



THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

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A young girl holds a placard during the walk with migrants in Balluta, on 22 January 2017
Photo: Steve Zammit Lupi TIMES



foreignaffairs.gov.mt*

**Consul-on-the-Move
PROGRAMME**

**CONSUL-ON-THE-MOVE
IN ADELAIDE
24 AND 25 MARCH 2017**

If you live in South Australia and you are interested in applying for or renewing your BIOMETRIC Maltese passport, the Consul General of Victoria will be here to assist in and provide this service.

For further information and to make an appointment please contact

Mr. Frank Scicluna, Hon Consul for Malta in South Australia 08 8269 2948

Mr Victor Grech – Consul General in Victoria – 03 9670 8427

The Malta High Commission – Canberra, ACT 02 6290 1724

L-Għaqda Hbieb tal-Presepu Għawdex- Malta 1985

Mahtur il-Kumitat il-ġdid



Nhar il-Ħadd filgħodu 22 ta' Jannar 2017, il-membri tal-'Għaqda Hbieb tal-Presepu Għawdex-Malta 1985' iltaqgħu fil-Premises il-godda tagħhom fi Triq Putirjal Victoria biex jaħtru l-Kumitat il-ġdid li jrid ikompli jmessi l-Għaqda fis-snin li ġejjin. Mill-ġdid kien ikkonfermat is-Sur Joe Galea bħala President; dan kien il-Fundatur li flimkien mal-ex Kappillan ta' San Lawrenz il-Kanonku Dun Mikiel Borg u s-Sur Gorg Borg kienu waqqfu l-Għaqda f'Ottubru tal-1985. Il-Kanonku Borg għalkemm mgħobbi bil-piż tal-Knisja ta' San Pawl f'Marsalforn xorta aċċetta li jkompli jservi bħala d-Direttur Spiritwali

tal-Għaqda waqt li ftit li xejn nistgħu ngħidu li kien hemm bdil fil-membri tal-Kumitat ta' qabel. Gie deċiż iżda li membru minn kull fergħa li l-Għaqda għandha f'xi wħud mill-irħula Għawdxin jibda jattendi l-laqqgħat tal-Kumitat waqt li s-Sur Paul Stellini ġie mahtur sotto Segretarju.

Matul il-laqqgħa ġie deċiż ukoll li minn żmien għal żmien l-Għaqda tibda torganizza xi attivita', mhux neċesarjament marbuta mal-Milied, għal membri numerużi tagħha (li fosthom insibu wkoll xi Maltin dilettanti tal-Presepu) biex b'hekk l-imsejbin jibqgħu iktar magħqudin. Inqara wkoll ir-rapport tat-Teżorier waqt li ġie deċiż ukoll li tiżdied xi ftit il-miżata annwali biex b'hekk l-Għaqda tkun tista' tlaħħaq mal-ispejjes li jkollha matul is-sena.

Dawn kienu jkun ħafna ikbar kieku mhux għall-fatt li s-segretarju, darba kull tliet xhur jieħu l-inkarigu li jqassam il-fuljett tal-Għaqda bl-idejn biex b'hekk tkun iffrankata l-ispiża tal-posta. Grazzi għall-Ministru għal Għawdex, l-Għaqda issa se jkollha post fejn tessebixxi l-Presepi tagħha fi Triq Vajringa Victoria billi s-Sede li kellha fi Triq ir-Repubblika Victoria fejn kellha l-Wirja Permanenti tal-Presepu itteħdilha wara 30 sena. L-għan tal-Għaqda huwa li tkompli xxerred il-bini tal-Presepu fid-dar u għal dan il-għan matul is-sena hija tagħti diversi lezzjonijiet lil dawk interessati fil-bini tal-Presepu, grotti, siġar, pasturi, djar, eċċ kif ukoll tistampa fuljett kull tliet xhur li jitqassam fost il-membri tagħha u dawk li jitolbuh.

Dan illum qabeż sew il-mitt ħarġa tiegħu. Membri tal-Għaqda jzommu kuntatt mal-Kumitat dinji u għaqdiet oħra tal-Presepu; xhieda ta' dan, dan l-aħħar 43 dilettant tal-Presepu żaru Bergamo fejn attendew għall-għadd ta' laqqgħat u raw bosta presepi sbieħ. Matul il-jiem tal-Milied diversi membri tal-Għaqda kienu mitluba jservu bħala 'judges' f'kompetizzjonijiet tal-Presepi u Grotti u Twieqi mzejna m'Għawdex kollu. L-Għaqda fadlilha wkoll xi kopji tal-ktieb li kienet ħarġet xi snin ilu dwar il-Presepu miktub fi tliet lingwi minn diversi kittieba stabiliti.

Jalla l-Kumitat il-ġdid tal-Għaqda Hbieb tal-Presepu Għawdex- Malta 1985 ikompli jħabrek u jistinka matul is-snin li ġejjin biex kull familja tara li tibni l-Presepu fid-dar tagħha mal-wasla ta' Diċembru u jalla iktar dilettanti tal-Presepu u dawk li bħali għandhom għal qalbhom din il-ġrajja għaziża ta' Betlem, jidhlu membri f'din l-Għaqda li issa qed tagħlaq 32 sena minn twelidha u għalkemm il-problemi u d-diffikultajiet ma naqsu qatt fil-mixja tagħha matul dawn is-snin kollha li ilha wieqfa, iżda kif jgħid il-qawl Ingliż: 'United we stand divided we fall' u bil-koperazzjoni ta' kulhadd u biż-żieda fil-membri tagħha, l-Għaqda Hbieb tal-Presepu Għawdex - Malta 1985 nemmen li għadd għandha funzjoni importanti x'taqdi fil-ħajja tal-Maltin u Għawdxin u b'hekk il-Milied jibqa' jgħib il-ferħ fil-qalb tagħna lkoll u li nsibuh biss f'dik il-grotta fqajra ta' Betlem. Nawguralkom li l-ferħ tal-Milied jibqa' jsaltan fi djarkom sa Milied ieħor!

Kav Joe M Attard Victoria Għawdex

I believe that this is one of the very best coverage of the Islands of Malta & Gozo

It is in the Italian language but one can see the beauty of the place and catch some phrases here and there that will help you understand the show It is aprox 50 mins long so do give it that time to see it all I am sure you will not be disappointed . Enjoy - Maria Catania - Melbourne

<http://www.rai.it/dl/RaiTV/programmi/media/ContentItem-5a4b7cd9-58a2-4543-a756-8bdfc85ffbd7.html>

Malta's population climbs up by 3,960 in a year

Statistics for 2014 indicate that there are more males than females on the island for the first time in recorded history

Tim Diacono

Malta's population at the end of 2014 stood at 429,344 people, an increase of 3,960 people in the space of a year. The latest demographic review – published by the National Statistics Office – indicates a continuing upwards trend in Malta's population, that has now increased by more than 23,728 people since 2006. For the first time in recorded history, the number of males (214,735) on the island outweighed the number of females (214,609). Foreigners accounted for 6.4% (27,476) of the island's total population.

Immigration to Malta outweighed emigration by 2,589 people. An estimated 8,946 people immigrated to Malta in 2014, out of which 49.6% were EU nationals, 29.9% third-country nationals, and 20.5% returning Maltese migrants. Nearly two-thirds of immigrants were males, the majority of which were aged between 20 and 29.

5,907 people emigrated from Malta in the same year, out of which 21.6% were Maltese citizens, 51.9% were EU nationals and 26.5% third-country nationals. 61.7% of all emigrants were males, with the largest proportion again those aged between 20 and 29 years. 834 people obtained Maltese citizenship through naturalization or registration during 2014, more than a third of which were from EU countries with the largest proportion having British citizenship.

The Office of the Refugee Commission received 1,352 applications for asylum during 2014 – a decrease of 39.8% when compared to 2013. The vast majority (80.1%) of all applicants were males, while the largest proportion of applicants comprised males (51.3%) aged between 18 and 34 years. African applicants made up 69.7% of the applications, while a further 26.9% were filed by Asian nationals.



COAT OF ARMS OF MALTA

The **coat of arms of Malta** is the national coat of arms of the country of Malta. The present coat of arms is described by the Emblem and Public Seal of Malta Act of 1988 as a shield showing an heraldic representation of the national flag of Malta; above the shield a mural crown in gold with a sally port and five turrets representing the fortifications of Malta and denoting a city-state; and around the shield a wreath of two branches: the dexter of Olive, the sinister of Palm, symbols of peace and traditionally associated with Malta, all in their proper colours, tied at base with a white ribbon, backed red and upon which are written the words *Repubblika ta' Malta* ("Republic of Malta"

in Maltese) in capital letters in black.

THE MALTESE NEWSLETTERS ARE ARCHIVED AT THE MALTA MIGRATION MUSEUM
AND AT MY WEBSITE: www.ozmalta.page4.me




Traditional Mgarr feast auction in aid of parish church and charity raises €13,000

A massive winning bid of €13,000 won the traditional auction at the Mgarr feast last year to earn the right to carry the statue of the Assumption of Our Lady during the village's procession this evening. The winning group is led by restaurant owner Wistin Vella, a longstanding participant in the auction who won the auction last year, albeit for €1,000 less. Together with neighbouring Dingli and Zebbug, Gozo, the tiny village of Mgarr today celebrated the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady – a week after seven other parishes across Malta and Gozo celebrated the feast.

The auction, which was led by Parish Priest Fr Kalcidon Vassallo, was witnessed by hundreds of residents who gathered in the shadow of the parish church to witness the 94-year-old tradition playing out. When the church bells tolled noon, Fr Vassallo took the microphone and started proceedings by reciting the Angelus prayer, and calling the teams interested to come forward.

A few moments later, one of the groups vying for the right to carry the statue opened the bidding with a bid of €500. The groups then traded bids before a final bid of €13,000 by Vella was followed by his rivals' concession. Vella is no stranger to winning the annual event, having won five times in the last six years, but this year's sum is the largest he has paid, superseding the €12,000 he paid last year. In 2013, the auction raised €11,500 while in 2011, €10,500 were raised. The tradition dates back to 1923, a year after the statue was brought to the village. Traditionally, the auction was held after the parish was overwhelmed the requests to carry it during the procession, and consequently, it was decided that the team with the highest donation will earn the privilege to carry the statute. Only people who live in Mgarr can take part. All of the proceeds go towards the parish's costs and the costs of the feast, while a quarter of the money raised, or €3,250, will be donated. An additional €5,000 was raised.

SYRACUSE TO MALTA BY MAIL BOAT



Royal Mail Boat
"KNIGHT OF MALTA" at Valletta

Departures from Syracuse daily, except Saturdays, at 4 p.m.
 Departures from Malta daily, except Fridays, at Midnight - 8 hours trip.
 There are 33 First Class two-berth cabins and 9 Second Class with 32 berths.
 Fare 1st Class, £1.16 Shillings. 2nd Class £1.8 Shillings.

The new Mail Service between Malta and Syracuse
 was inaugurated on the 21st February 1930,
 when the new Royal Mail Boat "KNIGHT OF MALTA" specially built
 to meet the modern requirements of travelling in comfort,
 performed the maiden trip.
 Lady Strickland launched this single-screw Mail and Passenger Liner in October 1929

MALTESE COMMUNITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

REMEMBERING THE PAST

QUEEN OF VICTORIES MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Published in the Souther Cross SA - 9 October 1980



**From Left: Manuel Grima, Leli Monsigneur, Les Borg,
Joe Chetcuti, Joe Monsigneur, Father Ed. Zammit
Gaetan Borg (Chairman), Frank Brincat (Secretary), Joe Borg,
L. Baldacchino, C. Chetcuti, N. Zammit, C. Zammit
Absent: B. Cortis, J. Barbara and C. Farrugia**

BY FRANK L BRINCAT

In February 1980, we saw the emergence of this Council called "Queen of Victories" Maltese Community Council. The name has a more significant meaning to a Maltese, whose love and devotion for the Mother of God is like life itself. The Council's 'representation' consists of the Maltese Guild of SA Inc., Maltese R.S.L. Sub-Branch, Salisbury Park Sports Angling Club, and a number of dedicated workers to assist the chaplaincy in the pastor-al and community work While most Council members are old hands in community affairs and realise too well the hard task ahead, they are optimistic about their goals.

Reflecting on our past, it was no easy matter to pack a suit case and start afresh in a far distant land. Migrants had a determination and perseverance to establish them-selves. Although small (in South Australia) our contribution is well registered by doctors, lawyers, account-ants, architects, trade and business people. No matter how small or large one's contribution is, we are part of the making of a nation, proud of our history and heritage and our adopted country.

As members of our community are sparse around Adelaide and integrated with other communities, support is slow, but surely coming. However, with the help of the Ethnic Broad-casting Inc. (Maltese Broadcasts, twice a week — Thursday 7 p.m. — 8 p.m. and Sunday 730 a.m. — 830 a.m.), it is hoped that the efforts of the Queen of Victories Maltese Community Council and its sub-committees, with other activities organised by Maltese organisations, will bring the Maltese even closer. The aim is to encourage frequent gatherings at functions, through which morale, financial support and ideas will emerge to help build a united and stronger com-munity. Soon after World War II migration of. Maltese citizens to Australia started to accelerate.

In 1948 the need was felt in South Australia to found an organisation which would help the migrants mule in their new homeland.. With this in mind, a Maltese Franciscan, Fr. Giles Ferriggi OFM, founded the Maltese Community Society of SA. Maltese and Australian volunteers, who had the welfare of other Maltese settlers at heart, organised socials and theatrical stage plays at St Patrick Hall, Adelaide, to maintain contact among Maltese people. These volunteers also welcomed new arrivals at Adelaide Railway Station and sea and air terminals.

In 1953, the Maltese Community Society of SA changed its name to the Maltese Guild of Australia (SA). The name was conceived from a similar organisation in NSW. To facilitate contact between Maltese in SA social functions have always been an important part of the guild's activities. In the early days, film evenings were very popular, as well as theatrical productions in Maltese. However dances and cabarets have always been the most popular of social activities. The most important and popular of these has always been the September ball.

In 1965, it was decided to incorporate a Miss Malta contest into the September ball. This contest is no longer held. Although social functions are, and always have been, a prominent activity of the guild, they are not the only activities of the guild. Its aims are much broader than socialising. In 1961, the guild began the annual Laying of the Wreath at the War Memorial in the city of Adelaide to commemorate the fallen Maltese of the Great Siege of 1565 and two World Wars. Other Maltese organisations also commemorate this day with the guild. The guild has always helped its members with problems they have encountered in their new country. If the guild could not help it would always direct members to appropriate agencies. Visits to the sick and aged has also been part of the guild's services.

It had always been the ambition of the guild to eventually have a hall of its own which would be used by all Maltese, and be their centre in SA. With this purpose the guild became an incorporated body in 1969. The guild then set its sights on getting its own hall. The original aim was to buy a block of land and build on it. Eventually, land was purchased at Dudley Park in 1971. However due to subsequent events it seemed unlikely that a hall could be built on that land. It was decided that the land be sold and a hall be bought.

A hall was bought at Jeanes Street at Beverley in August, 1976. After considerable work it was eventually officially opened on March 12, 1977 by the Deputy Malta High Commissioner. Since, then, the hall has continually improved and it is hoped that all Maltese will make more use of it.

Work is also proceeding on an Information Office within the Centre, which will provide a wide range of services and facilities to Maltese.

A small grant has been allocated by the State Government towards the office.

MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA IN THE GENERAL DIVISION



Australia Day 2017

MR CHARLES DAVID FIGALLO,

29 Weemala Crescent, Rostrevor SA 5073

For service to business, and to the community of South Australia.

Service includes: Managing Director, Basetec Services Pty Ltd (Environmental Engineering Services), since 1999. Chief Executive Officer, Novafast Pty Ltd (Innovative Composite Products), since 2000. Chief Executive Officer, Dennis Southam & Associates Pty Ltd (Consulting Engineering Services), since 2014. Chief Executive Officer, Nova

Property Pty Ltd (Asset Management Services), since 2015. Chief Executive Officer, Roadsafte Pty Ltd (Infrastructure Solutions), since 2006.

Director, South Australian Management Committee, Australia Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc, since 2013. Ambassador, Defence Reserves Support Council of SA, since 2016. Chief Executive Officer, Malta Anzac Memorial Committee South Australia, 2011-2015. Member, Water Industry Alliance Member Engagement Subcommittee, since 2016. Member, Adelaide South Australia Business Development Managers Group, since 2013. Member, Australian American Association in South Australia Inc., since 2011. Patron, South Australian Maltese Guild Association, since 2012. Freemason, Leonardo DaVinci Lodge No 238 South Australia, since 2014. Member, Morialta Residents Association, since 2001.

Author, Adelaide, A Multicultural One World City of Dreams', 2013.

Supporter of various charitable organisations including: Make a Wish Foundation, Diabetes South Australia, Variety Club of South Australia, and the Mary Potter Foundation. Awards and recognition includes: Knight of Grace, The Sovereign Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights of Malta, since 2015

MALTESE DIASPORA CHANGING FACES OF MALTA ABROAD – Part 2

Prof. Maurice N Cauchi

<https://mauricecauchi.wordpress.com/2016/07/16/the-maltese-diaspora-changing-faces-of-malta-abroad/>

Migration to UK



Unlike the USA or Canada, the UK was always open to migrants from Malta. And yet, most Maltese did not find it so attractive as a place to settle. In the aftermath of WW1 there was a marked wave of migration. Between 1919 and 1929 there were 3,354 migrants to the UK but at least 1,445 (43 percent) returned home. Following WW2 there was an 'economic miracle' in the UK, attracting many immigrants. Between 1946 and 1976 no less than 30,870 migrants left for the UK. In 1955, nearly 2000 Maltese left for the UK. Migration continued at high levels till 1967, but by 1977 the number fell to double digits.

Migration to the UK was particularly attractive to those who spoke English well, who had been employed by the armed forces and knew their habits. Again return migration was highest from the UK compared to other host countries, perhaps because of the shorter distance from the home country, and also perhaps reflecting the type of migrant that chose to go to the UK in the first place.

Many migrants to the UK were unaccompanied males, resulting in an unfavourable sex ratio (M:F = 2.6:1). The reputation of (some) Maltese in London left much to be desired and Mr John J Cole, as Minister for Emigration at the time was asked to ensure that migrants were better selected. This no doubt resulted from the fact that migrant selection was least restrictive to the UK. It has been stated that those with a known shady past had no problem migrating to the UK. Support for migrants was provided by individuals like Fr Dominic Coppola as Chaplain to Maltese in London who was responsible for setting up The Mission House (Maltese Centre) in the East End, and later in Victoria. The Maltese Culture Movement was set up in 1998 largely through the efforts of Mr Bernard Scerri as the main personality involved. Other migrants settled in Chatham, Portsmouth, Cardiff, and in Lancashire.

One must mention in this context the settlement in the UK of several Maltese who found themselves homeless after the 1956 Suez debacle. The refusal of Malta to grant asylum to these refugees constitutes one of the darkest episodes in Maltese migration history.

Migration to Australia

In spite of the perceived disadvantages, particularly related to distance and relative isolation, Australia has proved to be the most popular place for settlement. To start with, in the first decades of the century, Maltese often made their own way, at their own expense, with very little preparation. At best they found work which others did not want, hard work in the cane fields of Queensland, building roads and railways or digging coal and minerals from mines. They had to face antagonism from most sections of the Australian community, and in particular from the unions who looked on these 'coloured' workers^[7] as scab labour replacing their own boys fighting in Europe.^[8] Anti-Maltese sentiment was rife. One migrant, Mr Pace was quoted as saying: "*You cannot live anywhere. Go where you wish, sooner or later you get insulted, or worse than this, you get called Maltese*".^[9] In the newspaper *Truth*, Maltese were described as "*dusky interlopers, unable to speak English and nurtured from birth in customs and surroundings which preclude them from becoming fit associates for the people of this country*".^[10]

After the signing of the Treaty of Versailles (1919), Australia granted a yearly quota of 260 migrants, later increased to 393. By 1927 it was stated that there were close to 4,000 Maltese in Australia.^[11] By 1944 this had increased to about 12,000 Maltese in Australia.

After the war, things began to improve considerably. This was the result of marked lobbying by people like Henry Casolani, Captain Curmi, and John Cole, and reflected a marked change in the Australian political atmosphere, when Mr Arthur Calwell became Minister for Immigration in 1945.

Also of great help was Australia-Malta Passage Assistance Agreement signed on May 31, 1948, becoming effective from August 1948. Adults contributed 10 pounds for a passage to Australia, and those between 14-19 contributed 5 pounds, while children travelled free of charge. They had to stay for a minimum of two years, otherwise they had to pay back the balance. This resulted in a wave of migration averaging 2000 a year until 1975. In 1954 alone there were 8,470 migrants. Between 1949 and 1982, 46,644 Maltese availed themselves of this assistance. At its height, in the 1980s, the total population of Maltese in Australia was over 56,000.

Why did this most unlikely place become the most favoured place for Maltese migrants? A combination of factors could be responsible: better selection of migrants, family migration which ensured stability, distance which discouraged returned migration –which was least for Australia compared to the other countries closer to Malta. Also

the Australia-Malta passage scheme discouraged returned migration in the crucial first two years of migration, after which migrants were more likely to be settled and used to the way of life of the new country.

EU Migration

After Malta joined the EU in 2004, there was a considerable influx of Maltese migrants into Europe, reaching some 500 by 2010. There are three distinct groups among these. The largest group is made up of those who went there for work, largely in institutions associated with the EU. The second group is that of students whose number is increasing with time. Thirdly there is an increasing group of university students under the Erasmus program or else studying for a few months or obtaining work experience.

Joseph Chircop notes: 'For the greater part of us... the move from Malta [to the EU] is intrinsically different from that of emigrants, and I think that I would not be wrong when I say that many Maltese that went to Belgium or Luxembourg do not consider themselves as emigrants but as expatriates. Thus, every attempt at analysis of these Maltese youth requires a perspective and thought which is different from those used with emigrants.'

'Our status is one where amongst others, we do not pay tax in Belgium or Luxembourg and are not included in the social security system of the country ... because the European Union provides for the protection of social services.'

NOSTALGIA -



Dr Joe Abela (Melbourne)
with Maltese broadcasters in 1981



Fr. Luzar Buhagar, Fr. Karm Azzopardi and Mro. Mikiel Farrugia together with the first band of St. Joseph.

St. Joseph's Institute for orphans opened its doors in Ghajnsielem Gozo on the 21st May 1925. It was a red-letter day for the village because one of its major institutions saw its beginning then. Above all it was a notable date because about three years later, under the Institute's aegis saw the birth of the village's own musical society: the St. Joseph Band Club. *George Sciberras*





The Resounding Demise of an Historic Maltese Cinema

AUSTRALIA HALL-MALTA

Australia Hall stands empty, but is on the point of becoming

irretrievable - Peter Monaghan



Stand before a derelict entertainment facility, and it's not difficult to hear peels of laughter, gasps of thrill or horror, applause. Those are hardly joyful sounds, however, if they merely reverberate eerily through a crumbling, empty hall.

Such a cheerless edifice stands in shambles in Pembroke, a town on the small island nation of Malta. Traces are few of the building's bustling heyday, which lasted for several decades while it was a multipurpose hall that welcomed World War I to World War II servicemen and women of British Commonwealth forces.

Australia Hall, as it is still named, was located on a large British base, St Andrews, now shuttered. From 1921, it was a cinema for thousands of military personnel who came in civvies, up to 500 at a time, to watch popular movies. The venue's added attraction was there, there, films were spared the censorship that cut away political and artistic expression that ruffled the thinning feathers of the the free-falling British empire. Around England's diminishing dominion, the regime of censorship remained strong until the 1960s.

Australia Hall in its opening year, 1915 Today, Australia Hall might itself serve as a film location – to evoke decay and ruin. Its facade retains some dignity; there, as along its flanks, its brown stone walls are relatively intact. But the rear view reveals a hollowed interior, open to the sky and looking like it sustained massive injuries, rather than served to rehabilitate them.

When the building was completed in 1915, a plaque over its front door explained: "This building was erected in November 1915 by the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society for the benefit of the soldiers of the empire." The plaque is still there, underneath an Australian coat of arms: the emu and the kangaroo, "Advance Australia," the seven-pointed star of the federation... The branch intended it as a contribution to the wellbeing of wounded troops from the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps – "ANZACs" – and as a permanent monument to their sacrifice. ANZAC and other British Commonwealth soldiers came to Malta as casualties of fighting in the [Dardanelles campaigns](#) – from the fronts at Salonika (Thessalonica) in Greece and Gallipoli on the coast of the Ottoman Empire, now Turkey.

Online comments from former servicemen and locals who attended films at Australia Hall provide a sense of the place. For a start, recalls one nostalgic ex-soldier, "movies there were not censored! Wish it

could be rebuilt as it was." Another remembers watching movies there in the 1970s, when it was the garrison cinema: "I remember we all stood for the national anthem at the end of the evening."

But the current state of the building merely shocks one former movie-goer. Now a resident of Australia, like so many Maltese, he wrote to the Times of Malta that "I visited the Australia Hall site in September 2006 and was absolutely appalled and horrified at the ruinous state such a historical building was allowed to degenerate into. It is part of Malta's heritage and it will be an indictment on the government if the building were not saved for posterity in recognition of the role Malta played in world history."

Instead, says Peter Bezzina, "it was all left open, and ignorant and stupid people vandalized it. It's been burned twice."

Certainly, the connections between Australia and Malta, both during the world wars, and since, have intensified calls for refurbishment.

WIGNACOURT FOUNTAIN - Natalino Mamo

Now that the Valletta 2018 preparations are in full swing with restoration works and other projects in an advanced state of completion, I would like to propose the re-installing of an architectural gem back in its original place after close to 200 years after its removal to another location. I am referring to the Baroque fountain that was removed from St. George's Square soon after the British occupation in Malta in the early 19th century. This was done to create an open space in front of the Grandmaster's palace so as to facilitate parades by the British Armed Forces and, later on until recent times, also for other ceremonies where both the Armed Forces and the Police Forces performed.

I am in no way suggesting that the fountain be put back in its original location in the centre of the square. Nor am I suggesting that the modern fountain with 'dancing water' be removed to accommodate this fountain. I believe that the square should remain an open area as it is. But surely such a historical monument should be put somewhere in its place of origin in St. George's Square, maybe in the corresponding corner to that where the Sette Giugno monument has been relocated to, i.e. to the corner nearest to Piazza Regina.

Many people have never seen this fountain. Many do not even know that St. Philip's Garden in Floriana, where the fountain was taken to so long ago, is open to the public! If it is subsequently relocated to St. George's Square, countless individuals, both Maltese and tourists, could then admire this monument and, doubtless, praise the decision to bring it back to enhance our beautiful capital Valletta.



An 18th century painting showing the Verdale Column and the Wignacourt Fountain and Baroque fountain in St Philip's Garden which was once in Palace Square

After the Grandmasters' Palace was built, there was subsequent embellishment of the square over the years. When the Wignacourt Aqueduct was completed in 1614, during the reign of Grandmaster Fra Aloff de Wignacourt, water was finally brought into Valletta from Rabat. To celebrate this achievement, a lovely fountain with a circular basin and a three-tiered sculpture, embellished with dolphins, supported on a cone-shaped pedestal was erected in the middle of the square. This was known as the Wignacourt Fountain, and it was inaugurated in April 1615. It was the first fountain to be built in Valletta after the completion of the aqueduct. This fountain is now to be found in St Philip's Gardens, in Floriana. After the Knights left Malta, the British moved the fountain to the square in front of the then Auberge d' Auvergne - which stood in the position of the present Law Courts, and which was destroyed during the war - to enable St George's Square to be used for military parades. It was then, later, moved from there to St Philip's Garden, in Floriana.

Another interesting monument which stood on the square, but which can no longer be seen, is the Verdale Column. This was erected by Grandmaster Hughues Loubenx de Verdale, when he was appointed cardinal, by Pope Sixtus V. At the top of the column, strangely enough, Grandmaster de Verdale had ordered the sculpture of a wolf in the act of defaecating.

I look forward to your newsletter, the journal of the Maltese Diaspora, which I share and tell everyone about. It's so refreshing to have news and a journal of Maltese history which I learn so much from. I have attached some very important news regarding our own Congregation which – though founded in Italy, opened it's first convent in Malta (Qormi) well over 100 years ago. I send this information because there are many times that I come across ex-students who went to our schools colloquially known as 'ta Santa Monica'. These people may be interested in knowing that our Mother Foundress is now known as 'Venerable Mother Teresa Spinelli'. This is just one step away from being declared a saint! If your readers wish to know more about us please direct them to www.asjmoz.org Thanking you in anticipation. **Sr Lorraine Testa (asjm) see page 12**

We always wait anxiously for THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER – The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora. It is a fountain of valuable information not only for the Maltese in Malta but also for us lining abroad. We always encourage our young ones to read it in order to keep in touch with the history, culture and heritage of their parents/grandparents. Camilleri family – Brisbane, Queensland.



Bernadette's Parish Sunshine North – VICTORIA - AUSTRALIA

Augustinian Sisters – Servants of Jesus and Mary



The Augustinian Sisters Servants of Jesus and Mary are principally a teaching Congregation founded on the 23rd September 1827 by Maria Teresa Spinelli, in Frosinone, Italy. Being founded within the Church and for the Church, we have committed ourselves to offer witness and be ready to give our service to God's people whoever they are, without distinction of colour and creed. For this reason we are always ready to open our hearts to the signs of the times and respond generously to the needs they present so as to quench Christ's thirst for souls. It is our aim to embed

Christ's Kingdom in the hearts of those people who come in contact with us.

Augustinians

Mother Teresa had asked to join the Augustinian family and took up the Rule and ideal of St Augustine: the search together for the Truth that is God. Augustine would have liked, like Mary in the Gospel, to spend his life at the Lord's feet, but his love for Christ compelled him to action, like Martha. That is what Mother Teresa did; she lived contemplation through action. She wanted her sisters to live in harmonious unity the contemplative and active life. In her Constitutions she reminds them that 'as they have the honour to have the presence of the Holy Eucharist day and night, they should never leave the Lord on His own; but since they are fully committed to the service of others, they should aim to remain in intimate union with their beloved in their heart and desire'. Thus contemplation becomes active in their apostolate that leads hearts to Christ.



*Mother Maria
Teresa Spinelli*

Prayer and work are the two elements that led her to the very heart of the Gospel – love of God and of one's neighbour, that is to love without limits until full union with God is achieved. The Augustinian community is born out of love and is built on love.

Charism - By identifying with Jesus Christ, the obedient suffering servant of God, we the Augustinian Sisters, Servants of Jesus and Mary, want to participate fully in the Mystery of Our Lord Jesus Christ and of his Church. Christ's desire was to fulfil his Father's will even unto death on the Cross. We do this by offering ourselves to the Father, in Obedience to our Superiors, by our service to the People of God and to the world as a model of a small Church being, as our Constitutions tell us, "united in heart and soul in the ardour of charity".

Spirituality - The Roman Teresa Spinelli ([see website here](#)) opened her first school for girls in Frosinone in 1821. She had always had the wish to become one with Christ the Suffering Servant. She wanted to fulfil this ideal with others by forming, together with them, a community that would live the Gospel on the model of the first community 'where everyone would carry within her that communal love that makes up one heart – the 'heart of Christ'. The name 'Augustinian Sisters, Servants of Jesus and Mary' expresses in a few words the Spirituality and Charism of the Congregation that she founded.

Description of the logo The centre of the logo shows a burning heart. This is a symbol of the love which every Augustinian should experience in God. It is a love so deep that one simply cannot keep it to himself, but feels an urge to share it with others, with his companions in the community and with all those he meets. The arrow which is piercing the heart represents the intervention of God, the way in which God is able to strike a person's heart in order for that heart to choose Him above all else. The open book represents the turning point of St Augustine's life on his listening to the Word of God.

These symbols are shadowed by the symbol of the Cross. It is a symbol of the salvation which every Christian received through Christ. The letter 'M' included in the logo was added by Teresa Spinelli in order to express the love she had for Mary; a love which she wished would live in each and every one of the members of the Congregation, especially through answering 'yes' to the Father. This is the Augustinian Spirituality which Teresa Spinelli, our Foundress, chose as a guide for her religious life.

Welcome to the Australian American Association of Victoria



We would like to invite you to be a member of the Australian American Association, on behalf of the Executive Committee I cannot thank you enough for your support of the Association through 2016. Moreover, with your support, we have been able to hold several successful events in 2016.

Is this exciting time? No matter your politics we watch and wait to see the new direction that President Trump and his Administration takes the USA.

Being a member of the Australian American Association means that together we can continue to build on the quest to promote and foster the friendship between Australia and America as we have done since 1945. Furthermore, the Association is a forum for us Australians to welcome and make our American friends and their families welcome in this great country of ours.

In 2017 the Association will continue to focus on providing opportunities for us to meet at commemorations, celebrations, and meeting days.

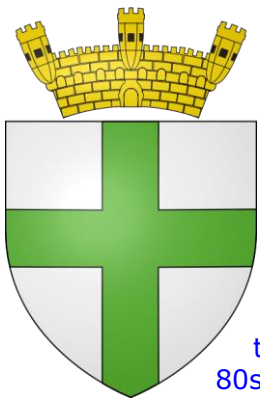
As an Australian American Association member, you will be part of making our association successful and helping it become the association of choice that provides and caters for all that is best about our two great nations.

You can join by filling in the application form below and pay by Cheque (and mail), or Bank Transfer or you can visit our Website and pay online with PayPal: www.australianamerican.org Please ensure that it is the "Victorian Branch" (As above)

Thanking you in advance for your membership. Regards always

Sam CJ Muscat JP President Australian American Association (Vic) '

Email: samcim@bigpond.com Website: hups://australianamerican.org/



DOWN MEMORY LANE

ZEJTUN PRIMARY SCHOOL – MALTA

The school is over a hundred years old. Many people from Żejtun owe their values and education to this institution. Education in Żejtun goes back to the sixteenth century. Our school started its mission on the 11th of June 1908.

School in the past started at 8.30am and students left school at 4.30 p.m. There was a long break at noon and pupils could go home to eat and then they returned later for the lessons. Such arrangement was still practised in the 80s.

Students used to learn Maltese, English, Maths and Religion. When we asked our grandparents which books they still remember they mentioned the Ġabra ta' Ward series and the stories of Tom and Anne and fundamental English.

Żejtun owes a lot to its teachers. Some teachers are still remembered for the dedication they had for their pupils. The list is surely a long one but our relatives felt that they could not leave out the following names: Miss Attard Jessie, Miss Caruana Maria Stella, Miss Galea Mary, Miss Tabone Catarina, Miss Tabone Sarah and Miss Hili

Inspectors were very common in the past. They used to check both the teachers and the pupils' performance.

Children's bags were very different from today. They either had il-basket tač-čarruta or il-bagalja ta' l-injam. Pupils used to write with either the pen or the ink pod.

In every classroom there was the **Redifussion** set and from time to time the class used to hear

radio programmes for children. The idea of educational broadcasting was a successful venture. It started in the fifties when the Central Office of Information launched Radio College.

Class furniture consisted of the teacher's desk and chair, the blackboard, the pupils' benches and a cupboard.

Down Memory Lane

THESE ARE BITS AND PIECES TAKEN FROM INTERVIEWS DONE BY OUR PUPILS TO THEIR RELATIVES:-

"We used to play in the fields. At school we learned less than nowadays."

"There were a lot of beggars around. A lot of people had no job and the families were big."

"I remember mass in Latin and we understood practically nothing."

"Life in the past was more tranquil and time passed much slower."

"A lot of babies died during their first year of life."

"During World War Two a bomb destroyed the Żejtun's square and mess could be seen everywhere."

"Marriages were celebrated early in the mornings."

"We used to walk a lot because transport was rare and scarce."

"During World War Two we used to rush to the shelters."

"During World War Two, the primary school served as a centre for soldiers. Pupils used to go to the Boys' Museum instead."

"Once a bomb fell on the doorstep of a blacksmith's workshop."

"We used to go to hear mass early in the morning."

"I remember children going to school poorly dressed."

"We used to say the Holy Rosary outside in the street."

"Children enjoyed knocking on other's people doors and then ran away! They loved seeing people getting angry!"

"The village feast used to be celebrated on the 25th of November, rather than on Sunday."

"Carnival was a time of joy and madness. Boys used to dress up as ghosts or girls."

"Houses had the yard in their centre."

"We used to go to the Domus to see a play (it-teatrin) or a silent film."

"One of our regular outings was to go to feasts celebrated in nearby villages."

"My mum used to wear the ġhonnella (faldetta)."

"We used to wear hats when we go to a marriage celebration or a Holy Communion."

"I remember my mum fumigating the house to remove the evil eye."

"We used to help our father in his work in the fields."

"My favourite radio programme was Ir-Radju Muskettieri."

"The ticket for the film cost six pence."

"Mum used the stove (kenur) to cook food."

"The daily mass was a part of our daily routine."

Further remarks - This section, which is our Comenius end product, was based on research conducted by pupils themselves. Pupils interviewed their grandparents or other old relatives. A number of History books were consulted as well.

Reference

Books by Dun Joe Abela about Żejtun

Ġuże Aquilina

Tarcisio Zarb

Tarcisio Zarb


It-teżori tal-qwiel Maltin

Bejtiet il-Lingwa

Folklore of an Island Maltese Threshold

**Maltese living abroad
estimated at 900,000**





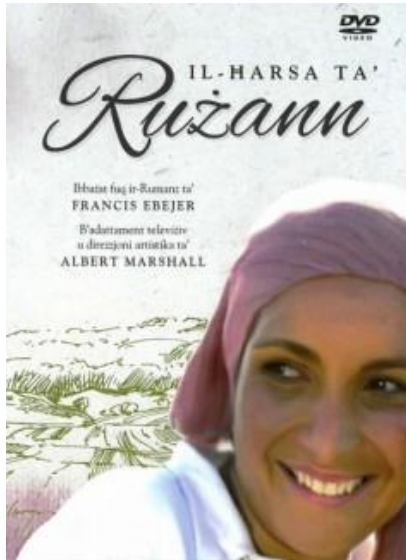
Issa jinsab għall-bejgħ

f'sett attrajenti ta' 6 DVDs

IL-HARSA TA' RUZANN huwa l-aħhar rumanz li Francis Ebejer ippubblika f'hajtu. Dan ir-rumanzett, li kien gie ppubblikat għall-ewwel darba fl-1985, huwa l-uniku wiehed li Ebejer kiteb bil-Malti. Ir-rumanz isehh fl-isfond tal-iżvilupp soċjali u politiku li sehh f'Malta mill-1844, meta jibda r-rumanz, sa tmiemu, f'xi żmien bejn l-1974 u l-bidu tas-snin tmenin, meta nkiteb. Il-kteb qiegħed għal-livell ordinarju tal-Malti tal-MATSEC u għalhekk dan is-sett għandu jghin lill-għalliema u lill-istudenti tal-Malti fl-istudji tagħhom.



IL-HARSA TA' RUZANN



huwa l-aħhar rumanz li Francis Ebejer ippubblika f'hajtu. Dan ir-rumanzett, li kien gie ppubblikat għall-ewwel darba fl-1985, huwa l-uniku wiehed li Ebejer kiteb bil-Malti. Ir-rumanz isehh fl-isfond tal-iżvilupp soċjali u politiku li sehh f'Malta mill-1844, meta jibda r-rumanz, sa tmiemu, f'xi żmien bejn l-1974 u l-bidu tas-snin tmenin, meta nkiteb.

L-istorja tibda bil-laqqgħa ta' wiehed Baruni jismu Mark-Antonin, mill-Imdina, mat-tfajla Ruzann, bint il-bdiewa u hi nnifisha ħaddiema tar-raba'. Ruzann toħroġ tqila u mikejja li l-Baruni jkun jixtieq jiżżewwiha, hi ma taċċettax għax taf li fis-soċjetà li kienu jgħixu fiha – Malta ta' nofs is-seklu dsatax – żwieġ bejn raġel nobbli u mara bidwija ma seta' jiġi aċċettat qatt, u kien jispiċċa jkisser soċjalment lill-maħbub tagħha, il-Baruni. Għalhekk, minkejja l-imħabba tagħha għall-Baruni, tiddeċiedi li trabbi t-tarbija waħidha u ma tikxef qatt min kien il-missier. Ir-rumanz isegwi dak li jiġri mid-dixxendenti ta' Ruzann mill-bidu umli ta' binha Karmenu, imrobbi bla missier, sal-emnċipazzjoni permezz tal-edukazzjoni li bil-mod il-mod tibda tidhol fil-familja tagħha minkejja diffikultajiet kbar. Dan kollu jsehh taħt l-għajnejn protettivi ta' Ruzann, li tibqa' tħares fuq id-dixxendenti tagħha għal ħafna, ħafna snin wara mewtha.

B'addatament u direzzjoni artistika ta' ALBERT MARSHALL

GOALKEEPER WENZU GABARETTA



Wenzu Gabaretta was born in Alexandria, Egypt in 1917 of Maltese Parents. Gabaretta originally played at centre forward, but he preferred to play in goal and on leaving school, he joined Melita FC of Alexandria as a goalkeeper. He was soon rated as the best goalkeeper in the city. In 1936 he felt the urge to return to his father's land and it was not long before his talents were recognised by the Tigers of Floriana. He was an instant success and at the end of the 1936-37 season, he was snapped up by St George's.

Gabaretta's career really came into its own after the war when he established himself as the best goalkeeper on the island. His record speaks for itself and one would need a whole volume to describe all the exploits of this colourful personality. Yet, despite his great goalkeeping

abilities, Gabaretta did not win many honours. This was perhaps the only anti-climax of an otherwise illustrious career.

In a career spanning over 15 seasons, he only won three major honours. An FA Trophy, a Cassar Cup and a Victory Cup medal are meagre rewards for such a great football personality. Apart from St George's Gabaretta played with Floriana Tigers, Floriana FC, Sliema Wanderers, Valletta FC and Rabat FC.

DVD SERIES : DUN BENIT



Dun Benit is all about a village priest whose life is always full of trouble. His sister Gizella is highly interested in Pippo, the Red Club President. Pippo is the village mayor, and his descendants in Sicily are very well known to be hard line Communists.

The worries about Pippo are not enough. Dun Benit has been waiting for his niece Gizi arriving from abroad. But little did he know that Gizi has already been in his village for a week entertaining a lot of males! Dun Benit's opponents, Pippo's followers, were always on the alert to report any slip or gossip about their parish priest to the Church authorities, with the hope of having him transferred from their village. And Gizi's actions were right on target.

Producer: Hermann Bonaci Productions

Starring: Hermann Bonaci, Ray Abdilla, Marilyn Custo, Frida Cauchi, Joe Gatt, Simon Curmi, Doreen Cini, Ginger, Marvic Camilleri, Mary Rose Mallia, Ray Bone, Manwel Grech, Rachel Micallef, Brian Farrugia, Anna Cachia, John Suda, Renald Formosa, Simone Zammit.

Genre: Comedy

No. of episodes: 17

Duration: 45 minutes each episode

No. of Discs: 5 DVDs

<https://maltaonlinebookshop.com/product/dun-benit-season-2/>

Vodafone Malta Marathon



Malta Marathon 2017

Written by Sabine

Now that we're into the beginning of the new year, it's time to make good on your new year's resolutions. If you're taking your health more seriously this year then why not challenge yourself to the Vodafone Malta Marathon or the Half Marathon? Book your flights to Malta now and test your abilities surrounded by Malta's beautiful scenery!

2017 marks the 31st year the marathon has been running (no pun intended) and it has grown massively since its induction in 1986. Last year saw a record number of applicants with 600 runners in the marathon and over 3,100 in the half marathon. That's a lot of athletes. With people travelling from all over the globe, including the UK, Italy, Germany and as far away as USA, Canada and even Japan, the marathon has become an international favourite.

The Inspire Foundation will be the official charity for 2017's marathon. Inspire works with helping children and adults with various disabilities to achieve independence in their own lives. While you're out there pushing yourself to your limits, know that your efforts will make a positive change in someone's life.

Taking place on the 5th March, the marathon will begin outside the colossal bastions of Mdina at 7:30 am. The half marathon will follow at 9:15 am. The half marathon is also being organised as a walkathon. So if you feel like you're not ready for the run, you can choose to take your time and enjoy a long, brisk walk instead. The warm early-morning sun lighting up the old capital in all its glory will definitely give you the motivation you need to start the race in high spirits. All along the 42.2 km route (or 21.1km for the half marathon) you will be able to grab a bottle of water or Powerade at specific points. If you're lucky you may also come across some light entertainment along the way. In previous years, many brass bands have come out to support the athletes. This can serve as a great morale boost.

Following on from Mdina, the route will take you through a lot of the surrounding countryside. During early March, the landscape will be a lush green paradise so if the race doesn't take your breath away, the scenery certainly will. You will also get a chance to see many towns in Malta with the route taking you through Mosta and Attard. You will also pass by the waterfront along Pietà, Msida, Ta'Xbiex, Gzira and finally reach the finish line in Sliema. It's a fantastically unique way to see this part of the island.

Like all marathons, you will also find a lot of athletes partaking for the fun of it so expect to see some great light-hearted costumes on the day. Why not dress up too and add to the good-natured atmosphere? Besides, if you can finish a marathon in a costume, you've definitely earned some bragging rights!

If you're interested in participating, check out the Vodafone Malta Marathon website where they will be accepting applications up until the 15th January. After that, it's time to start preparing yourself for an intense race in the middle of the Mediterranean!



THE BRITISH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

<http://ht.ly/ksLh308hcI1>

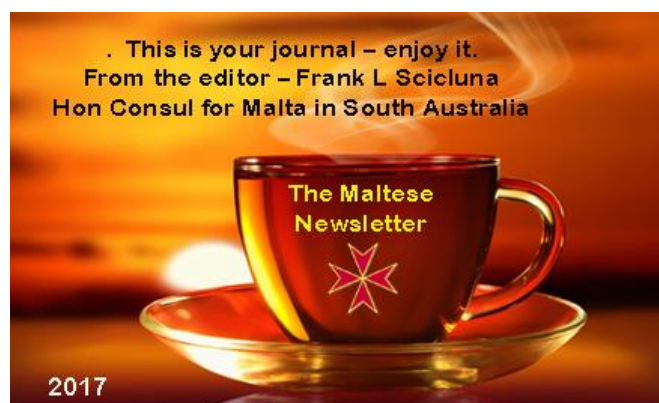
The British Residents' Association (BRA) in the Maltese Islands was established over 40 years ago to *"foster friendly and harmonious relations between members of the Association and with the people of the Maltese*

Islands and to assist, advise and represent members in suitable matters. The Association is independent, secular and non-political."

Our Patron is the current British High Commissioner. The Association is divided into six (6) groups based on geographical areas. Each group is represented on the BRA Council, which has overall control and management of the Association. Typically the membership of the BRA is in the region of 1300. Members are from all walks of life with an age range of eighteen (18) upwards.

We offer a varied social activity outlet and the chance to develop lasting friendships with other British residents, Maltese and foreign nationals of all ages. There is a strong support system, both centrally and through our groups, keeping members abreast of important information, and services available. (See separate Welfare Section).

The BRA Council regularly compiles and issues useful information regarding living in the Maltese Islands and a complete diary of all association social activities which are published by each Group together with their individual local newsletters.



DONATION TO THE MIGRATION MUSEUM - MALTA



This is the banner which was donated to the migration Museum by the RSL Maltese sub-branch of South Australia. The latest phase of the Migration Museum and Visitors' Centre, now includes twelve information pods, each offering multimedia information about destinations chosen by the thousands of Maltese migrants over the past decades.

The pod dedicated to Australia, a continent where the Maltese have made a tremendous impact, has been sponsored by the Bank of Valletta. The Bank has a Representative Office in Melbourne, which is instrumental in helping the migrants there to retain

their economic links with their home country.

Monsignor Philip Calleja has painstakingly archived anything and everything related to emigration, at the museum in Dar l-Emigrant in Valletta, chronicling the impact that migrants had on their environment. The museum's location is also fitting because it is at a perfect vantage point, just behind the Upper Barrakka gardens in Valletta, where one could have had a clear view of migrant ships leaving for faraway, unknown lands in the 1940s and 50s.

The digital museum assists in the easy dissemination of information among visitors, students, scholars and the public using the latest interactive multimedia technology. The information is brought to life via numerous touch screens, video projections and showcases, thereby enhancing the impact of the content on the visitors to the museum. Emigrants Commission Director, Fr Alfred Vella, says special presentations, film screenings and academic conferences on migration problems in the past and present are being planned. Fr Vella, speaks of "his enthusiasm for a campaign targeting school visits."

The museum's ultimate objectives will eventually serve to examine the history of Maltese emigration and encourage academic research in related fields of Maltese emigration amongst University students. It will house the largest body of research material and memorabilia related to Maltese emigration.. The Migration Museum and Visitors' Centre is situated at Dar l-Emigrant, the headquarters of the Emigrants' Commission, near the Upper Barrakka, Valletta.

[Editor: Copies of the MALTESE NEWSLETTERS are also preserved at this museum.]

IC-CIPPITATU GAME OF THE PAST



One of the earliest games in Malta was Ic-Cippitatu. This game was popular with both young and old alike and was quite an attraction especially during feasts and other outdoor activities. It was a common sight during Resurrection Sunday when the winner could win a Maltese figolla. The Cippitatu was a Teetotum with four-sides, each side of which indicated how much the player loses or wins. Among the prizes were marbles and beads. The word Cippitatu is a Maltese rendering of the Latin Accipe Totum (take all) because one of the rules of the game was that the winner would have a clean sweep of the prize. The person organising the game would go round using a dish under his arm and the teetotum in hand. Usually gamers would pay one penny or a half-penny to play.



THE MALTESE TRADITIONAL WEDDING

Melanie Aquilina

In olden times, marriages were arranged between families. This system allowed property to be inherited by the chosen persons. Young people were expected to marry the girl or young man of their family's choice, usually to cement allegiances or businesses. This system also broadened the family's assets and sphere of social influence.

In the countryside when a family had daughters of marriageable age, they would place a pot of basil or carnation on the window ledge. On the other hand, when a young man decided to get married, he would wear a big beautiful red carnation behind his ear or in his button hole, during feast days and public gatherings.

When a young man noticed the pot on the window ledge, he or his family, would generally go to the local matchmaker ('huttaba'), who was usually an old woman or widow who arranged marriages between couples and families for a living. The matchmaker had the job of getting information about the bride and groom, their families, their temperament, their accomplishments and dowries, and try to arrange a marriage contract between the two families.

When the matchmaker informed the man that the girl's family was happy with his marriage intentions, the latter would send his sweetheart a large fish, the symbol of good luck and fortune, tied with ribbons. In the mouth of the fish, a ring was placed as a small gift. A meeting would then be arranged between the young couple. This would take place in the presence of the parents and the matchmaker. Later, a small party would be organised during which neighbours and family friends were entertained with light refreshments where the bride and groom would give each other gifts.

Marriage preparations would then start in earnest. The girl would start planning her dowry while the man would start to look for an accommodation for his future family. A date for the wedding would be set, and the religious ceremony, the wedding lunch and the entertainment would start to be prepared.

On her wedding day, a bride usually wore a richly made dress, embroidered with lace, silver buttons and golden ornaments, as well as a lace veil. The groom wore a black outfit with a waist-length jacket and knee-length trousers, a white shirt, and a hat in the form of a triangle. Up till the 19th century, country brides wore dresses that were blue, black, purple or some other dark colour. White dresses came into fashion at the end of the century.

On the wedding day, the bridegroom first visited the bride's home. They left together for the church under a canopy ('baldakkin') held by their relatives or family friends. A bridal procession followed, which included hired musicians, singers and neighbours. Some family members used to give sweets and

confections to passers-by. A person carried a bowl with burning herbs or incense. When the procession arrived in church, the priest would be waiting for them to start the wedding ceremony. Afterwards, the bridal procession would make its way underneath the canopy, towards the bride's house or locality where the wedding lunch was to be held. Flowers, nuts, wheat or coins would be thrown upon them for luck and prosperity.

The wedding lunch was usually held in the bride's family's house courtyard. After lunch, the bridegroom returned home with his parents and relatives. The bride remained at her parent's house for a week, in order for the mother to have time to instruct her daughter on the role of a wife and mother. When this week came to an end, the groom's family would organise a party called 'il-ħarġa'. This marked the bride's new life as a wife as she entered her new house, together with the dowry which would be given on that same day. Quite different from the way marriages take place today!

Jikteb il-korrispondent taghna Kav. Joe M. Attard

Jiltaqghu l-ġurnalisti Ghawdxin



Nhar it-Tlieta 24 ta' Jannar 2017, fl-okkażjoni tal-festa tal-Isqof San Franġisk de Sales, Patrun tal-Ġurnalisti, inżammet bħal kull sena Quddiesa organizzata mill-Għaqda tal-Kittieba u Ġurnalisti Ghawdxin fil-knisja tas-Sorijiet Franġiskani tal-Qalb ta' Ġesù, il-Belt Victoria. Dan hu appuntament annwali għall-ġurnalisti u kittieba Ghawdxin ta' ispirazzjoni Nisranija biex jiltaqghu f'tit flimkien u jsimgħu l-kelma tar-Ragħaj spiritwali tad-Djoċesi.

Fl-assenza tal-Isqof, li bħalissa qed jagħmel il-

Viżta Pastoral ta' Qala, il-Quddiesa kienet immexxija minn Mons. Tarcisju Camilleri, Vigarju Ġenerali, meġjun minn Mons. Salv Grima.

Fir-riflessjoni tiegħu wara l-Vanġelu ċ-ċelebrant qal li "l-Knisja tpoġġi l-ġurnalista taħt il-protezzjoni ta' San Franġisk de Sales, qaddis li ħallielna kitbiet ta' interess kbir u ta' spiritwalità profonda. Dan juri li l-kittieb fil-kitba tiegħu u f'dak li jgħid jippreżenta dak li hemm fih. Għalhekk il-ġurnalista huwa bniedem li jrid ikollu responsabbiltà kbira f'dak li jgħid jew jikteb u l-mod kif jippreżentah".

Mons. Camilleri żied jgħid li kull ġurnalista "għandu jaħdem sabiex il-bniedem jinfetaħ u ma jingħalaqx fih innifsu, jiffavorixxi l-għaqda bejn persuna u oħra, bejn familja u oħra, bejn grupp u ieħor u bejn il-popli. Il-qawwa tal-kitba tgħin biex jersqu lejn xulxin il-persuni u l-fehmiet tagħhom u hekk ma jkun hemm ħadd eskluż".

Fi kliem il-predikatur, komunikazzjoni serja twassal biex "tfejjaq feriti qodma u hekk il-bniedem ikun jista' jgħix f'armonija u fi spirtu ta' familja". Mill-banda l-oħra kelma mhix f'potha tista' tkun kaġun ta' firda, diżordni, mibegħda, ingustizzja u l-bqija.

“Il-ġurnalists irid iżomm quddiem għajnejh li b’dak li jikteb jew jgħid ikun qed jifforma l-opinjoni pubblika, u dan jittlob sens kbir ta’ responsabbiltà. Tikkomunika jfisser taqsam mal-oħrajn, u l-bniedem jaqsam ma’ haddiehor minn dak li jkollu, u minn dak li hu. Id-dinjità tal-persuna umana għandha tkun rispettata, u filwaqt li jiġi kundannat il-ħażin, imma tkun rispettata l-persuna”.

Għalhekk, Mons. Camilleri heġġeġ li “l-atteggjament tal-ġurnalists Nisrani jkun dak ta’ Ġesù li kien mibgħut biex iwassal il-Bxara t-tajba, il-kelma tal-verità li tagħmel il-bniedem ħieles”. Wara l-Quddiesa, il-grupp ta’ ġurnalists li attenda ħa flimkien ritratt ta’ okkażjoni fis-swali tal-kunvent. Huma bagħtu wkoll jesprimu l-gratitudni tagħhom lejn is-Sur Joe W. Psaila, li għadu kemm temm ħidma ta’ għaxar snin bħala Editur tar-rivista djoċesana *Il-Hajja f’Għawdex*, u awguraw lill-Editur il-ġdid Francesco Pio Attard li daħal f’dan ir-rwol minn Jannar. Ritratt: Joe Grech



THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF MALTA

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AIMS: From Article 2: Objectives, Statute, 1997

The principle purpose of the **Medical Association of Malta** shall be to regulate relations between members in the profession and between members and their employers or employers' associations in accordance with the Laws of Malta.

The ancillary objects of the Association shall be:

To unite all members of the medical profession and to safeguard their interests

To provide advice and assistance to its members in their mutual relations, in their relations with State or other authorities and organisations whether individual or as a profession

To provide spokesmen for any member seeking the assistance of the MAM

To promote the ethical, scientific, professional, cultural, social and economic interests of the medical profession

To secure their freedom of practice in the interests of the patient individually and of the community as a whole

To strengthen the position and unanimity of the medical profession in order to maintain the highest possible standards of education, ethics and patient care

To work with other national and international bodies to foster its aims

AFFILIATIONS: MAM is the recognised Maltese representative in the below-mentioned international organisations

National affiliations:

- Federation of Professional Associations
- Confederation of Malta Trade Unions (CMTU)

International affiliations:

Full Members

- World Medical Association ([WMA](#))
- European Forum of Medical Associations & WHO (EFMA)
- Permanent Working Group of European Junior Doctors ([PWG](#))
- European union of family doctors ([UEMO](#))
- [Commonwealth Medical Association \(CMA\)](#)

Associate Members

- European Union of Medical Specialists ([UEMS](#))
- Standing Committee of European doctors ([CP](#))



Maltese DownUnder TV

Maltese DownUnder is a Melbourne based community show catering for the Maltese community, showcasing Maltese cultural heritage, featuring the arts, music, food, travel, cultural events and sport. Its aim is to inform and entertain our audience through stories that inspire and strengthen the pride of all Maltese Australians.



The show aims to present vibrant content for Maltese native speakers as well as English speaking Australians of Maltese descent, in particular those wanting to make contact with their heritage. The show also features stories of migration from Malta as well as the various traditions brought here by Maltese pioneers.

Maltese DownUnder serves to promote Australian Maltese artists, personalities and associations to a broader audience. We broadcast in Maltese and English to preserve and strengthen the cultural links for all Maltese Australians, on all things Maltese; bridging the gap between Malta and Australia with relevant and valuable content on all aspects of Maltese culture, language, history and community news.

The Maltese E-Newsletter received this appeal

Maltese Down Under is the brainchild of former SBS broadcast journalist Marlene Scicluna and photographer Mark Avellino who came up with the idea of an arts and cultural show that would be presented in both English and Maltese. It would be terribly sad for the Australian Maltese community to lose the broadcasting of this show and there is only 14 days left to raise the minimum \$10,000 to keep this show on air and sadly there have only been 22 pledges of support so far. I am hoping the lack of support is due to the right people not being aware of this campaign on the Pozible crowd funding site.

I have included the links for this information - the first is for the fundraising site - the 2nd so you can watch previous episodes and finally the face book link so that you can have confirmation of your pledge. If you have any questions regarding the fundraising for this show either leave a message on the pozible page or the Facebook page.

<https://pozible.com/project/help-maltese-downunder-tv-season>

<http://www.c31.org.au/series/1313>

<https://www.facebook.com/MalteseDownUnder>

**Maltese Associations
are invited to advertise their activities
on this journal for free**

MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

Free - Non-Political - Bilingual



**The magazine that builds bridges between
Maltese all over the world**

