title for the newly formed club which was unanimously adopted. Joseph Calleja was elected President, Fred Wright as Secretary and Father Cini as Treasurer. The first AGM of this new Association was held at the Australian Labor Party's hall in Broadway Bassendean on Sunday June 7th 1959 which later became their club premises.



in the club's direction and growth. They did not intend to play second fiddle to the men and they made their views known early in the formative years. The minutes of the AGM of 1961 showed this motion was moved and adopted "that women will be permitted to participate equally with men in any activity, meeting or functions". The motion was carried, although, partly contradicted a motion passed in July 1960 which stated. "If women members are successfully endorsed (as Committee members) there must be not less than two and no more than four".

Wreath laying ceremonies to commemorate the victories of the Great Sieges of 1565 and 1942 are a traditional part of the club's calendar, the first of these was held on

**Dance Night is held on the last Friday Night of the Month.** September 9th 1961 and the event received media coverage in the papers and on television and continues annually today.

The club then went through a number of lean years and minutes of meetings between 1966 and 1974 are missing. One may rightly assume that club activities during this period reached such a low level that no one bothered to keep records or alternatively that any minutes produced were mislaid. Correspondence indicates that the Priests from the

Missionary Society of St Paul's took over the running of the Maltese Community along with the wreath laying ceremony being organized by the Society.

In the early 70's a rekindling of club interest and activities was emerging but the main concern was securing some premises. A building fund was established however the funds were slow to come in so Peter & Carmen Farrugia generously loaned the club a substantial amount of money and the club was able to purchase the old Trades hall from the Labor party for \$70,000.00. Another name change was done on August 23rd 1972 from "Maltese Settlers Association" to the W.A Maltese Association Club (inc)". A constitution was conceived by Chris Sultana, John Calleja and Peter Farrugia and by 1975 the club had taken over the role previously carried out by the Missionary Society of St Paul's.

The membership expanded rapidly between the mid 70's and 80's and so began the monthly publication of an improved Bulletin magazine, the Maltese radio commenced, a Maltese dance group was formed, a cultural exhibition was staged and numerous activities were held.



**Bingo is played at the Club on the last Wednesday of every month.**

A grant of \$30,000.00 from the Federal Government was obtained and this was used to purchase club equipment. A name change again was done to the present name today of Maltese Association of Western Australia (Inc). But during this time the membership fell to a more constant level of approximately 100 members and produced a number of productive years for the Association. Sponsorships were obtained from Mitchells Retravisation (who is still a sponsor today), World Aviation and Singapore Airlines. This allowed the Association to boost its finances through raffles, social nights and the sale of Pastizzi & Ravyul. By the

late 1990's the hall in Broadway, Bassendean had deteriorated to the point where serious consideration was given to demolishing it. Following lengthy negotiations with the Town of Bassendean, 2000 square metres of vacant land belonging to the Department of Land and Administration became available to the Association on a 44 year lease conditional on signing a legal agreement to demolish the old premises. During the year 2000 the old property was sold for \$65,000.00 and a Lotterywest grant of \$90,000.00 was obtained. Approximately 90 members were involved with many hours of volunteer labour and a low interest loan of \$60,000.00 from La Valette Investments Pty Ltd made it possible to begin construction of the new premises.



**Maltese Language lessons for beginners start on Monday 1st Feb 2016**

Under the direction and supervision of Henry Wettinger, (a registered builder and member of the club) the Association erected a substantial Community Centre. The new location of the club was at 1 May Holman Drive Bassendean, and this was officially opened on December 7th 2003 by our Patron Dr Anthony Sciberras and the Mayor of Bassendean Ms Tina Klein, and the vision held by so many people, notably Tony Zammit had come to fruition. The Association will be forever indebted to Tony Zammit (La Valette Investments) for his vision and also to Henry Wettinger who gave almost 2 years of his life to build the

premises. Since then a liquor licence has been granted and with regular fund raising through chook raffles and social functions improvements to the club have been achieved. Lotterywest has provided three more grants helping to furnish the office area, computer equipment and the installation of a library and display cabinet. The Association has now erected a children's playground extended the paving area and is hopeful of obtaining another Lotterywest grant to extend the existing patio area to include a BBQ facility and a stage area for entertainment. Another vision is to build a school room for the teaching of the Maltese language.

Whilst individuals may have the vision of what needs to be done, it is the collective action facilitated by an organization that gives the dream its best chance of success.



## HOUSE IN AGREEMENT WITH REDUCING LITIGATION PERIOD OVER INHERITED PROPERTY

Heirs caught in a dispute over the selling of inherited property will have to reach a decision in three years, or the majority wins

MALTA TODAY Miriam Dalli 26 January 2016



An amendment to the Civil Code that will allow the facilitation of the sale of co-owned property has been approved through its second reading in parliament. Proposed in the Budget for 2016, the amendment will allow the drop of the litigation period of heirs caught in a dispute over the selling of inherited property from 10 to three years. This means that, if 51% of the heirs are in agreement, the property can be sold after three years.

Justice Minister Owen Bonnici said such “a courageous” decision would alleviate the pressure created by property demand. “One has to be truly courageous to tell heirs that, if they fail to agree on an inherited property in three years, the majority’s decision will win and the property will be sold,” the minister said. “Malta is small and it’s unjust that people want to buy new houses while thousands remain vacant.” Citing Valletta as an example, Bonnici said there were countless abandoned properties.

Shadow justice minister Jason Azzopardi said the opposition supported the amendment but warned that this was no measure to fully address the over 40,000 vacant properties on the island. On the contrary, Azzopardi added, it might create further problems amongst heirs. Many of the vacant properties on the island are a result of fighting heirs who fail to reach an agreement over the sale of an inherited property. Azzopardi went on to suggest that both sides of the House should meet with civil rights experts and discuss ways to address problems created amongst successors by last wills and testaments.

### Spagetti biz-zalza tal-Qarnit (Spaghetti with Octopus Sauce)

Spagetti biz-zalza tal-Qarnit (Spaghetti with Octopus Sauce) is a traditional Maltese recipe for a classic dish of spaghetti paste served with octopus and a tomato-based sauce with peas, onions, olives, red wine and herbs. The full recipe is presented here and I hope you enjoy this classic Maltese version of: Spaghetti with Octopus Sauce (Spagetti biz-zalza tal-Qarnit).

#### Ingredients:

1kg prepared octopus, sliced into even-sized pieces 225g onions, sliced 170g peas 225g tomatoes, blanched, peeled and chopped 115g black olives, pitted and sliced 250ml red wine 675g spaghetti 90g tomato purée 4 strips of lemon zest, finely shredded 1 tbsp mint, shredded 1 tsp dried

oregano, crumbled 2 tsp thyme, chopped salt and freshly-ground black pepper, to taste olive oil

#### Method:

Add about 60ml oil and 60ml water to a pan. When hot stir in the octopus and fry for 5 minutes then stir in the tomato purée and the herbs. Bring to a simmer, cover and cook for 20 minutes. Strain the octopus (reserve the liquid) and set aside to keep warm. Add oil to a pan and use to fry the onions for 5 minutes then stir in the tomato, olives and lemon zest. Cook for 3 minutes then add the remaining ingredients. Bring to a simmer then add the octopus liquid and cook for 15 minutes. In the meantime, add the pasta to a pan of lightly-salted water and cook for about 8 minutes, or until al dente. Drain the pasta, combine with the sauce then arrange in a bowl, top with the octopus pieces and serve.



## Prickly Pear – Bajtar tax-Xewk

The prickly pear reigns supreme in Malta's landscape. At this time of year, its fruits ripen and are harvested by hardy folk as a food for free. In the more rural villages, you'll find veggie vans and shops selling the pears, spines removed thank goodness. Often, my village neighbours arrive at my door with a plastic bowl full of the fruit, peeled to reveal their jewel-like, ruby-coloured succulent flesh. I accept graciously, though I have never really got to grips with munching or spitting out the abundant seeds. Apparently, there are seedless varieties around, just not in the wild of course!

Although not a native of the Malta, or the Mediterranean (its origins lie in South America), the *Opuntia ficus-indica* (Indian fig) certainly thrives here. Were it not for farmers lopping off bits from time to time it might well take over. Farmers of old would use it as a boundary between fields; it's definitely a good deterrent to intruders or straying livestock and is cheaper for villa owners to install than a security system! The fruit can be red, deep wine-red, green or yellow-orange and is perfectly edible (fussiness over seeds aside). It is sweet and moist with a flavour similar to sub-tropical fruits like watermelon, honeydew melon, strawberries and figs. And is a fraction of the price of these, or free if you pick your own.

**Prickly Pear culinary delights** - Malta doesn't really make much use of its abundant prickly pear supply. Our Sicilian neighbours treat it far more adventurously making candies, granita (slushy ices), ice creams, and jellies from it, as well as serving it up as dessert in restaurants ranging from casual trattorie to those listed in the esteemed *Michelin* Guides. The prickly pear is however on the increase on menus in Malta as we are beginning to see chefs value this humble, poor-man's food. Its presence on the menu can add local flair to what is often a bland list of internationally available desserts. The prickly pear is also versatile, and equally at home in savoury dishes. Most people I know simply eat it unadulterated; or they juice it. It can make a refreshing drink, and it certainly makes an interesting, pink-coloured Maltese liqueur under the Zeppi brand, called *Bajtra*. You'll find it in most grocers and at the airport, alongside Maltese honey and biscuits, being sold as a souvenir.

**Health benefits** - It has an impressive list of healthy properties: it is rich in anti-oxidants and contains a good dose of vitamin C. Some say its juice can help cure a hangover. The *ficus indica* is being looked at closely for its health benefits: A Maltese company, along with a French partner, has been researching prickly pear properties since 1996. It has found its extracts can help alleviate symptoms of extreme fatigue experienced after performing strenuous exercise – we're talking about scuba divers and racing drivers here.

**Qalbek thabbat SITTA SITTA? Tista' thabbat sitta sitta għall-mara, għar-raġel ... jew għall-proża u l-poeżija.**



Inghaqad magħna għal sessjoni ta' open mic fejn kull min jiġi hu mhegġeġ iġib siltiet ta' poeżija jew proża marbuta mal-IMĦABBA u jaqrahom. Dawk li ma jixtix jaqraw, jistgħu jiġu u jsegu. Sadanittant, l-imħabba t-tajba!

Din l-attività qed tkun organizzata mill-Għaqda tal-Malti – Università u Inizjamed.

<[www.facebook.com/events/1508391006133896](https://www.facebook.com/events/1508391006133896)>

**Data:** 15 ta' Frar **Fin:** 7pm 'il quddiem **Post:** Sistina Wine & Co., il-Gżira MALTA





## LUKANDA PROPAGANDA

KRIS SPITERI - MUSICIAN

Pianist and songwriter Kris Spiteri has joined forces with percussionist and singer Daniel Cauchi in this duo project to record their debut album **Lukanda Propaganda**. The platform is adult contemporary and the songs, written and composed by Spiteri, are lyric driven.

The album is partly influenced by the Maltese as well as the global current social and cultural situations. Apart from this there are also songs which reflect some personal and interpersonal circumstances.

The artwork for the album's booklet was designed by Steve Bonello, who has carefully drawn a drawing to describe each song.

This project had also the fortune of working in collaboration with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra in the recording of the album as well as in a live performance for the launch of the album. This venture was sponsored by the Malta Arts Fund.

Now you can buy the album from Book Distributors Limited San Gwann  
D'Amato 98/99 St John Street Valletta, Cd Baby, iTunes, Amazon, Google Music Store,  
24-7, GreatIndieMusic, Shazam, Sound exchange u Tradebit <http://www.kafena.com.mt>



## Maltese Elvis is king of European championship

A Maltese Elvis Presley impersonator is all shook up after winning a European impersonators' contest in Birmingham.

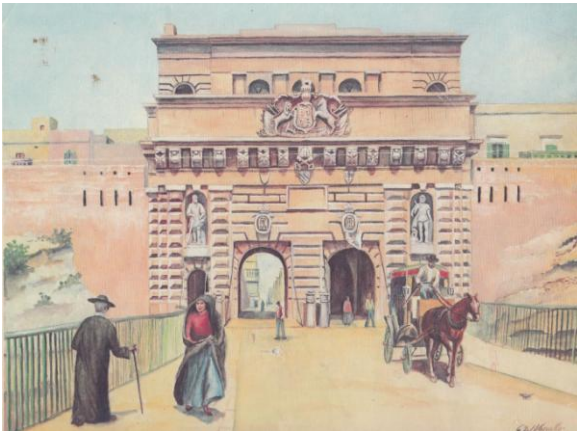
Redent Falzon has been impersonating the 'King' for 10 years, having been encouraged to do so because of his strong voice.

The European Elvis Championships 2016 drew some 80 impersonators from all over Europe.

A reviewer present for the show summed it up as follows: "An amazing performance was then delivered by Red which was

nothing less than vocally faultless, revealing exceptional Elvis - like tonation, a total absence of sharps and flats, plus superbly controlled vibrato together with a totally accomplished and powerfully impressive vocal range of considerable distinction .....

"His choreography was equally faultless - with moves so dynamically close to the King that his overall performance was virtually breathtaking ....."



The entrance of Valletta city – Malta (1940s)



### 1971 - new skills were learnt

Vince Zammit (27) Toolmaker at General Motors Holden, Adelaide, working on a complicated die which is part of a unit to punch holes in the interior of car doors.

(Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs photo)

Photo taken by John Portelli



The band players of the MALTESE QUEEN OF VICTORIES BAND OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



SHARE YOUR MEMORIES WITH THE MALTESE DIASPORA  
ON THIS MALTESE CULTURAL ENCYCLOPAEDIA  
ONE DAY ALL THESE NEWSLETTERS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN A BOOK  
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS . **Thanks to all those who already  
contributed. Yours will be greatly appreciated**



## FIGS AND TIN TAC-CAPPA

August 12, 2015 by amaltesemouthful@gmail.com MARLENE ZAMMIT



A bowl of ripe figs. What more do I need to say. As I could not eat them all I have decided to give my hand a go at Tin Tac-Cappa (lumpy figs). Let's just say it is my experiment at the moment as it is something my immediate family have not traditionally done but the recipe is Maltese. I am going to open it on Saint Martin's Day which is the 11th November. Wish me luck!

Tin Tac-Cappa (lumpy figs) was something I found when I was just doing some research on the internet. I am sure I have had this but it was a bought version and not home made.

On my recent trip to Yorkshire (UK), my mum's aunty Therese gave me a little more information about tin tac-cappa. My great grandfather, who used to live in a small village in Malta, used to make tin tac-cappa. The village is Tas-Santi and is near Mgarr. Apparently people still make it and sell it from their homes. That will be my first stop when I next go back to Malta.

I have been informed that my version is not how it should be done but I am hoping it is a close imitation... You should put the dried figs in a container and then you need to compress them. I put my figs into a glass jar and there was no compressing. My great grandfather used to use his feet and some people have special blocks to compress there figs. One thing I did do that is similar is dry my figs in the oven as it is just not hot enough here in London to dry them outside. The figs used to be dried outside but these days they take them to the local baker and dry them in their ovens. A few other things are added and they are covered and left for a few months to do their magic.

### Figs and Tin Tac-Cappa

**Cook time** 12 hours **Total time** 12 hours

One of those things that seem to be slowly disappearing. Not quite the real deal here but hopefully a close imitation.

#### **Ingredients**

- 15 dried figs
- Bay leaves
- Fennel seeds
- Rum or anisette liqueur
- Flaked toasted almonds
- Glass jar

#### **Instructions**

1. Preheat oven to 60oC.
  2. Tear 15 figs in 3 pieces and place skin side down on a baking tray with baking paper.
  3. Leave in oven for 12 hours until most of the moisture has been removed from them.
  4. In your glass jar, start layering your figs (skin side down) and other ingredients.
  5. Firstly place a layer of dried figs (skin side down) and then add some fennel seeds, bay leaves and toasted flaked almonds.
  6. Continue layering this way until you reach your last layer of figs.
  7. Place the last layer of figs skin side down and add two capfuls of rum or anisette liqueur. Close with a lid.
  8. Leave for a month and add another two capfuls of rum.
  9. Randomly tip the jar upside down to distribute the rum through the figs.
- Leave for at least three months and then open.



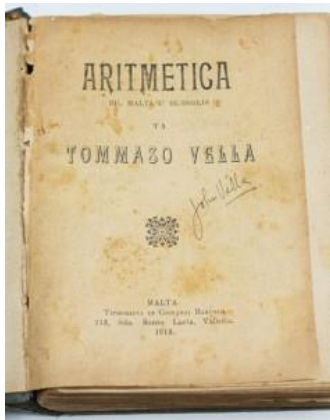
## THE SHEPHERD FROM GOZO



The local shepherd enjoys a quiet tranquil life. He is often a typical conservative type and is not fond of modern society's luxuries. However, his stress free life indulges a sense of curiosity amongst city dwellers who mistakenly believe that a shepherd's life is no longer compatible with modern society's stereotypes.

The number of shepherds in Gozo is in decline. However, from autumn to spring, one could still encounter, from any of the sporadic cart tracks throughout Gozo's countryside, a shepherd here and there, with their dog leaping around a small herd of sheep and goats, all depicting a clear but typical contrast on the green background. The shepherd calmly waits in the shade, sitting on a stone chewing a reed, or lying lazily allowing himself to doze into a short nap. There are no wolves here in Gozo and a faithful dog is trained enough to prevent the herd from going astray.

The shepherd's reward is cheese production. The cheese making industry in Gozo is a centuries old tradition and its successful secret is attributed to good grazing grounds. A bountiful production of cheeslets (gbejniet) made from sheep's milk fulfils the simple shepherd's aspirations. Sheep are milked manually one by one and their milk is left to set in cheese forms that used to be made from dried stalks of rushes, also manufactured in Gozo. The nowadays-practical plastic receptacles have replaced the traditional forms, but the cheese-making process has not changed for generations. Cheeslets could be consumed fresh, sun dried, or else salted or peppered. Of course, all these cheese types are very popular in Gozo, with Gozitans proudly claiming each variety's origin. Besides, most of the cheeslets produced in Gozo are well sought even in mainland Malta.





## VALLETTA2018 – EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE



**VENUE:**  
ICT FACULTY  
AUDITORIUM,  
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA.

**TIME:**  
8.30AM – 5.00PM

For further details call on  
**2124 2018**  
or email us at  
[valletta2018@um.edu.mt](mailto:valletta2018@um.edu.mt)



Valletta was declared European Capital of Culture (ECoC) on the 12th October 2012. The Valletta 2018 Foundation was responsible for compiling the bid for Valletta as an ECoC and is in charge of implementing the project. Valletta will be hosting the title of European Capital of Culture in 2018 with a partner Dutch city, Leeuwarden. The ECoC includes all the Maltese Islands, with an aim to spread its impact throughout the whole Maltese territory. The Valletta 2018 Foundation is responsible for the implementation of the Cultural Program. As per ECoC regulations set by the EU, the Cultural Program is to promote a European dimension and encourage citizen participation. Valletta 2018 will enable the participation of the citizens of Malta and Europe and will form an integral and sustainable part of the long-term social, economic and cultural development of Malta.

The Cultural Program is built around four themes: Generations, Routes, Cities and Islands. In conjunction with the Cultural Program, the Foundation is developing a program of consistent, accessible and comparable research and evaluation directly linked to culture. Valletta 2018 is developing a brand that will be associated with cultural excellence. The brand will communicate ECoC activities to local and international target audiences. Valletta 2018 believes that investment in cultural infrastructure requires careful planning and consideration to ensure that what is left after the ECoC is what the city and citizens really need and can make long term use of.

<http://valletta2018.org/>

## POETRY IN POTATO BAGS Malta, Leeuwarden

A unique project focusing on the exchange of language, poetry and potatoes. A poetry reading is set for Friday 29th 2016 at 7pm at Palazzo De La Salle. Poets include: Hein Jaap Hilarides, Janneke Spoelstra, Adrian Grima and Rita Saliba.

Malta and Leeuwarden share strong agricultural ties, exchanging potato crops and seeds twice a year. From these seeds, Maltese farmers grow potatoes which are then shipped back to Leeuwarden. Poetry in Potato Bags makes use of this relationship by exchanging poetry along with the agricultural produce. Eight Maltese and eight Dutch poets will be commissioned to write a poem per year between the years of 2015 and 2018. Every March, the Maltese poems will be packaged and sent with the potatoes to the Netherlands. Anyone buying a bag of potatoes in the Netherlands will find a Maltese poem (translated into English and Dutch) packaged along with their potatoes. The Dutch poets repeat this process every October by sending their poetry back to Malta with the seeds; over four years, a conversation will be formed between the poets from both regions.

Another aspect of the project is educational. In collaboration with **Appoġġ**, children are introduced to the realm of poetry and the world of agriculture, where they learn about local potato farming processes. Through workshops with local poets Emmanuel Attard Cassar and Rita Saliba, children are introduced to basic rhyming and poetry skills. Poetry in Potato Bags is a **Valletta 2018** collaboration with Potatoes Go Wild, Inizjamed, Appoġġ, and, of course, Leeuwarden 2018.

- See more at: <http://valletta2018.org/cultural-programme/poetry-in-potato-bags/#sthash.4BbbJFp9.dpuf>



Once again, thank you for your fine work on the Maltese Newsletter. I enjoy the diverse variety of topics about overseas and also local issues.

In fact one morsel that recently caught my eye was the "Nostalgia" corner from the 112 Newsletter. The visit by the then President of Malta, Agatha Barbara in 1986 when she paid us a visit here in Adelaide.

I recall the reception that the Adelaide Maltese community, gave her at the Maltese Community Centre on the 11th February 1986, where the Maltese

Queen of Victories band performed in a packed Hall for the President and other distinguished guests. It was quite an auspicious occasion.

Here is a photo of one of our Bandsplayer, John Chetcuti being congratulated by Ms Agatha Barbara on stage for his achievement of having written and composed an excellent Maltese March aptly named, "To My Band". Together with the Maltese High Commissioner, Mr Bonello, Ms Barbara offered our young talented musician a hearty "Proset!" for his dedicated achievement.



From left to right are; Joe Vella (President of the Maltese Guild) Agatha Barbara (President of Malta) Mr Nicholas Bonello (Malta High Commissioner in Australia) John Chetcuti (MQVB Bandplayer) Joe Monsigneur (MQVB President) Catherine Caruana (MQVB) Secretary (pic. 1985)

Your newsletter, with the photos and articles about the Maltese Diaspora, helps me to reinforce my pride in my Maltese heritage. Thank you. Regards Ron Borg (Adelaide SA)

