



MALTA DIARY: From Sydney, Australia to Malta – “Maltese People in Malta”



Albert Fenech **FACEBOOK** - ABOUT ME [.http://b-c-ing-u.com/2015/12/23/malta-diary-from-sydney-australia-to-mosta-maltese-people-in-malta/lillianriolo@hotmail.com](http://b-c-ing-u.com/2015/12/23/malta-diary-from-sydney-australia-to-mosta-maltese-people-in-malta/lillianriolo@hotmail.com)

Old Malta's Mediterranean building style.

She walks...and she snaps...pictures of course, pictures of Malta and the people of Malta. That is her passion. Bubbling with enthusiasm, as busy as a bee, a tennis player, a mother of three children Kimberley, Kayley and Kenzey and Mario the Mechanic her husband to keep busy and on his toes as he runs his garage business, Lillian Chetcuti Riolo takes everything in her long stride

with a strong dose of brash Australian but with Maltese blood flowing through her veins.

The Chetcuti Riolo family group



Lillian first caught my attention when I saw her taking part as a panel member in a television discussion programme debating whether Maltese traditions and Maltese characters are dying out. Her distinctly broad Oz accent and spoken Maltese with a mixed Mosta-Oz accent immediately struck me as being so cute but mainly because while some Maltese and returning Maltese migrants prefer to stick to English, Lil did her best to parley in Maltese.

A Maltese 'pastizzi' baker, savoury, baked flaked pastry sleeves filled with mashed peas and onions or rikotta.

Introducing her, the program coordinator defined her as having her own facebook page titled 'Maltese people in Malta' and her enthusiasm for taking loads and loads of pictures and posting them on her site to remain a present and future hallmark of what Malta and Maltese people are all about.

This was one lady I had to meet and interview and so we met up and talked. *“What inspired me to start Maltese People in Malta? Well first of all I love taking photos of beautiful Malta and its people.”*



Subscribe your relatives and friends wherever they are. Join the family

**LILLIAN**

Lillian was born in Sydney, Australia where her parents still live in the Wetherill Park area and was schooled and grew up in Sydney, her parents – her mum Betty from Mosta and her dad Jim from San Martin – having emigrated there many years ago.

A traditional ‘karozzin’ ride in front of The Palace, Valletta.

Although an Ozzie, she had a natural curiosity to retain her family roots and often asked relatives for pictures from the past of her grandparents and other relatives, but few were actually forthcoming. As a youngster she holidayed in Malta a number of times, staying with her grandmother in Mosta. Then, Cupid intervened and she met Mario the Mechanic and they have now been married for the last 24 years. Initially they went to live in Sydney but then decided to return to Mosta where they have lived ever since.



“I do not go looking or plan to find these scenes for photos. When I am out and about with my family or friends or shopping in my daily routine I see all types of Maltese traditional foods or ways and take photos of all I see so I can share them with people around the world for those that for any reason cannot make it to visit Malta.” The day’s work done time to sit and relax in late summer afternoon hoping to catch a cooling breeze or two.

As one of many hundreds of thousands of people of Maltese origin spread around the world with many of them having dual nationality, Lillian has a large following mainly in Australia, Canada, Britain, the United States, New Zealand and of course Malta itself. She has experienced the enigma of “what” and “who” she is – Australian or Maltese? It is not always a question with a satisfactory answer as I myself have experienced having lived for so many years in England after being brought up and schooled there.

“When it comes to taking a photo of someone, I first ask them if I can take a photo of them which at times can be a bit awkward but since I have been living in Malta and have been around so many different personalities I do not get offended if I am refused or ignored.” She loves playing tennis, loves watching her daughters play rugby and hummed and hawed indecisively when I asked her point blank that if Australia and Malta were to face each other in Test cricket, who would she support? The rest of the time is spent running the family home, taking pictures of course and socialising, being active in a group labelled ‘Aussies in Malta’. You really have to be on your toes to keep up with Lillian! NOTE: Needless to say, all these scenic pictures were taken by Lillian together with thousands of others. I asked her why she never captioned them – *“I leave that to people’s imaginations.”*



A vehicle service station – anything available for your car from A to Z!

Albert Fenech: Born in 1946, Albert Fenech's family took up UK residence in 1954 where he spent his boyhood and youth before temporarily returning to Malta between 1957 and 1959 and then coming back to Malta permanently in 1965. He spent eight years as a full-time journalist with "The Times of Malta" before taking up a career in HR Management but still retained his roots by actively pursuing freelance journalism and broadcasting for various media outlets covering social issues, current affairs,

sports and travel.

Dami Im to represent Australia at Eurovision 2016



X-factor winner Dami Im has been selected to represent Australia at this year's Eurovision contest in Stockholm, Sweden. The announcement was made on stage by the competition's 2014 winner Conchita Wurst and Guy Sebastian at the Conchita: From Vienna with Love concert at the Sydney Opera House.

SBS selected Dami to showcase our musical talent to the world because of her unique personal style and show-stopping voice. Born in South Korea, the singer moved to Brisbane with her family when she was 9-years-old. 'I am so thrilled and honoured to be representing Australia at Eurovision this year in Stockholm. I am really excited to be following in the footsteps of Guy Sebastian and Jessica Mauboy who have both graced the Eurovision stage before me,' she said. In 2013 Dami stepped into the spotlight taking out the X Factor crown and winning the hearts of over 3 million Australians.

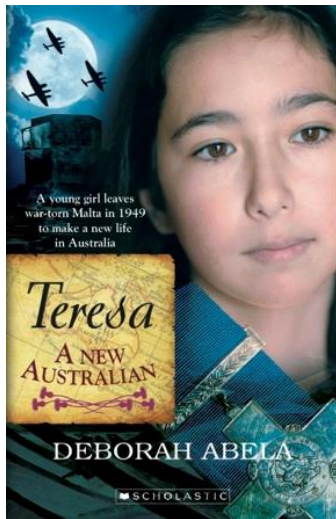
Dami has earned multiple ARIA accreditations, including top spot chart positions and multi-platinum sales for her self-titled debut album and hit singles 'Alive', 'Super Love' and 'Gladiator'. Australia was invited back to participate in the Eurovision after Guy Sebastian wowed Europe with a top 5 finish as Australia's first ever contestant last year.

The song Dami will sing on the Eurovision stage will be released by

March 11. - See more at: <http://www.skynews.com.au/culture/showbiz/music/2016/03/03/dami-im-to-represent-australia-at-eurovision.html#sthash.v61EJI5z.dpuf>

I would like to thank the President Ms Jane Galea of the MONASH MALTESE SENIORS SOCIAL GROUP INC for giving me the opportunity to speak to the friendly members of the group at Brandon Park Community Centre, 649 Ferntree Gully Road, Glen Waverley. The aim of the group is to give senior members of the community of their region the opportunity to meet socially, have lunch, play bocci, line dance, ballroom dance, do craft, enjoy guest speakers etc. Occasionally, they have outings and/or go out for dinner. They meet every Thursday from noon till 3 pm. You may contact Joe Mercieca at 9560 0297 for further information. Prosit and thank you Jane and the committee for your welcome. Frank L Scicluna

- WHO IS THE AUTHOR DEBORAH ABELA?



Where and when were you born? Sydney, 13th of October, 1966.

Where do you live? - I live in Sydney but I've lived in London and travelled all around the world from Scotland to Italy, America and many countries in Africa.

What are your favourite things to do? - Reading, writing, bushwalking, yoga, reading, cooking, learning new things, bike-riding, travelling, swimming. Did I mention reading?

What inspires you to write?

All sorts of things but mostly what gets me excited. *Grimsdon* and the sequel *New City* was written because I was cranky with governments around the world not taking enough care of the planet. In *Grimsdon*, a group of kids live in a flooded city with sea monsters, flying machines and sneaker waves. In *New City*, the children are flown to a seemingly perfect world, with ornithopters, ice tornados and a brand new bad guy.

What is your latest book?

Teresa: A New Australian. My father was born in a cave in Rabat, Malta during one of the heaviest bombing raids of WW2. After the war, Malta was in ruins and my father and his family travelled to Australia for a new life. Teresa and her family sail to Australia like my dad and struggle to set up a new life.

What are you working on now? - That's top secret, but it has to do with a game I used to play when I was in grade 4 with Ms Gray, who was one of my favourite teachers.

Read a lot - Whenever you can, while you're on the bus or waiting for your turn at the dentist or jogging on the spot getting ready for soccer practice, pick up a book and read. It not only expands your mind and imagination, there are studies that prove it sharpens your brain so that you actually become smarter!

Practice, Practice, Practice! - Like any skill you have, you can only improve with practice. No violinist or dancer or trapeze artist was ever brilliant at their first attempt.

Write about things you care about- If you're excited about what you're writing about, hopefully that excitement will be infectious and your reader will love what you're writing too.

Teresa A NEW AUSTRALIAN Story and Background



**TERESA AT THE CHILDREN'S BOOKSHOP,
BEECROFT ON MARCH 24 AT 4:30PM**

Teresa: A New Australian is the story of a young girl and her family who, like Deb's dad, survive the war and sail to Sydney.

Even though Australia offers so much, everything feels strange and new. Teresa desperately misses her family and friends in Malta, especially when she is bullied for simply being different, but like my Nanna Teresa, she is a fighter. She survived a war and she is determined to

make Australia her home.

This book was inspired by Deb's father, who was born in a cave in Malta during a bombing raid. After the war, her seven-year-old father and his family made the long journey to Australia, but their new home wasn't always an easy place to be. The Minister for Immigration, Arthur Calwell, knew Australia needed a bigger population to build the nation and to protect it if there was another war. With only 7 million people, he declared the country had to 'populate or perish', so he championed migration, but he was also a staunch supporter of the White Australia Policy, which meant Australia wasn't always welcoming of the new arrivals

Celebrazzjoni tal-Ghid fil-Kappella ta' San Pawl Mgr De Piro House Stanley Street East Sydney

Is-Sacerdoti Missjunarji ta' San Pawl jixtiequ jistiednu lill-kommunita Maltija ghac-celebrazzjonijiet li ser issiru b'tifkira solenni, ghal passjoni, 'l-mewt u 'l-qawmien ta' Sidna Gesu` Kristu.

Nhar **il-Hadd 20 ta' Marzu**, ser tkun iccelebrata Hadd il-Palm, id-dahla solenni tal-Mulej f'Gerusalem. Ikun hemm it-tberik tal-palm u wara jkun hemm il-quddiesa bhas soltu fl-10.00 am, fil-Kapella ta' San Pawl De Piro House Stanley Street Sydney.

Nhar **il-Hamis 24 ta' Marzu**, fis-7.00 pm, issir it-tifkira tal-ikla tal-Mulej, b'quddiesa solenni, wara jkun l-Adorazzjoni.

Il-Gimgha 25 ta' Marzu, fis-2.30 pm, tibda l-Via Sagra u fit-3.00 pm, ikun hemm il-funzjoni tal-passjoni ta' Sidna Gesu Kristu.

Is-Sibt 26 ta' Marzu, fis-7.00 pm, tibda l-funzjoni tas-sahra tal-lejl qaddis, tal-qawmien tal-Mulej mill-imwied.

Il-Hadd 27 ta' Marzu, niccelebraw il-Jum Qaddis tal-Qawmin tal-Mulej.

Fid-9.30 am ikun hemm quddiesa, wara kulhadd huwa mistieden ghal kakra kafe.

F'isem is-Socjeta' Missjunarja ta' San Pawl, Fr Tarcisio Micallef, jixtieq il-Ghid it-tajeb lil kulhadd u jirringrazzja lil kull min jattendi ghal funzjonijiet Ghal iktar informazzjoni cempel Fr Tarcisio Micallef fuq 9380 8398 – Kappillan tal-Maltin

PRIESTLY GOLDEN JUBILEE IN BRAZIL



Mgr Agius with brothers and sisters.

same Bishop in Londrina Cathedral. Soon afterwards, he was appointed parish priest of a big parish in the city of Rolândia, where he developed a very good job in so many different sections: catechism, liturgy, christian doctrine, social projects, religious culture. In the meantime, other relatives emigrated from Malta to Australia, where they are settled in the States of Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

He has been visiting them several times, celebrating marriages, baptisms and funerals. He feels strong links with Australia and considers it as his third country, after Malta and Brazil. At the begining of July 2015, last year, he celebrated his priestly Golden Jubilee; on that unique occasioin he had the pleasure to receive, in Rolândia, 17 relatives from Australia (brother, sister, nephews and nieces, grand nephews, cousins) and 8 from Gozo, Malta, including the parish priest of Munxar, Michael Said. For his solemn celebration, the main altar was decorated with three flags: Brazil, Australia and Malta and three bispos concelebrated with him: his actual Archbishop Dom Orlando Brandes, his former Archbishop Cardinal Dom Geraldo M. Agnelo and the maltese Bishop Emeritus Dom Walter Ebejer. Present also other 32 priests, amongst whom 8 maltese missionary priests who came from different brazilian States.



great missionary of Christ, St. Paul.

(Left) Mons. Joseph Agius between the three Archbishops.

Rev. Monsignor Joseph Bernard Agius (locally called Monsenhor José) is very glad to extend his gratitude to all his Family living in Australia and in Malta and join all maltese and gozitan migrants anywhere, assuring them that he prays for all, just to be able to maintain strong in the same Faith brought to them by the



(right) Relatives coming from Australia and from Malta.



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Social & Club Events



BINGO is played at the Club on the last Wednesday of every month. Doors open 6pm - Eyes Down at 7:15pm - Cash Prizes. Next Game is on Wednesday 30th March 2016

DANCE NIGHT is held on the last Friday Night of the Month. Normal meals are served from 5:30pm - Dancing starts at 8pm to around 9:30pm
Next Dance Night is on Friday 29th April 2016. (No dance night in March due to Easter.
MALTESE LANGUAGE LESSONS started on Monday 1st Feb 2016 - Term 2 starts on Monday 2nd May 2016 - click on the Association new website below to download the registration form.
Maltese Language lessons 2nd Term commencing 2nd May 2016 enrollment form
<http://www.malteseassociationwa.org.au/>

SECOND GENERATION REUNION PICNIC in ADELAIDE

It's on again! We will be holding the picnic again with the intention of attracting even more family and friends!!!

DATE: April 3, 2016 **TIME:** 11.00am onwards

PLACE: Bonython Park, Port Road (Opposite Coca Cola)

(Area 11, north of the lake) Look for the Maltese Flags!!

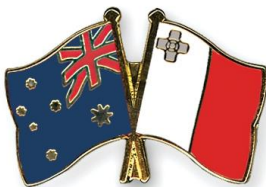
BYO: Food, Drinks, Chairs, Shelter and any photos you may want to share

This is an open invitation to the Maltese Community **MEMBERS** of all ages and their families. For further information, you can contact either:

Lawrie Caruana on 0407 886 899 or email lacaruana@bigpond.com

OR Catherine Saliba on 0438 825 174 or email catherine.saliba@yahoo.com

PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD!!!!



Dear Frank, My name is Tony Xerri from Narre Warren Victoria, and I have just been reading the Maltese Newsletter (115) that my niece has sent me to see if I will be interested to read. I must say that this is a very good info for all the Maltese in Australia, very informative and educational, and I never heard about the newsletter although I have been living in Aus. for the last 52years. Could you please advise me as to what is required for me to start receiving the newsletter regularly.

I have no other comment to make regarding the newsletter except that its brilliant in its present form, and I have all the praise for the people that take the time to compose it regularly.

P.S. If I can join to start receiving the newsletter, I will most certainly pass it on to all my family and friends.

Early LEGAL Maltese migrants to Australia treated with brutality



Albert Fenech March 2, 2016 MALTA DIARY,
Gozitans in New Caledonia.

1916 Group exiled in New Caledonia hell-hole; made to take European language literacy test – in Dutch! Maltese and other “humane treatment” merchants who tut-tut at their perceived ill-treatment of the waves of hundreds of thousands of illegal and trafficked immigrants into Europe would do well to delve into their history books and check how LEGAL Maltese migrants were treated in Australia at the turn of the 20th Century.

Noumea, New Caledonia today.

All of these had legal identification; all of them were British citizens with British passports coming from a country that was in the realms of the then British Empire. All of them were poverty-stricken men, women and their families seeking to make a new beginning across the other side of the world.



Early shipments were not allowed to land on Australian shores and were left exiled at sea for many days after a gruelling ocean voyage that in those days used to take anything between four and six weeks under mainly horrific and unhygienic conditions – and they had to pay their own passages, not to mention violent storms at sea. All the Maltese and Gozitans had British passports.

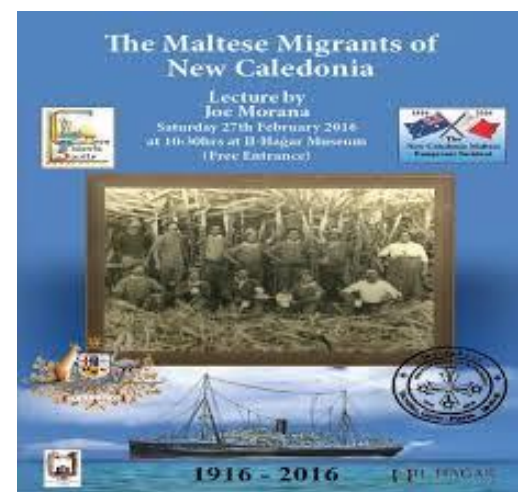
It took time for their British citizenship to be recognised and was only achieved with the intervention of the British Government from London. In the meanwhile they were racially treated as ‘Africans’ and fell under the Australian ban on all Africans and Asians – racism at its best.

In early 1915 Malta played a massive part in looking after and nursing Anzac troops involved in the horrendous Gallipoli landings of World War I which claimed thousands of lives and maimed thousands of others. Many of the injured were conveyed to Malta and were looked after by the Maltese who even opened their homes to them.

Australian PM William Morris Hughes.

Nevertheless, this served to be of little stock for the horrors vested on a group of Maltese and Gozitan migrants in 1916. Writing in “The Times of Malta” edition of Monday 22nd February this year, historian Joe Morana recounted how on 12th September 1916 the French mail steamer ‘Ganges’ departed from Valletta on a voyage to Australia with a group of 214 Maltese and Gozitan migrants on board looking for a new life on faraway shores.

On its way to Fremantle, the ship encountered a terrific storm en route from Colombo (then Ceylon and now Sri Lanka). Eventually, on 21st October the ‘Ganges’ docked at Fremantle and another terrific storm was unleashed. They were at the wrong place at the wrong time – their misfortune.



Unknown to them, the Australian mainland was in the midst of a raging debate on military conscription which the trade unions opposed vehemently, accusing the government of Prime Minister Billie Hughes with wanting conscription to deplete the country of young men and with having plans to replace these with cheap foreign “blackleg” labour. In fact a referendum was scheduled for 28th October, seven days later..

The unions seized the arrival of this consignment of migrants as “proof” that cheap foreign labour was already at hand and a momentous debate exploded. Hughes had been unaware of this sudden and unforeseen arrival and took immediate action to save his reputation. In his article, Morana described the reaction thus:

“The Maltese were therefore refused admission under the provisions of Australia’s Immigration Act, which had proved highly effective in deterring Asian and other unwelcome immigrants. A penalty of 100 pounds for each prohibited immigrant was imposed on the masters, agents, charterers and owners of ships that brought such persons to Australia.”



The Australian newspapers immediately took up the battle, slating Hughes and the unions and describing their actions as “shameful”, vividly pointing out that the Maltese and Gozitans were British citizens with British passports and one even went as far as describing them as “being more British than Hughes himself”!

William Morris Hughes decided to call a referendum.

To really make a mockery of the situation, the migrants had the Immigration Act inflicted of them and this involved a dictation

test in a “known European language”. The tests were carried out by a professor from Melbourne University who failed everybody – the test was purposely carried out in Dutch! Having failed, the Maltese were prohibited entry to Australia.

Resultantly, unwilling to risk such enormous fines, the ‘Ganges’ immediately set sail and conveyed its passengers to Noumea in French New Caledonia and landed the Maltese and Gozitans there, except for six who could prove they had been to Australia previously. This area was known as a hell-hole and the migrants were left to languish there for ten whole weeks as the debate continued to rage on the mainland.

Finally, after much lobbying by the newspapers and a number of Maltese clerics in Australia, the migrants were returned to Sydney in a derelict ship and detained under armed guard. On 21st March 1917 the group was finally allowed to land on Australian soil – a full five months after having first arrived in Australia and over six months after having left Valletta, and on condition they would become trade union members and gainful employment would be found for them.

Thus ended a shameful and disgraceful saga of racism and discrimination by the Australian authorities. If it were to be exercised today on illegal and trafficked immigrants it would cause a never-ending international storm of protest and heated condemnation by the United Nations.

Since then many, many thousands of Maltese and Gozitan migrants settled in Australia and made a new and prosperous life there and now of course there are many third and fourth generation offsprings as a result of successful integration over the decades and many are proud to class themselves as “Australians” – which many of them are, by birth.

Yet the arrival of their forefathers at the turn of the 20th Century was shameful, discriminatory and totally inhumane, despite their having been citizens of the British Empire and despite the total legality of their immigration.

NOTE: With acknowledgement to “The Times of Malta” and to Marlon George Grech for some of the pictures.

Australia: my first impressions



Roderick (Rigu) Bovington

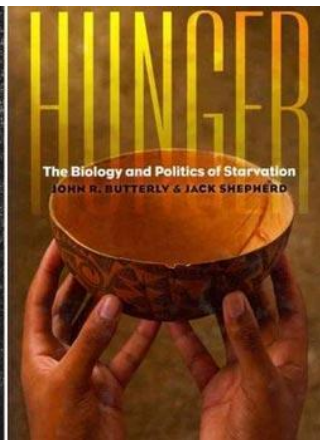
A recent item in this journal inspired me to jot down my first impressions of Aussie society on landing here on January 14, 1959. I submit this info as a reflection for all today's and tomorrow's readers.

Having just turned 16 and straight out of college, hence very green and not yet street wise, this is what I encountered. If as a young man you wore any jewellery of sorts you were considered a 'poof'. Not even married men were expected to wear their own wedding ring. All foreigners were looked down upon as inferior, especially if you were of Mediterranean stock. Such nicknames as *wog*, *dago* and *greaser* were the derogatory titles attached to us.

In those days all pubs closed at 6.00 p.m. and stacks of drunken men poured out onto the footpath hugging three or more bottles of beer under arm, as if there was a pending beer drought. On their way home these pillars of society often stopped in the middle of the footpath, opened their trouser fly and let it rip; irrespective of who might be passing by. Occasionally a bottle or two would lose their grip and burst open on the footpath, leaving a trail of smelly beer and a volley of the most colourful language to complete the picture.

The *f* and *c* words were of course the utterer's poetic style attained its height while *bloody*, *bastard* and *crap* were just as commonplace. But that was the price we paid for choosing to live in slummy areas like Rozelle in Sydney. Not all Aussies were of this low level of course, as I later discovered with much relief.

In conclusion however I note that 57 years later, there still lingers very deep hatred towards and jealousy of us Mediterranean stock including our children. When it comes to tin tax, the green bile resurfaces in no uncertain terms! – Whither comest and goest Australia?



Agostino Levanzin, man for all reasons by Lino Bugeja

It is one of the ironies of nature that while Malta currently tops the world obesity record, exactly a century ago, a Maltese 'professor', Agostino Levanzin, was strutting the world stage in a blaze of international publicity, particularly in scientific journals, in the aftermath of his world-record fast performed at the prestigious Carnegie Nutrition Laboratory in Boston, US.

Levanzin underwent a 31-day fast in April-May, 1912, under strict observation, determined to

contribute substantially to research on metabolism in prolonged fasting. He was invited to Carnegie after building an international reputation for his belief that moderate fasting markedly increased physical health as well as mental acuity.

Of course, he was not advocating prolonged fasting as a way of life as this could result in the dreaded disorder of anorexia nervosa; he was offering himself as a guinea pig to prove the limit of survival without food. In fact, he is still quoted profusely in established encyclopaedias of physical culture all over the world.

There is much more to Levanzin than the official world record for prolonged fasting, whose findings are still recorded in medical scientific studies. Recently, he was included in a seminal book, *Hunger: The Biology and Politics of Starvation*, by John Butterly and Jack Shepherd, as well as in a relatively recent highly erudite thesis entitled *The History of Diabetes Mellitus – A Maltese Perspective* by Prof. Charles Savona Ventura.



A copy of *In-Naħla* (1908) published by Levanzin (courtesy of the National Library). Right: The front cover of Levanzin's best-selling novel *Is-Saħħar Falzun* published in 1910 (courtesy of the National Library).

But there was much more to Levanzin than that. He remains one of the earliest stalwarts in the defence of the workers and the downtrodden for whom he was tried for seditious libel in Malta's criminal courts and, arguing in his own defence, he was acquitted. In the early 1900s, he is reputed to have founded the first Malta Trade Union with 700 members, but in his unpublished autobiography he states that "political intrigue not to encourage a labour party" resulted in its dissolution.

Levanzin also left his indelible mark in journalism when, still in his teens, in his paper *Il Cottonera*, he uncovered rampant nepotism, bribery and corruption at the Malta Dockyard. Again he was tried for seditious libel by the Admiralty but was acquitted once again. He boasted that he always yearned to "defend the cause of thousands of leech-bled victims against a few vampires" and gained a reputation as a staunch critic attacking head on the capitalist values of his day.

Born in Cospicua on May 23, 1872, Levanzin was immensely proud that he was related to the famous sea captain Vincenzo Barbara, who "was the right-hand man of Napoleon to plot and rescue Malta from the yoke of the Knights of St John". He read widely and brooded on the society around him, seeing an unjust clique which he attacked viciously in his journal *In-Naħla* (1908), resulting in the best-selling novel of that period *Is-Saħħar Falzun*.

Undoubtedly Levanzin was a rebel, actively engaged in the hot controversies of his day, with scathing attacks on the ultra-conservative establishment which so frequently ostracised him.

Levanzin was all the time diligently searching for the truth, as paradoxically shown when he abandoned his priestly vocation after four years, saying it was "through matters of conviction and bigoted tyranny of the superiors". To the chagrin of his mother, who at an early age had brought him up as a strict Catholic, teaching him the cadences of the Bible verses at her knee, this was a bitter blow.

In the medical sphere he distinguished himself internationally as an authority on fasting, and locally, as an acclaimed researcher particularly on diabetes and related illnesses; in fact, in 1928 he published a series of papers on this subject wherein he distinguishes between true diabetes and glucosuria. In the legal sphere, as a lawyer, he militated in the interest of workers.

Levanzin also left his mark as a pioneer in the field of journalism and literary criticism on several cultures, being an accomplished polyglot (he spoke English, Italian, French and Spanish) and was the pioneer of Esperanto in Malta.

His inclusion among the most outstanding Maltese literary figures by the prestigious *Akkademja tal-Malti* testifies to his literary works in the vernacular, particularly with his highly successful and best-selling novel *Is-Saħħar Falzun*. His sole aim was "to educate and enlighten the working classes that live in miserable conditions".

Before his departure from Malta in late February 1912 for the prestigious Carnegie Nutrition Laboratory in Boston, Levanzin was examined on November 7, 1911, by Dr P.P. Agius of Sliema, who certified that he "has already fasted for a long period without suffering serious bad after-effects".

Subsequently, another certificate dated January 10, 1912, by Dr Robert Samut (the composer of the Maltese national anthem), a professor of physiology at the University of Malta, was submitted to the Carnegie Nutrition Laboratory testifying to Levanzin's physical and mental fitness to endure a prolonged fast.

Levanzin stopped in Rome, where he consulted his friend Prof. Luciano, a famous specialist in physiological studies, who recommended him to undergo the strenuous test in the US. After visits to Florence, Paris and London, Levanzin proceeded to Liverpool, arriving in Boston on April 10, 1912.

The prolonged fast of 31 days, an experiment in physiological studies under strict supervision, ended on May 14 amid a blaze of publicity, particularly in the American press, hailing this record-breaking fast as a milestone in medical history, proving that man can survive total starvation successfully.

Unfortunately, Levanzin felt he was not properly treated after his ordeal and even accused the Carnegie Institute of brutality. In an interview he gave to *The New York Times* of May 22, 1912, Levanzin complained that he had been squeezed like a lemon and then unceremoniously expelled from the Carnegie Institute. He further accused this prestigious nutritional laboratory of nearly killing him by sulphuric acid.

It is most unfortunate that in spite of Levanzin's total compliance with the stringent demands of the institute and the high esteem in which it held him for his erudition, his mastery of languages, and proficiency in international literature as well as his knowledge and familiarity with physiological and related subjects, matters should end on such a sour note.

However, as the *Maltese Biographies of the 20th Century* (2009) rightly points out, Levanzin remains a man "with a complex character and a staunch defender of workers" among many other accomplishments. Since this year marks the centenary of Levanzin's world fasting record on May 14, 1912, this event should not go unnoticed.

In spite of his many outstanding feats in many fields, nobody seems interested in his achievements, which goes to prove that for some, centennials are only an accident of the calendar. If centennials have any value then they at least should provide an opportunity to set the record straight by rescuing forgotten figures from languishing on the dust heap of unfashionable righteousness.

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ZURRIEQ - THE FORGOTTEN TOWN



Zurrieq, one of Malta's oldest towns, has a vexed question: why do the 100,000 visitors who pass through to visit out-of-town locations annually do not pause in this interesting town. It is a question the local council has turned into a challenge. The challenge, in a sense, is about how they could be spread and held further, for, at present, the main attractions - the Neolithic Temples and the cliff scenery at Wied iz-Zurrieq - draw all the tourist traffic to the town's southern outskirts, bypassing the town. The two temple complexes, within a kilometre apart on a rugged garigue plateau, deserve to be the main allures. The temples' setting, possibly unchanged since the Neolithic, is highly evocative; in

this windswept, sun-baked plateau, you can sense the hushed venerability cast by the temples. Both temple complexes were progressively built and used between 3,600 and 2,500BC.

Hagar Qim is a circular complex consisting of four temples and two opposite entrances, an imposing edifice set on the plateau's crest -its heavy facade and the large upright megaliths that survive give you an idea of its former dominance as a landmark. The temple's design departs from the paired-apses template of Malta's other temples; its intricate jumble of chambers present a puzzling spatial arrangement whose understanding is close to nil.

Mnajdra consists of three juxtaposed temples -the East, Middle, and South temples. Only the East Temple's foundations survive, and the bare Middle Temple has, uniquely, twin frontal entrances -there's an original frontal profile of the temple, hailed as the first ever architectural design, carved on one of its passageway megalith. The South Temple is the best preserved and elegant of any in Malta: its two pairs of chambers, with



symmetrical apses, are small and intimate, and the inner lobe and sanctum has three of its altars propped on round tapered stones. The so-called Oracle Hole is in the first chamber on the right, a small opening that opens into a hidden cubicle that's thought to have been the seat of a hidden oracle.

Down the coast, the next stop for visitors, a small gorge meanders down the humpback cliff towards a creek -the boarding point for boat excursions of Blue Grotto. The area was once a fishing outpost; now it has grown into two small blocks of souvenir shops, restaurants and boathouses. There isn't much to do except have a wander to gawk at the cliff scenery, and have a peek at the Wardija Tower, built by the Knights of Malta as one of the chain of coastal

towers in 1657, now housing the local police station.

The Blue Grotto, a large domed cave with a natural buttress and clear azure water inside, about a kilometre south of the creek, has become something of an over-hyped landmark in Malta. So hyped it is, in fact, that 100,000 take a boat excursion annually, and such intense boat traffic now impinges on the cave's atmosphere and leaves an obnoxious pall of exhaust lingering inside.

The town itself, overlooked by guidebooks and tour operators, deserves a closer look. It might have an image problem, to start with, as rows of uniform terraced houses -social housing dished out by the government in the 1970s and '80s- form a bland crust around town. But persist towards the town centre, and it becomes obvious why Zurrieq was one of 12 parishes in Malta by 1436. It retains ubiquitous historical detritus: Bronze Age cairns, an Arabic-style turret, towers and sarcophagi from Roman and Byzantine epochs, forts and towers built by the Knights, and layers of mediaeval architecture.

The parish church, dedicated to St Catherine, has paintings by some famous artists -Mattia Preti, the Italian artist-at-large courted by the Knights; Antoine de Favray, a French artist also courted by the Knights; and Giuseppi Cali, Malta's most famous artist. The church's ceilings and dome-interior are also exceptionally ornate with baroque sculpturing, a pompousness that is matched during the feast on September 5, renowned particularly for its street decor. The warren of streets around the town, with many squares and many niches of St Catherine, are another illustration of Zurrieq's long evolution: the architecture morphs from mediaeval forms influenced by Sicilian styles to later baroque makeovers.



"We have been actively regenerating the urban centre of the town and its squares," said Adrian Mifsud, the local council's executive secretary, about the council's efforts to draw visitors into the town. "Our present focus for tourism centres on the Xarolla windmill, and after restoration, we are now working on building a permanent exhibition about windmills in Malta in the windmill itself."

Built in 1724, the Xarolla windmill is the only one whose grinding apparatus, a contraption of cogwheels, is still intact. It's weathered to a warm honey-colour, and it's fronted by a farmhouse and (:hapel built in the late 16th century, with the added attraction of the sarcophagi that were stumbled upon during the works which have turned a small area into a garden and pjazza.

Yet the star attraction of Zurrieq is the mediaeval chapel at Hal Millieri on the eastern outskirts of town. The 1450 chapel, dedicated to the Annunciation, is the sole survivor of Casal Millieri -a former hamlet of some 80 inhabitants that was abandoned centuries ago, and whose peasant houses crumbled and disappeared by the 18th century. Now one of Malta's oldest churches, set in a walled garden amid open fields and screened by moody cypresses, the chapel marks an apex in mediaeval architecture in its interior pitched-arches that support the roof. More

unique are the 11 excellently-rendered 15th century frescoes of the saints most venerated in Malta at the time. The saints, in singles or pairs, are dressed in colourful vestments and ceremonial Ct)ristian hats, and are depicted in lofty poses as if levitating, a style reminiscent of Byzantine frescoes yet also displaying Romanesque influences. It's more unique than Wied IZ-Zurrieq or Blue Grotto, but it gets just a few hundred visitors every year Zurrieq's vexation, and challenge.

Il-lista tal-garreja ta' din il-gazzetta dejjem qed tikber kull harga. Dawn il-gurnali kollha ssibhom fuq il-websajt - www.ozmalta.page4.me u fil-muzew tal-emigrazzjoni, Malta. U l quddiem dawn jingabru fi ktieb.

The list of readers of this journal is increasing at every issue. All the Newsletters are preserved on the website: www.ozmalta.page4.me and at the Migration Museum, Malta. Later on they will be published in a book for future generations.



F'DAN IŻ-ŻMIEN GHAZIZ TAS-SENA

Żmien sabiħ qed jerġa' magħna –
jiem għeżież tal-Ġimgħa l-Kbira
illi fihom aħna naghmlu
tal-mewt il-Mulej tifikira!

'Il fuq minn elfejn sena ilu
Kristu ssallab għall-bnedmin,
ċarċar demmu, ħalla ħajtu,
biex le nibqgħu midinbin.

It-tbatija illi sofra
ma tfissirha bl-ebda kliem;
għuda tqila ġarr fuq spalltu
li wasslitu lejn it-tmiem.

Fuq salib safa mdendel
qisu l-aqwa kriminal;
lil Missieru minn hemm talab
biex jaħfrilhom dan l-iżball.

Għaddew, tgerbu das-snin kollha –
lill-Mulej għadna nwarrbuh,
u lil qalbu nfieru, inweggħu,
dispjaċir wisq kbir nagħtuh!

Tafu xejn li bl-aġir tagħna
mill-ġdid qegħdin insallbuh
u fuq l-għolja tal-Qorriegħa
qegħdin nerġgħu nwassluh!

Ejjew nidhlu fina nfusna
u naraw li jisgħobbina;
nibdli r-rotta, lilu nwiegħdu,
li naħarbu t-triq ħazina.

Ħalli wkoll nitfgħu ħarsitna
fuq Marija Addolorata
li mxiet it-triq ma' Binha
b'rieda soda daqs ta' blata.

Iżda min jista' ifisser
it-tbatija li batiet!
L-ebda pinna m'hi ser tfisser
il-mument li sofriet.

F'dan iż-żmien qaddis tas-sena
inwiegħduk, Mulej Divin,
illi lilek qatt ma nonqsu –
ma nħallukx bi dnuhna tnin!

Aħfrilna, Mulej, ħtijietna
u fis-siegħa ta' l-hemm tagħna,
Ħalli nħaddnu lil salibek
biex henjin dlonk int tarana!

Kav. Joe M. Attard
Victoria-Għawdex
2016



We thank all our readers, contributors and supporters from all over the globe for making the Maltese E-Newsletter so popular. It is easy to read and the format is excellent. Everyone feels like part of the family.

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DWEJRA BAY

The name of this bay: “Dwejra”, is a testament to the heritage and mythology of this ancient site



The word ‘*dwejra*’ is derived from the **Maltese** phrase “*a small home*” and has a dual meaning: tradition has it that a small house was indeed present for many years in this remote location from which inhabitants would enjoy the stunning sunset scenes. But the metaphor of a ‘home’ is also an analogy referencing the huge, almost parallel vertical rocks which form what has been from time immemorial a primitive shape of a dwelling. Known as the ‘Azure window’ this majestic phenomenon is the result of geological forces which have shaped the face of the island of Gozo over several millennia. The bay is an ideal spot for a half-day or full-day hike in this idyllic spot close to the sleepy village of San Lawrenz in Gozo.

If you’re an experienced swimmer you can dip into the inland sea where you’ll find a hidden pebbly water lake which is an oasis of peace. The only access to this lake is through a well-known local passageway called the ‘Ghar iz-Zerqa’ which literally translates to the ‘Cave of Blue Beauty’. From here you can hire a boat and slowly make your way through the caverns that dot Dwejra Bay. Do remember to pack your camera to immortalize the view of the majestic Azure Window. If you’re a diver be prepared to experience some of the best diving spots in Gozo which are plentiful in this area. While on land take some time to enjoy the rocky shoreline with its unique geology which offers several great hiking paths.

Along the coast is the prominent tower fortification built by Grand Master de Paule in the seventeenth century. This was intended to assist in the guarding of the coast which was a critical function during the Turkish invasion of the eighteenth century.

St.Thomas Bay - MARSASCALA

Offering both rocky and sandy areas suitable for swimming and sunbathing, St.Thomas Bay guarantees an enjoyable day at the beach. Only a ten minute walk from the main southern resort of **Marsascala**, this somewhat large and natural inlet is quite popular with local holidaymakers. This secluded bay in the south of **Malta** has not yet been developed into a tourist



area and has more of a **Maltese** vibe with plenty of families enjoying its rocky coastline and small sandy banks.

Its shallow waters and sandy beach make it suitable for both sunbathing and swimming. For those who are more adventurous, it is also possible to hike to the Munxar cliffs which offer stunning views of the white cliffs as well as the opportunity to swim in some of the clearest waters. Sea urchins can be found in abundance here and it is also possible to see locals snorkeling in the area collecting them for a local favourite Mediterranean pasta dish. The seafront is a wonderful place for a stroll. You will also without doubt meet local fisherman bringing in fresh fish. Only a few minutes away, you can enjoy a pleasant walk on the Marsascala promenade where most restaurants offer dishes of fresh Maltese fish at reasonable prices. St. Thomas' Tower and a number of rural chapels are also worth a visit.



Sliema Coastline

The rocky shore of **Sliema** and **St Julian's** offers a relaxing spot for sunbathing and enjoying long afternoons in the sun

The coastline from **Sliema** to **St Julian's** is rocky with flat rocks making it a very popular place to swim and sunbathe during the hot summer months.

Since this coastline is very long, you are guaranteed to find a spot which is less busy. With stunning deep blue clear waters, the coast has a few beach clubs or lidos, where sun-beds, water sports and other facilities are available. The most popular beach clubs are the Tigne area, Qui-si-Sana, Ghar id-Dud, Exiles, Surfside and Fond Ghadir – all sought-after places in the afternoons to relax.

A walk to the north by the Sliema front will take you to **Balluta Square** in St Julian's. With a vast selection of restaurants and cafeterias, the area

is based in the heart of the entertainment centre.

The coast road between Sliema and St Julian's features a number of hotels, restaurants, shops and cafes. Both locals as well as tourists enjoy walking up and down this long stretch besides the beach. During the winter months, waves smash against the coast, providing a most magnificent spectacle.



Ghar Lapsi

This natural cove surrounded by beautiful scenery offers swimmers a safe sheltered swim in the shimmering blue-green waters.

Situated just outside of the limits of **Siggiewi**, **Ghar Lapsi** is nestled below a stretch of **Dingli Cliffs**. Meaning 'Ascension Cave' in English, Ghar Lapsi was named by the local fishermen who had built a shrine here.

Located around a kilometer from **Blue Grotto**, Ghar Lapsi is a natural rocky swimming pool with a cave to compliment the surrounding areas. Apart from a few small areas of flat rock, there is no extended area for sunbathing so the area is mostly enjoyable for a lovely swim. A popular spot with fishermen, Ghar Lapsi transforms itself into a natural swimming pool attracting numerous snorkeling enthusiasts, divers and tourists. This natural cove offers extraordinary blue-green waters safe for a sheltered swim.

During the colder months, Ghar Lapsi is ideal for hiking tours and rock climbing while enjoying some of the most stunning views. From Lapsi, you will be able to admire the village of Siggiewi and the 16th century Verdala Palace. You will also be able to see the uninhabited island of Filfla from afar.

Ghar Lapsi is increasingly popular with divers for its reefs that stretch for 200 metres. Some of the fish species that inhabit the area include seahorses, eels and rays amongst other species. The boat houses next to Ghar Lapsi double up as snack bars during the warm summer months while there is also a bar and restaurant open all year round.

Focus on Nagle College Blacktown for Catholic Schools Week - Jessica Oxford Blacktown Advocate

March 4, 2016



Nagle principal Delma Horan with Jessica Graham and Angelica Tabone.

Ambition, pluck and a supportive environment are the keys to the success of Nagle College rising stars Jessica Graham and Angelica Tabone.

The Orwell St all-girls high school students believed the school's values of "faith, learning, welcome, action and courage" were serving them well.

Angelica said she took her position as vice caption

very seriously. "(The school captain) Olivia Sargent and I lean on each other and support the Student Representative Council team," she said.

"We bring our ideas to the school and implement what the students want and what makes the school a better place for the students. "We try to make the environment as friendly and community-based as possible."

Between juggling school work, her role as vice-captain and coaching gymnastics, Angelica believed it was all about having the right attitude to succeed. "If you don't have the right attitude, you'll never get to where you want to go in life," she said. Nagle leaders Jessica Graham and Angelica Tabone.

"For me, with such a busy schedule, it's all about organising yourself, having the right attitude and you'll get through anything." Jessica, a member of the SRC, said her organisation skills and commitment to her goal made her a good leader.

"I know I wouldn't be in the place that I am without organisation," she said. "I also think it's motivation. You need to have to have that feeling to do well and to push yourself, not only for your grade or your teachers, but you need to have that sense of pride that you did it by yourself."

The Quakers Hill teen was focused on pursuing her dream of becoming a primary school teacher. "I coach competitive cheerleading (at Castle Hill's Starlets) so I believe that will come in handy," she said.

Angelica said her goal was to graduate from university but was still determining a career path. School principal Delma Horan believed all her students had the makings of success and could emulate famous alumni such as new Channel 7 recruit Mel McLaughlin. "Jessica and Angelica are very typical of the girls here at Nagle," she said.

THE TABONE FAMILY

"Penny and Joe Tabone have four children two girls and two younger boys who all attend Skola Maltija with the girls being the eldest of the four who attend the Saturday School of Languages taught by Mr. Charles Galea. They are a very committed family and live their faith and Maltese Traditions. They visit Malta and Gozo often as the grandparents are Maltese/Gozo. Penny and Joe are very dedicated to their children who are also a role model of a young Christian family amidst our Australian-Maltese generation in our community in NSW. Some years ago Joe sat for the HSC Maltese Language in NSW same time as me.

PATIZZI OR CHEESECAKES???? – Roderick (Rigu) Bovingdon NSW



Which of these two terms is correct? – Aquilina gives the meaning of the Maltese culinary icon *pastizz* as cheesecake. Wrong; absolutely! And here's why and how.

Firstly, the Maltese *pastizz* can by no stretch of the imagination be called a cake, as neither its physical make-up nor in its appearance and taste does it bear the slightest resemblance to what is universally referred to as being of a 'cakey' nature. The pastry of the *pastizz*, if anything, is more akin in appearance and structure to the French *croissant* than

any other culinary delicacy.

Secondly, the stuffing ingredients have never been solely confined to cheese alone. In Australia we have developed some 12 or more different fillings besides also having developed the frozen *pastizz*. This latter development enables the customer to buy in bulk and keep their shopping in a freezer for a later date.

Linguistically here is the way I see it. – The word *pastizz* like a number of other indigenous terms that cannot and must never be translated, is today universally known throughout Australia as precisely *pastizzi*. The only difference is that this culinary item is always locally referred to in the plural. Like the Italian *pizza* or indeed the term I used above, the French *croissant*. There are other such untranslatable terms in Maltese which should, if only out of a sense of national pride, retain their original Maltese spelling when applied to other language writings.

A few examples we commonly use in Australia include: **ravjul** (distinct from the Italian *ravioli* which, apart from being Italian in sound and spelling, is locally identified with the mass-produced pasta of very little culinary value and taste); **figolli** (an annual Easter tradition warmly retained by the Maltese of Australia); **festa** (it doesn't matter that our term is spelt the same as in Italian; after all many Spanish words are no different to Italian!); **nanna** and **nannu** (two family terms of endearment and respect of particular value to us as Maltese); **brodu** (a national Maltese dish), **ġbejniet** (sometimes inaccurately referred to as Maltese cheeselets) and others.

For those readers who may find these claims somewhat strange, the ensuing explanatory notes will help clarify my claims.

From a Maltese sociolinguistic viewpoint, owing to the relatively miniature geographic and demographic size of the Maltese nation – two concrete facts which have been further reinforced by Malta's centuries-long colonial

historicity – there remains deep within our national psyche, a strong undertow of inferiority feelings, especially when it comes to our language. Hence even the outstanding Professor Joseph Aquilina - whom I will always revere with the highest esteem in Maltese language matters – occasionally, submitted to these powerful socio-linguistic pressures!

Aquilina's precise erroneous occurrence in an authoritative national dictionary vindicates my oft-repeated alert, to all those who hold the reins of our nation's collective consciousness in language matters, that such a heavily responsible and vast undertaking as the compilation of a national dictionary should, from now on, be the sole task and on-going endeavour of a uniquely appointed corps that, in constant consultation with the public in general (including ALL interested parties), compile and periodically update the one national dictionary to the exclusion of no others.

In the English-speaking world, there are dictionaries for all possible subjects. Hence in addition to a national dictionary such as the Oxford English Dictionary, technical and scientific dictionaries catering for subjects such as physics, science, biology, philosophy, legalese, and so on, other aspects of our daily language use that include foreign terms and phrases, slang, dialectal variations, etc. should by right *all* be included as a true part of the total language lexemic structure.

FOLK HEROS OF MALTA



GAHAN AND THE DOOR (Gahan u l-Bieb)

One day, Ġaħan was still asleep when his mother was going out to church. She woke him up and told him: “Ġaħan, I’m going to church, if you go out remember to pull the door behind you.” Ġaħan went back to sleep. Later, he woke up and decided to go out. Just before leaving, he remembered his mother’s words to “pull the door behind” him.

He quickly unhinged the door from its place, tied a rope around it, and carried it all the way to church. When his mother saw him and her door in the middle of the street, her shouts could be heard from kilometres away.

The odd couple in the village, with very contrasting personalities – WENZU U ROZI

. Wenzu enjoys having a drink at the local wine-shop "ta Kurun", Rozi waits for him, baton in hand, to check if he is drunk by the redness of his nose. Occasionally, Zolli, Rozi's sister, comes for a few days at their house. Wenzu is afraid of her more than Rozi.



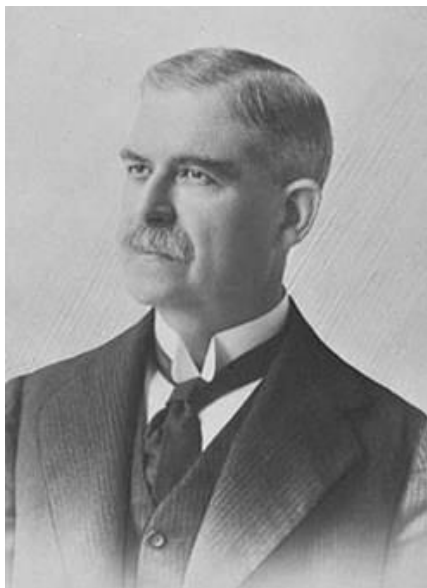
ZOLLI, WENZU U ROZI

This was the first story that was ever written about the characters Wenzu u Rozi. One night, Wenzu came in late from his daily visit "Ta' Kurun tal-Inbid", the local wine bar. Rozi was already in bed, and Wenzu, being almost drunk and very tired, just got into bed beside her, clothes and all. Rozi immediately scolded him: “Don’t you even close the door behind you, you drunk fool.” Wenzu replied: “Go and close it yourself, I’m too tired.” Rozi: “But you came in last, close it, I don’t

sleep with the door open.” Wenzu: “But I do, it’s not my problem.” After some time arguing, Wenzu came up with a bright idea: “Let’s do a bet. Whoever speaks first, will be the one who has to go and close the door.”

Rozi agreed. For Wenzu, this was an excellent way to just go to sleep. Rozi couldn’t sleep, knowing the door was still open. But she was determined not to lose a bet with her husband. After a few minutes, she heard some steps outside. The steps stopped in front of her door, and she heard someone coming in right up to their bed. “Wenzu, Rozi, your door is open”. It was the local chemist. Neither Wenzu, who was already asleep, nor Rozi, made a sound. The chemist tried to shake them and wake them up but they did not budge. “Oh my God”, he said, “they’re dead.”

He quickly went to bring the parish priest and doctor. The priest started to perform the last rites on Wenzu, but as soon as he touched his feet, Wenzu woke up shouting “Stop stop you’re tickling me!” Rozi sat up: “You talked, you drunkard. Now go and close the door.” The chemist, the priest and the doctor, were left speechless.



Sir Gerald Strickland (1861–1940) by G.P. Walsh

Gerald Strickland (1861-1940), by unknown photographer, 1917 *State Library of New South Wales*, GPO 1 - 18749

Sir Gerald Strickland, 1st Baron Strickland of Sizergh Castle (1861-1940), governor and politician, was born on 24 May 1861 at Valletta, Malta, eldest son of Captain Walter Strickland, R.N., and his wife Maria Aloysia (Louisa), née Bonnici, niece and heiress of Sir Nicholas Sceberras Bologna, fifth Count della Catena in Malta, whom Gerald succeeded in 1875; he was also a nephew of (Sir) Edward Strickland. Educated at St Mary's College, Oscott, and Trinity College, Cambridge (B.A., LL.B., 1887), he was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple. During a world tour in 1883-84 he had visited Maltese settlers in Queensland and in Sydney discussed with the premier (Sir) Alexander Stuart the possibility of bringing Maltese orange-and olive-growers to New South Wales.

Elected in 1886 to the council of the government of Malta, Strickland represented the island at the first Colonial Conference and helped to frame its constitution in 1887. As chief secretary (1889-92) he initiated many reforms and public works. Although he showed a sound knowledge of public finance and administrative techniques, his tactlessness caused some uneasiness in the Colonial Office. On 26

August 1890 Strickland married Lady Edeline Sackville (d.1918), daughter of the seventh Earl De La Warr, in Our Lady of Victories Church, Kensington, London.

Appointed K.C.M.G. in 1897, he governed the Leeward Islands from 1902 and was transferred to Tasmania in October 1904. Belonging to an ancient English Catholic family, he was only the third Catholic to govern any Australian colony or State.

In May 1909 Strickland became governor of Western Australia. In the early days of Federation he was involved in the delicate matter of State rights and the appointment, role and salaries of governors. He strongly supported Federation (as opposed to unification), as well as Imperial federation, and restrained his ministers from expressing secessionist views. A stickler for formalities and constitutional propriety, he also endeavoured to persuade members of cabinet not to recommend expenditure without parliamentary sanction. He did, however, quarrel privately with Governor-General Lord Dudley over the dormant commission and the channels of communication with the secretary of state.

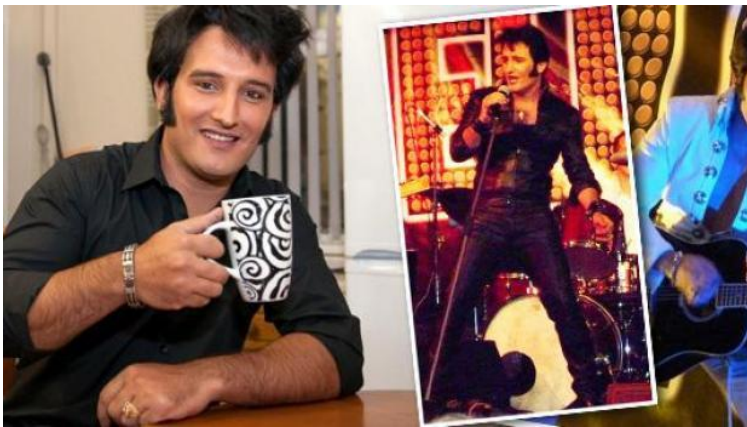
Strickland was appointed G.C.M.G. in 1913 and advanced to New South Wales where he noted 'there was some religious friction'; he was confident that 'an *English* Roman Catholic Governor' would be the best person to control it. Yet, it was politics and not religion that was to bring about his downfall. He roused the antipathy of the governor-general Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson who told Bonar Law that 'I find him altogether too machiavellian for ordinary intercourse'.

Handsome, solidly built and of middle height, Strickland triumphantly entered Government House, Sydney, in 1915. He was 'a genial host and brilliant controversialist'. Soldiering in his young years (he served with the Cambridge University

Rifles) and mechanical engineering were his main hobbies; his spinning wheel and combination tool were exhibited at an industrial and models exhibition in Sydney.

Retiring from the colonial service, he divided his time between his Maltese and English estates (having acquired Sizergh in Westmorland from a cousin in 1896). Strickland was elected to the House of Commons as a Conservative for Lancaster in 1924; he married Margaret Hulton (D.B.E., 1937) on 31 August 1926 in the same church as his earlier wedding; in 1928 he was raised to the peerage. Having entered the Maltese Legislative Assembly in 1921, he helped to draft the Milner-Avery constitution. He formed the Anglo-Maltese (later Constitutional) party and was involved in bitter battles against Fascist, Italian and Church interference in politics. Prime minister in 1927-32, he narrowly escaped assassination in May 1930. In 1932 he became leader of the Opposition against a pro-Italian government; he founded the *Times of Malta* (daily and weekly) and *Il Berka*, the first vernacular newspaper in Malta.

Strickland died in Malta on 22 August 1940 and was buried in the family vault of St Cajetan's Cathedral. His wife survived him, as did five daughters of his first marriage; his two sons and a daughter had died in infancy. The combination of his English and Maltese inheritance accounted for the strength of his dual patriotism, but it brought out a pugnacity which often antagonized would-be sympathizers and obscured the worth of his policies. A portrait of Strickland by E. Caruana Dingli is in Malta and a statue by Anton Sciortino stands in Upper Barracoa Gardens, Valletta.



The Times of Malta – www.timesofmalta.com/

Maltese man is top Elvis

A Maltese former beer delivery driver who moved to the UK four years ago has won a top Elvis Presley lookalike competition in the United States.

Gordon Elvis, as he now calls himself, was crowned "Image of the King World Champion" in Memphis after winning a series of contests to find the UK's best tribute act, the Birmingham Mail

reported. As part of the prize, the singer, who now lives in Bilston, got to visit the singer's Graceland estate.

"The place was crowded because it was the anniversary of his death, but it was a very emotional visit," he told the newspaper. Gordon moved from Malta four years ago and is now focussed on show business.

His repertoire includes more than 350 songs and he has 35 different Elvis outfits, ranging from 1950s leather to sparkling sequin jumpsuits. He began singing Elvis songs when he was a toddler and now wows rock 'n' rollers worldwide with his tribute act.

He said: "The work is very different in Malta – it's a small island so my act would only really be for the tourists. I did karaoke and people were encouraging me. "A guy in a karaoke bar said I should impersonate Elvis for a living and I thought, why not?"

"So in 2009 I decided to come to the UK. I competed in a contest in Porthcawl and won it. I then decided to stay and see how it went. My mum and dad are big Elvis fans. I grew up listening to Elvis." He came third in the European Elvis Championship 2012, third in the Images Of The King Contest 2011 and second in the Elvis World Cup 2010. But his latest success is the most prestigious and Gordon hopes it will lead to a lucrative career with theatre shows, cruise bookings and other high-profile appearances. "Hopefully, it is just the start of things for me," he added.



HUMAN STATUE OF LIBERTY - THIS INCREDIBLE PICTURE TAKEN IN 1918

Here are 18,000 men preparing for war in a training camp at Camp Dodge, in Iowa, USA. What a priceless gift from our grandfathers.

FACTS?

Base to Shoulder: 150 feet
 Right Arm: 340 feet
 Widest part of arm holding torch: 12 1/2 feet
 Right thumb: 35 feet
 Thickest part of body: 29 feet
 Left hand length: 30 feet
 Face: 60 feet
 Nose: 21 feet
 Longest spike of head piece: 70 feet
 Torch and flame combined: 980 feet



©
 MOLA & THOMAS
 915 MEDINAH BLDG.
 CHICAGO, ILL.

HUMAN STATUE OF LIBERTY
 18,000 OFFICERS AND MEN
 AT
 CAMP DODGE, DES MOINES IA.
 COL. WM. NEWMAN, COMMANDING
 COL. RUSH S. WELLS, DIRECTING.

Number of men in flame of torch: 12,000

Number of men in torch: 2,800

Number of men in right arm: 1,200?

Number of men in body, head and balance of figure only: 2,000

TOTAL MEN: 18,000

{Sent by Greg Caruana – NSW}

