

**THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER**

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

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Photo left: Mr Frank Scicluna, Hon Consul for Malta in South Australia, presenting the commemorative book MALTA- THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN to Ms Hince in Adelaide

Photo: right – H.E. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta, pictured with Ms. Julianne Hince, Australian High Commissioner

KEEP ON SENDING YOUR ARTICLES, COMMENTS AND EMAILS  
BE PART OF THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF MALTESE CULTURE  
THANK YOU - GRAZZI



## VERONIQUE VELLA

**CLASS PIANIST** Véronique Vella (née Zammit) has written orchestral, solo, chamber and electroacoustic pieces that have been performed in the UK, France, Malta, Italy, Germany, Austria, Malaysia and the US. Since taking up composition in 2005, her works have featured in many festivals locally and abroad, particularly in UK. These include Sound, Sonicfusion, Musica Nova, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Classical Guitar Retreat Festival and Glasgow West End Festival. Interpreters of her work include The Orchestra of Scottish Opera, the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, the Edinburgh Quartet, the Research Ensemble, Equinox Trio, McAllister Agnew duo, flautist Richard Craig, pianist Peter Evans, horn-player Neil Fellows and former member of the Arditti quartet, cellist Rohan de Saram.

Véronique obtained a PhD from Edinburgh Napier University in 2008 and is the first Maltese woman to be awarded a Doctorate in Music Composition. Her thesis is entitled *Towards a Notion of Cultural Soundscape as an Informant to Original Music Composition with particular reference to that of the Maltese Islands*. Some of her pieces such as *Ritratti*, *Epilogue* and *L-Ewwel Xita* employ original text in Maltese, a language that is rarely featured in the concert-hall. Many of her other works bear Maltese titles, including chamber music work *Fjuri*, which was described by internationally acclaimed composer Nigel Osborne, as "a stroke of genius".

<http://zfinmalta.org/biographies/veronique-vella>



## Maltese top EU consumers of canned fish

James Debono

**HOBZ BIZ-ZEJT MAKES MALTESE EUROPE'S MOST AVID CONSUMERS OF CANNED FISH, WITH AT LEAST ONE IN EVERY TWO EATING TINNED FISH AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK**

89% of the Maltese buy tinned fish products 'often' or 'from time to time' Despite being surrounded by a sea providing fresh produce, Maltese kitchen shelves are still well stocked with canned tuna and mackerel. In fact the Maltese, whose hobz biz-zejt is one of their staple snacks, are the most likely in Europe to buy "tinned" fish products.

Malta is the only country among the EU 28 where at least one in every two eat tinned fish at least once a week. Countries with the highest proportions of respondents who say this include Malta (89%), Spain (86%) and Slovakia (79%), compared with slightly more than half of the respondents in Romania (51%), Germany (51%) and Belgium (52%).

The survey shows that 46% of the Maltese eat fish at home at least once a week. This makes the Maltese the tenth most likely in Europe to eat fish on a weekly basis. In 24 of the 28 Member States, the absolute majority of respondents say they buy fresh, 'often' or 'from time to time'. Countries with the highest proportions of respondents who say this include Greece (93%),

Malta (90%), Portugal (87%) and Spain (87%), while lower proportions can be found in the Czech Republic (52%), Poland (52%) and Sweden (56%).

Consumers in Malta (74%), Italy (59%) and Greece (59%) are more likely to buy fishery and aquaculture products (FAPs) from the fishmonger, compared with respondents in Slovakia (10%), the United Kingdom (19%) and Finland (22%).

In 25 out of 28 Member States, the majority of respondents say they buy fishery and aquaculture products at the grocery store, supermarket or hypermarket. More than nine in 10 consumers of FAPs in Finland (95%), Sweden (93%) and Slovakia (92%) say they do so, while consumers in Malta (40%) and Greece (46%) are the less likely to buy fishery and aquaculture products at the grocery store, supermarket or hypermarket.

The absolute majority of respondents in two countries prefer wild products – Greece and Malta (both 60%) – whilst half of the respondents in Portugal (50%) and France (50%) prefer their fishery and aquaculture products to be wild. Least likely to have a preference for wild products are respondents in Slovakia (18%).



### **Maltese RSL Sub-Branch N.S.W. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 16 Feb 2017**

It is with great pleasure to announce the results of the Annual General Meeting of the Maltese Returned Services League – NSW Branch are as follows:

**President** – Charles N Mifsud, **Vice-President 1** – Alfred Carabott, **Vice President 2** – Frank Delia, **Secretary** – Doris Pocock, **Treasurer** – Andrew Magro, **Welfare**

**Officer** – Catherine Vella, **Pension Officer** – Lilian Taliana, **Recruiting/Membership Officer** – Doris Pocock. **District Council** **Delegate 1** - Catherine Vella **Delegate 2** – Charles Attard

**Maltese Community Council** **Delegate 1** - Alfred Carabott, **Delegate 2** – Dorothy Gatt

**Delegate 3** – Lilian Taliana **Trustee 1** - Frank Delia **Trustee 2** – Alfred Carabott, **Trustee 3** – Paul Degiorgio

**HISTORY** - The Maltese Branch of the RSL (Il-Ferġha Maltija ta' L-RSL) was established in the late 50's but was given the charter as a branch in the mid 1960's to look after the welfare of the Maltese ex-servicemen/women who had migrated to Australia from Malta, especially after the war.

The main aim was to ensure that Maltese ex-servicemen/women were given their proper entitlements by way of pensions and medical benefits from the British and Australian authorities. Many ex-servicemen were assisted in obtaining these benefits that otherwise they would not have obtained because of ignorance of their entitlements.

In the mid 1970's the Branch started taking part in the ANZAC Day memorial which by this time had changed from a day glorifying war to one of remembrance of the fallen during the wars in which Australia and NZ had taken part. Maltese ex-servicemen who had lost their medals were assisted in obtaining original or duplicate medals. The memorial now takes two forms - the laying of a wreath on the cenotaph in Martin Place on the eve of ANZAC Day and marching as a Maltese contingent on ANZAC Day.

As the number of ex-servicemen has been rapidly dwindling, the Australian custom has now been adopted of inviting the sons and daughters of ex-servicemen to march in their place and carry their medals. Every year the Maltese contingent is commented on very favorably by the TV commentators and the marchers receive a standing ovation. (MCCNSW)



## MOROCCAN COMMUNITY IN MALTA

Identification Number: VO/0694



Moroccan Community in Malta

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Moroccan Community in Malta  
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malta@gmail.com



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/edit/?id=333405863395125&sk=basic>

Moroccan Community in Malta" Identification Number: VO/0694 Principle Purpose: Social and Community Advancement: is a non-government organisation established on 31 August 2012. MRM was founded by its President, Mrs. Dounia Borg

The Moroccan Community in Malta has the following objectives:

- To foster the friendship and ties between the Maltese and Moroccan communities in Malta.
- Be active and act as a point of reference so that residents in Malta of Moroccan origin integrate themselves within the Maltese community.
- Be active and assist residents of Moroccan origin in Malta.
- Be active and endeavour in assisting residents in Malta of Moroccan origin to gain their rights and understand their duties as residents in Malta.
- To organise courses in order that members are trained so they may understand their responsibilities better and carry out their civic duties more effectively within the community.



### Fake 'caption' to a photo turned into a nightmare

The impala stares defiantly down the camera lens. Inset: Maltese wildlife photographer Alison Buttigieg.

Run down by cheetahs, an impala stares defiantly down a camera lens moments before its death.

Shot by a Maltese wildlife photographer, the striking image went viral around the world last week, accompanied by a haunting story: the impala was sacrificing herself to allow her calves to escape. The photographer, the story said, was driven to depression by what she had witnessed.

That story was a lie. Alison Buttigieg, a 36-year old photographer living in Finland, was enjoying a quiet day last Saturday when her phone went off. A friend had seen the image, recognised it as hers and was worried about her depression.

At first Ms Buttigieg, who is not depressed, found the situation amusing. But another message followed, and another, and eventually hundreds. Some were friends and family asking about her

mental health, others were strangers angry that she had not done anything to save the impala. Ms Buttigieg had shot the image, which won an international award last year, back in 2013, “on a pretty standard outing” in Kenya’s Maasai Mara reserve, she told the Times of Malta.

The story behind it was dramatic, but not quite as heartwarming. The impala had been brought down by a mother cheetah, teaching her cubs to kill. The cubs struggled with the task, until the mother put the impala out of its misery herself.

The fabrication was more shareable. Ms Buttigieg’s professional LinkedIn profile was tagged, bringing the fake story and her supposed mental health issues to the attention of colleagues and employers.



The story was shared hundreds of thousands of times and was picked up by media as far as India and Sri Lanka. Just yesterday, a Bollywood star shared it on Instagram, giving the story legs again as he was mocked in Indian media for his credulity.

“A highlight of my photography career has turned into a nightmare,” Ms Buttigieg wrote on Facebook, attempting to set the record straight after hours upon hours filing individual reports on each of the shared images. In 13 years of travelling the world snapping shots of nature’s most majestic creatures, she has had images stolen before, but never have they spread so far and so fast, and never accompanied by such inventions.

While angry about the experience, Ms Buttigieg said she was not looking for any additional attention, but was keen to show just how quickly ‘fake news’ can spread and how distressing it can be for those dragged into its midst. “I never imagined that this could happen to an ordinary person like me,” she said.



## **THE SIEGE OF MALTA WW2**

The Battle for Malta is one of the most vicious and violent episodes of the Second World War. The tiny Mediterranean island is smaller than the Isle of Wight, yet between 1940 and 1942 more bombs fell on Malta than fell on Britain during the entire Blitz. As Axis forces threw all they had at the island, those on Malta were forced to endure a sustained attack from the air and a rapidly deteriorating condition on the ground. Beyond any form of austerity that we might understand, little Malta was close to starving. The struggle of the Maltese people against oppression was recognised personally by King George VI, who

awarded the George Cross to the entire island. Yet the Siege of Malta is only half of the story.

Caught in the crosshairs of a massive struggle between Britain and Germany to control the shipping waters of the Mediterranean, by 1942 Malta had become the most bombed place on Earth. Whilst the level of brutal attacks may seem out of all proportion to the islands size it actually only serves to underline its importance – for Malta held the key to the entire war in the Mediterranean and North Africa





## SAINT NICHOLAS FESTA COMMITTEE

Presents

### *Classic Cars, Motorbikes & Truck Exhibition*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

Good Shepherd Community Centre  
130-136 Hyatts Road, Plumpton  
(Opposite the shopping centre)

**9.00 am to 1.00 pm**



**Bacon & Eggs Rolls, Tea & Coffee Available through the morning**

For enquiries contact

Charlie Gatt – 0412 278 949 or Jim Farrugia – 0416 090 420

**FOLLOWED BY**

## ***THE BIG FETE – FIERA TAL - FNIEK***

**At 1.30pm**

Music & Entertainment by:

**Joe Xuereb, Ron Borg & Tony Fenech**

with lots of popular music for your enjoyment



Loads of fantastic prizes to be won

There will be drinks and food of all types including:

'Pastizzi and Hobz biz-zejt jew bil-Bigilla'

And **FREE** ice-cream for all children



**ENTRY IS FREE AND PLENTY OF PARKING**

*So come along, bring your family and friends!*



### **IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2017**

*Lejla Fil-Buskett & Car Exhibition on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July*

*Fiera on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October*

*The Feast of St Nicholas on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December*



*For further information please contact:*

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**Or**

**Public Relations Officer - Emmanuel Vella – 0405 677 064 / man\_stel\_vella@hotmail.com**



## “Nau mai, haere mai” Welcome, welcome to Rotorua Rotorua - New Zealand



### A City Embraces Geothermal Activity

Rotorua New Zealand is located in the North Island near the Bay of Plenty with a population of 55,600. The name has its origins in the Maori language and means two lakes.

Rotorua is fairly unique in New Zealand due to the smell of rotten eggs and its geothermal activity. The smell of rotten eggs is actually not rotten eggs it is the hydrogen sulphide which is a by product of the geothermal activity. Geothermal activity means that Rotorua has a lot of naturally heated pools of water and mud which is believed to have healing properties. These properties were taken advantage of and Rotorua is now known for its spas. The spas in Rotorua are amazing with warm

mud baths to rejuvenate the skin and steam pools to unwind, the mud is considered so good that it is sold in cosmetics.



Many parks around Rotorua New Zealand showcase geysers. These are vents in the ground that erupt with hot water once the pressure has reached a certain point. The pressure builds up in intervals, so many spectators organise their park visit around this spectacle. Most combine their visit with a scenic tour or take a stroll to the Maori village at Lake Rotorua.

Close by Mount Tarawera is found. The volcano erupted in 1886 burying several villages and the 8th wonder of the world the Pink and White Terraces were destroyed. One of the buried villages has been excavated and because the ash preserved most things we can have look at how the world was back then. There is also a museum which tells stories of the event and displays the artefacts from some of the villages.



**LOCATION** THIS IS THE CATCH-CRY... AND IT HOLDS A PRETTY POWERFUL PROMISE AS WELL AS AN INVITATION TO EXPERIENCE ROTORUA'S EXTRAORDINARY SLICE OF NEW ZEALAND. EXPERIENCE NEW ZEALAND'S FOOD, CULTURE AND LEGENDS WITH A VISIT TO ROTORUA, THE CULTURAL HEARTLAND OF THE COUNTRY. JUST OVER A THIRD OF ROTORUA'S POPULATION IS MAORI, SO THE REGION IS THE BEST PLACE TO IMMERSE YOURSELF IN NEW ZEALAND'S INDIGENOUS CULTURE. JOURNEY TO THE HEARTLAND OF [MAORI CULTURE](#),

TO THE CENTER OF NEW ZEALAND'S SPECTACULAR GEOTHERMAL WONDERLAND AND DISCOVER THE SPIRIT OF ROTORUA. **“NAU MAI, HAERE MAI” WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME TO ROTORUA**



ALL NATIONS MARIAN CENTRE –FLANAGANS DRIVE, BACCHUS MARSH VICTORIA, 3340



## Ta' Pinu Shrine

### Our Lady, Queen of the Family

**A CALL TO PRAYER**



Dear Friends of Ta Pinu Shrine,

Despite being temporarily away from the Shrine, It gives me great pleasure to officially invite you to join us as we welcome the Centennial image of the Blessed Virgin as part of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Her Apparition at Fatima. Just like every family unite around their motherly figure to honour and to be showered with her blessings, we seek your consideration to DEDICATE THIS VERY DAY to The Blessed Virgin, Mary – Mother of God and Our heavenly Mother.

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017** will be a truly Marian Day of Prayer at the Shrine.

It is also a public day in Victoria (Aust), therefore, we, at Ta Pinu Shrine have every reason to gather together as ONE family. To demonstrate our true devotion to our Heavenly Mother. and to work on our genuine effort to fulfil our obligations by honouring our God and His Mother by ours and our family's presence.

I wish to make a very special appeal to all those among you who play a leadership role in your community network and as Community Leaders at the Shrine. I pray that the Holy Spirit may descent upon you to provide you with the necessary and appropriate tools so that you may highlight the importance of this Marian Devotion to all those entrusted in your care and leadership. In that same instance - surely invite them to join in as well.

Todd M. Johnson of the Global Evangelization movement recently commented: ***"The greatly enlarged and improved means of communication constitutes one of the chief facilities of the Church. Through the internet, it is possible to provide and access information from every corner of the world. Today, instant communication is possible through email, cell phones, web-cam and international chat rooms."***

So therefore as Leaders and true missionaries for Christ, I truly believe in your abilities and **HOPE** that you will continue to excel in your Christian mission to reach out to others. Note: Printed Flyers will be soon available for distribution. Please contact us if you feel the need to have some. God Bless you

**Msgr Benedict Camilleri Director**  
**Our Lady Ta Pinu Shrine - All Nations Marian Centre**  
**15 Flanagans Dr., Bacchus Marsh 3340**  
 Mob 0437 261 517 email: [infotapinu@optusnet.com.au](mailto:infotapinu@optusnet.com.au)



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## Brussels literati to drink in Maltese literature

Four Maltese authors to hold readings at Brussels literary café'



Four Maltese authors will hold readings at a Brussels literary café next month as part of a National Book Council event timed to coincide with Malta's EU Council presidency.

Lorianne Vella.  
Alex Vella Gera



The two events will take place on March 17 and 18 at Librebook-Bruxelles, a literary café which offers a selection of novels in more than 20 European languages.

2016 Terramaxka Prize winner Lorianne Vella will kick off proceedings on March 17 at 6pm with a reading of an English translation of one of her works, *These Four Rooms of Mine*.



She will be followed by Alex Vella Gera, who will treat the audience to excerpts from his novel *Trojan*, which won him the 2016 National Book Prize for prose, as well as passages from his novel *L-Antipodi*.

Clare Azzopardi (left) and Maria Grech Ganado (right)

The following day will see Clare Azzopardi read from her books *Il-Qtates ta' max-Xatt*, *Mingu* and *Guzzeppina*, as well as from her collection of short stories *Kulhadd Halla*

*Isem Warajh.*

Ms Azzopardi's 2pm reading will be immediately followed by poet, writer and intellectual Maria Grech Ganado, who has received widespread acclaim for poems such as *Jum San Valentin*, *Ix-Xwejha u s-Suldat*, *Għajrek* and *Temminx Fiha*. Ms Grech Ganado was awarded a Medal for Service to the Republic in 2000 and a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016 for her work.

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**The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora**



**The Maltese E-Newsletter**

**OUR MOTTO  
Building Bridges not Walls**

## Did you know... that 310 Maltese child migrants were sent to Australia?



*Maltese children at Bindoon Boys' Town 1952. Reproduced courtesy State Library of Western Australia, The Batty Library 005086D.*

Maltese children at Bindoon Boys' Town 1952. Reproduced courtesy State Library of Western Australia, The Batty Library 005086D.

In 1928 Perth-based Maltese priest Father Raphael Pace urged the Christian Brothers to include Maltese children in its emerging migration scheme. Negotiations

between the Maltese and Western Australian Governments continued through the 1930s but the first Maltese child migrants did not arrive in Australia until after World War II.

Between 1950 and 1965, 259 boys and 51 girls were sent to Catholic institutions in Western Australia and South Australia. Most parents believed their children would receive a better education in Australia. Instead many were put to work on the Christian Brothers' building projects and left to endure the same punishments and abuses as their British counterparts. Some were forced to stop using their Maltese language and never learned to read or write English.

**Abused Maltese child migrants to give evidence in Australia inquiry** - Maltese child migrants who were raped, tortured and emotionally abused at four Christian Brother's homes in Western Australia were among those gave evidence in an inquiry. The newspapers said that many of those giving evidence were sent to Australia from the UK and Malta after the war for what was supposed to be a better life.

310 Maltese were sent to Australia as child migrants between 1950 and 1965 as part of a scheme promising parents a better future for their children. It later emerged they were forced to work in institutions and many were not educated. A number of them suffered physical and sexual abuse.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse will be looking specifically into the experiences of former residents sent to Castledare, Clontarf, Bindoon and Tardun orphanages from the late 1940s up until the 1960s.

A secret report, which has never been made public in full, was prepared in the 1990s and contains evidence of correspondence between Brother PA Conlon, the principal of the order in WA during the 1940s, and another brother about the possibility of "scandals".

It also contains notes written by Brother Conlon where he says there was a need to hide the complaints from "outsiders" so they "do not become aware" of the abuse.



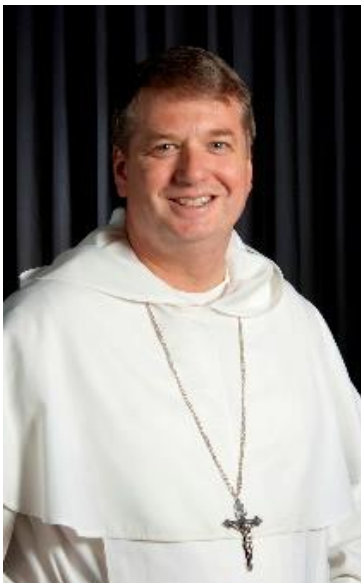


## Pope Francis tells bishops to maintain 'zero tolerance' for child sexual abuse by clergy

**Photo:** [Pope Francis asked bishops to "ensure these atrocities will no longer take place in our midst".](#) (Reuters: Tony Gentile)

The Vatican has released the text of a December 28 letter Pope Francis sent to bishops about injustices to children including slave labour, malnutrition, lack of education and sexual exploitation, including abuse by priests. In the letter, Pope Francis decried "the sufferings, the experiences and pain of minors who were abused sexually by priests".

"It is a sin that shames us," the Pope wrote. The Church's reputation has been stained in several countries during the last few decades as people have come forward to report that parish priests or other Catholic clergy raped or molested them as minors. In Australia, the Catholic Church will be fronting the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in coming months to explain improvements to its policies. Worldwide, the allegations showed that local bishops sometimes knew about and covered up child sex abuse involving problem priests and triggered multi-million-dollar lawsuits, as well as several criminal prosecutions.



## Speaking the- truth in love

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ 3 February 2017

I write to you as the final hearing involving the Catholic Church at the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse commences on February 6, 2017.

For the victims and survivors, for the Catholic community and for many in the wider Australian community, this hearing may be a difficult and even distressing time, as the Royal Commission reviews the evidence it has already received and seeks to understand why and how this tragedy has occurred. Deeply mindful of the hurt and pain caused by abuse,

I once again offer my apology on behalf of the Catholic Church. I am sorry for the damage that has been done to the lives of victims of sexual abuse. As Pope Francis said recently, 'it is a sin that shames us'. Over the next three weeks, evidence presented during the Royal Commission hearings will be analysed, statistics about the extent of abuse will be made public, and the way forward will be explored. Many of our bishops and other Catholic

leaders will appear before the Royal Commission.

They will explain what the Church has been doing to change the old culture that allowed abuse to continue and to put in place new policies, structures and protections to safeguard children. Pope Francis has urged the whole Church to, 'find the courage needed to take all necessary measures and to protect in every way the lives of our children, so that such crimes may never be repeated'.

Throughout the coming weeks, I want to assure you of my thoughts and prayers. I encourage you to turn in prayer to the one who is always ready to listen: Jesus Christ, who brings healing and hope

**Yours sincerely in Christ Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY**





## Western Australia pays tribute to Maltese child migrants

Albert Agius

*The committee of the Maltese Professional and Business Association of Western Australia during the unveiling of the monument to former child migrants in Fremantle.*

*Photo courtesy of Paul Calleja.*

A monument, dedicated to child migrants, was unveiled in Fremantle by Sheila McHale, Western Australian State Minister for Community Development in 2004

The monument features two statues showing a 12-year-old-boy and a 10-year-old-girl with expressions showing "awe and wonder". It cost \$A45,000 and the Federal and WA state governments shared the expenses.

The chairman of the Child Migrants of Malta (C-MOM), David Plowman, who had a significant input into the nature of the monument, was one of the key speakers at the opening. C-MOM was formed on the initiative of the Maltese Professional and Business Association of Western Australia. Paul Psaila-Savona is its deputy chairman and the Chief Justice of Western Australia, David Malcolm, is its patron. A notable feature of the memorial is a separate plaque recognising the Maltese component of the child migrant group.

C-MOM's organising committee was convinced that the nature of the Maltese child migration scheme and the experiences of the Maltese as Mediterranean, non-English speaking children made the Maltese unique. It successfully lobbied the Department of Community Development, the body responsible for the project, to have a separate plaque included in the monument to recognise the Maltese. C-MOM contended that one general plaque would result in the loss of identity for the Maltese.

The Maltese former child migrants were previously a forgotten item in the child migration debate. Church and government enquiries into the treatment of the child migrants would invariably focus almost entirely on the British and the Irish. Mention of the Maltese frequently came as an afterthought.

The late Prof. Plowman, himself a former Maltese child migrant, explained the significance of having two separate plaques: "One important reason for the differentiation is to be faithful to the history that this monument represents. The different plaques bear witness to the fact that there was not one encompassing scheme involving child migrants. Rather, there were two distinct schemes... Catholic child migration from Britain commenced in 1938, was halted in 1939 because of war and resumed in 1947."

"As early as 1938, attempts were made to include child migrants from Malta in the scheme. A reading of official correspondence at this time makes it clear that the Maltese were rejected on racial grounds. It was not until 1950, when it became clear that Australia could not fulfill its post-war migration objectives from Britain, that Maltese migration in general, and Maltese child migration in particular, were approved by the Australian government," Prof Plowman added.

"As a result, a separate and distinct agreement was established with the Maltese government and the Catholic Church in Malta. The two plaques symbolise the different agreements." Child migration ended many years ago. Its effects, however, continue, Prof. Plowman insisted. This monument, and other undertakings by a number of governments in recent years, show recognition of the need to bring a closure to many of the issues affecting former child migrants.

"This brings me to the second reason why the child migrants of Malta have been keen to establish their own identity. It is pleasing to note that host countries such as Australia and Canada, and home countries such as the United Kingdom and Ireland, have sought to bring about some closure to issues confronting some former child migrants. In the case of the Malta, this has not been the case," he said.

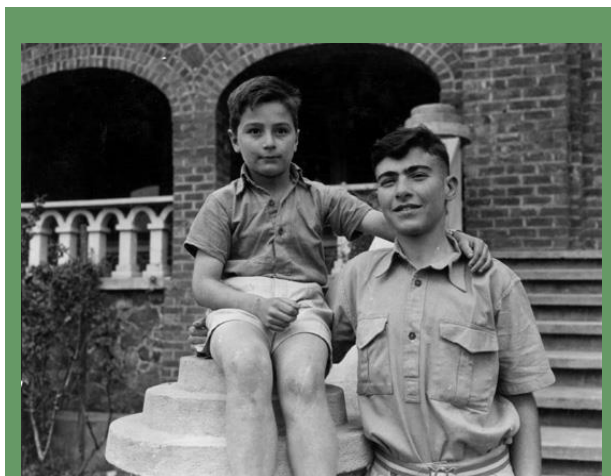
Prof. Plowman was in Malta earlier this year canvassing a solution to the lingering issue but "despite a number of written submissions and in-person meetings with Maltese government and Church authorities, to date there have been bland promises rather than any tangible outcomes." Former child migrants from Malta are determined to persevere in their efforts, and, if necessary, adopt more radical approaches to achieving their modest aims," he warned.

"There is a need for Malta to confront its past and to bring closure for those still affected by child migration. It is in such a context that we recognise the importance of this monument to former child migrants from wherever they came."



## Child Migration - 1952

Maltese child migrants living and working at Bindoon WESTERN AUSTRALIA.



Children arriving at Fremantle ready to go to the Fairbridge Farm School.



**NOSTALGIA**

## Maltese are everywhere



*by Andrew Borg Cardona*

Despite Malta having a small population, it's not unusual to stumble across a Maltese person in the most unexpected of places around the world. Perhaps the claustrophobia of life on a tiny island makes some get itchy feet and roam the world.

Having been on the move overseas working on international human rights issues, I've often found myself in the remotest of places yet even then, I've come across a Maltese person or someone who knows one. They say that there are six degrees of separation between every person on earth. At times like those, I think there are even fewer. Once, I was on a secluded beach in northern Colombia. I had just come back from a conflict zone and decided to chill out a bit. Getting to the Tayrona area required a very long journey on some rickety buses. Once I got to my chosen secluded bus stop, I walked for about four hours and arrived at a beach. Without piped water and electricity, it was totally cut off from the world... or so I thought!

I met an Irish girl who was living in a nearby little village and when I told her I was Maltese, she said: "Yeah, I know a Maltese guy who lives in the nearby village of Taganga. He's a diving instructor!" The guy turned out to be the son of a friend of mine who owns the bar next to my house in Malta. I'd once shared a hospital room with him after smashing my knee. Another time through my job, I met a Maltese priest who was working in Burundi with the same humanitarian agency I was. While in Africa, he'd met a Maltese nun who was working in Tanzania – the sister of my mum's best friend.

I was once in London for a meeting, and since I was working for a low-budget NGO, I decided to stay at the house of a former colleague; an Australian who'd worked with me in India. As I was preparing to go to the airport, an English friend of her flatmate walked through the door. During a brief chat, he said he was pleasantly surprised to find out I was from Malta, and told me he knew a Maltese person very well. It turned out his friend is the brother of a former class-mate of mine.

On a train in London, without me even opening my mouth, a little Maltese kid looked at me and told his mum: that guy looks Maltese! But how can a Maltese person be recognisable from other Mediterranean people without us even opening our mouths? Indeed, I can generally tell a Maltese person from a Sicilian or a Tunisian (our closest neighbours) – but somehow the only people I mistake for Maltese without them being so are the Lebanese. Perhaps our Phoenician roots are evident after all. Maltese people are everywhere! And soon we may also have the first Maltese on Everest. It's probably the only spot on earth never to have been set foot on by a Maltese person; but not for long!





Australian filmmaker Peter Sant recently shot his debut feature, *Maneland*, on the north west coast of Malta over 18 days.

The film is described as “an experiential film about a stasis and slow change.”

It follows a crippled king who is living with his two daughters in a bunker on an isolated island following the spread of virus. Following a series of encounters, the virus seems to return.

Sant wrote the film, which is in the Maltese language, with co-writer Alex Vella Gera. Sant's parents migrated to Australia in the 1950s from Malta – and the director himself lived there for a period during the 2000s.

"I was surprised to discover that the local [film] industry is virtually non-existent, but that Malta has appeared on countless screens all over the world in films like *Munich*, *Troy*, *Gladiator*, *By the Sea*, etc, but always as a double for elsewhere."

"So to me it's kind of this eternal elsewhere. The script is based around this idea but deals with it in a playful manner," Sant told IF.

The film's cast are all Maltese, with the exception of John Zhang, who plays a Chinese billionaire. The DP is British cinematographer Martin Testar, whose credits include *Spy Game* and Shane Meadows' *A Room for Romeo Brass*. Production design is by Charlo Dalli (*Game of Thrones*, *Assassin's Creed*).



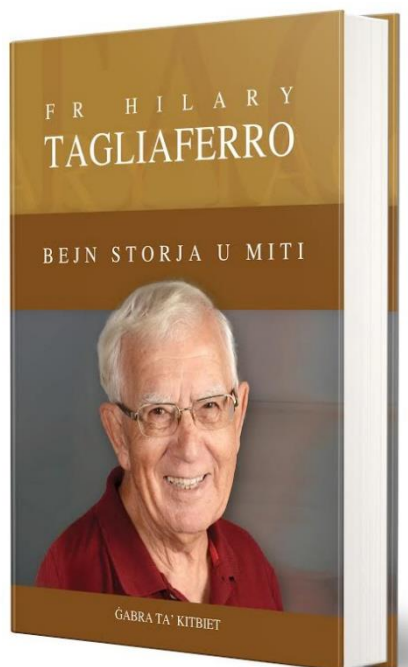
*Maneland* was in development for five years and is part-financed by the Malta Film Fund. “We approached numerous sales agents and distributors prior to production but as expected any hope of pre-sales on a debut feature with no known cast and no genre is slim,” said Sant.

“We did have a lot of interest in the project but no real commitment from sales agents or distributors in the pre-production stage. One UK sales agent rejected the project and described it as 'starting off as a cross between *Cinderella* and *The Tempest* and ending in

deep arthouse', an inadvertently encouraging response.”

The film will complete post-production in the UK.

## Bejn Storja u Miti Vol 4: Fr Hilary Tagliaferro



X'kien l-inkwiet li kellu Fr Hilary mal-Ministru Lorry Sant? U kif jidhol il-Prim Ministru Duminku Mintoff fl-istorja? U l-Arċisqof Gonzi ġieli ġibdilil widnejh lil Fr Hilary minħabba l-futbol? U min kienet dik it-tfajla li darba Fr Hilary rikkeb fuq il-lambretta? Dan u iktar tistgħu taqrawh fir-raba' volum ta' Bejn Storja u Miti. Patri Hilary Tagliaferro:

Bejn Storja u Miti jistħarreg il-bijografija ta' Patri Hilary Tagliaferro: patri Agostinjan li dejjem ħaddan politika li terfa' lill-batut mill-ħama. Warrab it-tonka u l-glorji ta' Ommu l-Knisja u uża l-isports biex iwassal il-Kelma li tifdi. Fost l-oħrajn l-awturi jiktbu dwar kif fil-qalba tal-ġlieda- politiko reliġjuża tas-sittinijiet u fi żmien meta tikbes il-ġamra tal-Konċilju Vatikan it-Tieni, Fr Hilary ġabar iż-żgħażaġh li emmnu f'ideologija partikulari taht saqaf wiehed meta ħaddiehor tahom il-ġenb. Ħareġ bil-proġett tal-Millennium Chapel, f'arena ta' divertiment, fejn fetaħ beraħ il-bibien għal min ħajtu ma baqax is-sid tagħha. Fr Hilary daħħal ukoll idjoma sportiva fl-ilsien tagħna bil-mijiet ta' kummentarji sportivi, minn barra u lokali, u min jaf kemm-il dehriet kellu fuq it-televiżjoni waqt programmi sportivi.

L-awturi li qed jiktbu dwar Fr Hilary f'din il-ġabra huma George Abela, Karmenu Baldacchino, Lino Bugeja, Charles Buttigieg, Peter Calamatta, Henry Calleja, Charles Camenzuli, David Carabott, Joe Cassar, Joe Cassar, Noel D'Anastas, Patri Ray Francalanza, Monsinjur Lawrence Gatt, John C. u Anne Grech, Sergio Grech, Dr Simon Mercieca, Charles Miceli, Ronnie Micallef, Manwel Scerri u Piju Spiteri.

Pubblikazzjoni oħra ta' Horizons Malta u editjata minn Sergio Grech. Il-volum fih ukoll għadd ġmielu ta' ritratt li jiċċelebraw it-83 sena attivi ta' Fr Hilary. Fil-volum l-oħrajn ġew mistħarrġa Duminku Mintoff, Monsinjur Victor Grech u l-Avukat Herbert Ganado.



### Joseph Calleja named among opera's top 10 male voices

by

Martina Zammit -TIMES

Le Figaro lists Maltese tenor among the world's best

Tenor Joseph Calleja has been named one of the world's top 10 male opera voices by French newspaper *Le Figaro*.

Mr Calleja joined operatic voices such as Vittorio Grigolo and Francesco Meli on the list of male voices to listen out for. The 39-year-old tenor has performed with many of the world's most famous opera companies and the USA's National Public Radio has described him as "arguably today's finest lyrical tenor".

Apart from his opera performances, the Maltese tenor performs extensively at several summer festivals, as well as during an annual open-air concert held at the granaries in Floriana. This year's Joseph Calleja concert will be held on August 19.





## GHANAFEST

GHANAFEST is a three-day World Music Festival which takes place every year in June in the marvellous surroundings of the Argotti Botanical Gardens in Floriana. The festival takes its name from the Maltese folk singing known as 'Għana' (pronounced A-na) But although the programme includes some of this musical genre, it goes well beyond the local boundaries, converging soundscapes and cultures that look seemingly disparate but are indeed closer than one may think.

In this regard, even Maltese traditional and more avant-gardist art forms will be fitting in the scheme of things thanks to their history, affinity with the national image and the ever-changing pace of folk itself. For more details on this year's edition, visit our [events calendar](#) – [visitmalta.com](http://visitmalta.com).

For further information: Arts Council Malta  
Casa Scaglia, 16, Triq Mikiel Anton Vassalli,  
Valletta VLT 1311 Malta  
Tel: 356 23397000

E-mail: [renzo.spiteri@artscouncilmalta.org](mailto:renzo.spiteri@artscouncilmalta.org) Website: <http://www.artscouncilmalta.org>

### ABOUT GHANA:

*Għana is traditional Maltese folk singing. This type of singing has a number of different variations. e.g. 'Għana tal-Fatt', where the singer recounts a story in verses that relate to a tragic past event. Another genre is 'Għana spirtu pront': two singers hit out at each other with sharp and witty retorts as one sings out and the other responds with spontaneously thought out lyrics; and 'Għana fl-Għoli' wherein the stanzas are sung in an extremely high note/pitch remotely similar to a flamenco folk song - this singing is also known as ala Bormliża*



## THE MALTA INTERNATIONAL FIREWORKS FESTIVAL

The **Malta International Fireworks Festival** is an annual event organised by the **Ministry for Tourism** and the **Malta Tourism Authority**.

This spectacular event, which takes place at the end of April to commemorate Malta's accession into the European Union on 1st May 2004, is held in Valletta's **Grand Harbour** and other locations. The festival includes fireworks displays designed by foreign pyrotechnic companies as well as some of the best local fireworks factories. Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy the spectacle free of charge.

For further information: Tel: 356 22915440-2  
Email: [fireworks@visitmalta.com](mailto:fireworks@visitmalta.com)  
Website [www.maltafireworksfestival.com](http://www.maltafireworksfestival.com)

## Ongi Ongi Ongella (...tkompli)

Bum, bum il-bieb, Ongi, ongi ongella! Bum, bum il-bieb, Ongi, o kavallier!	Xi jrid l-ambaxxatore? Ongi, ongi ongella! Xi jrid l-ambaxxatore? Ongi, o kavallier!	Din hija _____ Ongi, ongi ongella! Din hija _____ Ongi, o kavallier!
Min ġie? Min ġie? Min ġie? Ongi, ongi, ongella! Min ġie, min ġie, min ġie? Ongi, o kavallier!	Irid tifla* sabiha. Ongi, ongi ongella! Irid tifla sabiha. Ongi, o kavallier!	X'se ntuha 'l din it-tifla? Ongi, ongi ongella! X'se ntuha 'l din it-tifla? Ongi, o kavallier!
Ġie l-ambaxxatore, Ongi, ongi ongella! Ġie l-ambaxxatore, Ongi, o kavallier!	Min hija din it-tifla? Ongi, ongi ongella! Min hija din it-tifla? Ongi, o kavallier!	Nagħtuha ġurdien moqli. Ongi, ongi ongella! Nagħtuha ġurdien moqli Ongi, o kavallier!

\*jista' jingħad ukoll 'tifel'

## MALTESE NURSERY RHYMES

To commemorate Malta, the young school children spent most of Friday playing traditional Maltese games. They started off with **Lanca ġejja u oħra sejra**. We also played **Ongi ongi ongella, Ara ġejja l mewt għalik, Dawra durella, , Il-qattus u l- ġurdien, Noli, 1,2,3 min jiccaqlaq ma jilgħabx**. The children

had lots of fun and wanted to prolong each game. It is very important to keep up these traditional games plus so many others such as Cirku, zibeg, bocci, harba. Unfortunately in this day and age, our children have so much influence from the TV, computer and computerized games that none of these games are played anymore. It would be ideal that when out on family picnics you encourage them to play some of these games. Once they learnt it, they will play it themselves and introduce it to their friends.

## Lanca Ġejja



Lanca ġejja u oħra sejra  
minn Tas-Sliema għal Marsamxett,  
il-kaptan bil-pipa f'ħalqu  
jidderiegi l-bastiment.

Sewwa sewwa f'nofs ta' baħar  
il-kaptan ħassu ħażin,  
ma kellux min idur miegħu  
daru miegħu l-baħrin.

Agħmillu karta, agħmillu karta,  
agħmillu karta għal tax-xjuħ!





## MALTESE COMMUNITY INVITATION TO THE SECOND GENERATION REUNION PICNIC

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

**DATE:** March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**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 of all ages and their families.***

For further information, you can contact: **Catherine Saliba** on 0438 825 174 or email [catherine.saliba@yahoo.com](mailto:catherine.saliba@yahoo.com)

## Feral cats: Australia aims to cull 2 million



© AAP Image/Threatened Species Recovery Hub, Hugh McGregor Australia is aiming to cull 2 million feral cats.

The federal government will unleash every weapon in its arsenal to wipe out 2 million feral cats – about a third of the population – and will provide \$5 million to community groups to serve as foot soldiers in the battle.

It's a race to save about 124 species of native wildlife at risk of extinction from feral cats, which are notoriously hard to kill. Threatened Species Commissioner Gregory Andrews said the cull,

which goes until 2020, did not target domestic cats, nor was driven by bloodlust.

"They are the single biggest threat to our native animals, and have already directly driven out of extinction 20 out of 30 mammals lost," he said. "We are not culling cats for the sake of it, we are not doing so because we hate cats. "We have got to make choices to save animals that we love, and who define us as a nation like the bilby, the waru (Black-footed rock-wallaby) and the night parrot."

The Minister for the Environment and Energy Josh Frydenberg is expected to announce in March the first round of grants to encourage communities to trap and humanely euthanise feral cats. Mr Andrews has called on every mayor around Australia to provide free euthanasia of trapped feral cats. Each feral cat kills up to 1000 native animals a year, ranging from crickets to lizards and small mammals. Some feral "catastrophic" cats will develop a taste and skill for hunting larger prey: Indigenous rangers in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yangkuntjatjara lands caught a 6.8-kilogram cat with a 5 kilogram rock-wallaby (waru) in its gut.

About 211,000 cats were culled last year, including dozens in Kosciusko that were preying on mountain pygmy possums, and others preying on bilbies, bandicoots, numbats and night parrots in remote and arid Australia. Five islands, including Christmas Island and Kangaroo Island, have introduced plans to gradually eliminate all feral cats and phase out domestic cats - most communities supporting initiatives where existing pets will be the last to be kept, and will often require a licence.



*Love is in the air ...*

Next week the public is invited for the 11th open mic session. February's edition will be all about love! On Thursday 23rd February at 8 pm come over to Sistina Wine & Co. in Gżira to read a poem or a story, perform, or play their own music. The stage will be yours! Any genre, any language and any subject are welcome. All you need to do is turn up and perform! This will be a great opportunity for all performers to showcase their works and gauge the audience response.

The special guests of the evening will be the couple Rachelle Deguara, a folk singer, poet and performance poet, and Andrea Delicata, who forms part of Marmalja. This edition is held in collaboration between Inizjamed and the Għaqda tal-Malti – Università. Entrance and participation in the open mic is free. For more information write to [inizjamedprojects@gmail.com](mailto:inizjamedprojects@gmail.com). Facebook event: <<[www.facebook.com/events/251389355285983](https://www.facebook.com/events/251389355285983)>>

## TREVOR ZAHRA



Trevor Żahra was born on the 16th December 1947 in Żejtun (Malta). In 1971, Żahra married Stella nee Agius and they had two children, Ruben and Marija.

Stella died in 1989 at the age of 38. Żahra taught Art and Maltese in state schools for 33 years.

He has to date published more than 120 books, all written in Maltese. His first children's adventure, *Il-Pulena tad-Deheb* (*The Golden Figurehead*) was published in 1971. From then on he never stopped writing across practically all genres, including adventure stories, poetry for children, folk tales, workbooks, translations, adult novels and short stories.

In 1974 his adult novel *Taħt il-Weraq tal-Palm* (*Under the Palm Trees*) was awarded first prize in a national literary competition. His fantasy novel *Is-Seba' Tronġiet Mewwija* (*The Seven Enchanted Citrusfruits*) won the 1995 National Literary Prize. He was also awarded national literary prizes for his books: *Holm tal-Milied* (*Christmas Dreams*), *Lubien* (*Drowsy*), *Taħt Sema Kwiekeb* (*Under a Starlit Night*), *Provenz* (*North-West Wind*), *X'Tixtiequ Jagħmel il-Fenek?* (*What would like the Rabbit to do?*); while his book *Din l-Art u Kulma Fiha* (*This Land and all it Embraces*) won the special award for best illustration. Żahra is the Maltese author who won the

national literary prize the most times, for both children and adult fiction ... fifteen times. In 2004 he was awarded the *Medal for Services to the Republic* by the President of Malta, in recognition for his literary career particularly in children's literature.

His books throughout the years have outsold, by far, those of any other Maltese author in Maltese history. His pleasant style of writing, unique in its marrying accessibility with artfully constructed, deceptively simple language, full of humour and imaginative thinking, and his clear illustrative drawings that complement his writings, make Żahra the most popular writer and illustrator of children's books in Malta.

## **Trevor Zahra about his father Walter**

**13th December 2011**



**Wirt iż-Żejtun commemorated the first anniversary since the approval of its statute through an activity which took the form of a public interview with Trevor Zahra about his father Walter. This activity was held at the Nazju Falzon Youth Centre and was well attended and appreciated by those present.**

Walter Zahra was a key contributor towards increasing public awareness on the need to protect our cultural and historical heritage, not only in Żejtun but also at a national level. In fact he was the secretary of Din l-Art Helewa for quite a number of years. As his son stated, Walter "had Żejtun at his heart and his main wish was that of getting the Żejtun people to appreciate better the heritage of their town."



Walter was a writer, a journalist and also editor of a number of local newspapers. He was also a trade-unionist and in fact occupied the role of secretary in the first years of the CMTU. He was also active in politics and once he contested the general elections as a candidate with Dr Paul Boffa's Workers Party. Heritage and architecture were the main themes which were closest to his heart. He was a close friend of the British researcher and historian, Quentin Hughes.

Walter was very active within the societies at Żejtun, worked within both band clubs and at one time he was also vice-president of the Żejtun Band Club. He was the founder of the Żejtun Historical Society and an active committee member in Wirt iż-Żejtun during the 1970s. He worked also within the Żejtun Parish by maintaining the parish archives and was instrumental to organise the parish museum. In fact he also published a guide to the museum as he did also for the Good Friday procession. His involvement and great work in our community lead him to the award of Ġieħ iż-Żejtun by the Local Council, few weeks before his death.



All this lead us to commemorate our first anniversary by remembering Walter's contribution to the heritage of Żejtun. This thanks to his son Trevor, who accepted to share with us his father's thoughts, and to others present who shared the experience they had with Walter at a point in their lives.

During the same activity a video message was projected, this was received from Nicholas Cutajar who was the PRO of Wirt iż-Żejtun in the 1970s and currently lives in Australia. This message and the full interview held today will be published on our website in the coming days.



## Initiatives bringing Malta and Australia closer together



Photo - DOI - Jason Caruana

The Minister for Finance Prof. Edward Scicluna welcomed opportunities which can bring the Maltese and Australian business communities closer together so that efforts across multiple fronts, such as trade and investment, can be fully exploited.

Minister Scicluna was speaking during a seminar organized by EY in collaboration with the Australian High Commission, held at the Malta Chamber of Commerce. During his closing address, Minister Scicluna welcomed such seminars as opportunities through which Maltese and Australian business sectors can become better acquainted not only with one another, but also with each country's respective business and economic climate. He underlined that Malta is open for trade and investment, and that Malta is keen to work with global partners so that no avenue for trade and investment is left unexplored. He noted that Australia is a global player in this regard, especially in the manner in which it manages to remain competitive in European markets despite its

geographical distance from these markets.

## Abolition of the 'White Australia' Policy

**The Rt Hon Arthur Calwell (1896 - 1973)**



In 1945 the Rt Hon Prime Minister Ben (J.B.) Chifley appointed Arthur Calwell to be Australia's first Minister for Immigration. Calwell expanded Australia's immigration base to include migrants from eastern and southern Europe. He served as Leader of the Opposition (Labor Party) from 1960 to 1967. Despite being ridiculed for his statement in Federal Parliament that 'Two wongs don't make a white', Calwell enjoyed a close relationship with the Chinese community particularly in Melbourne.

**Extract from Hansard House of Representatives, 2 August 1945, pp. 4911-4915**

**Quote from Arthur Calwell - White Paper on Immigration**

Mr. Calwell (Melbourne - Minister for Immigration and Minister for Information) - by leave -

If Australians have learned one lesson from the Pacific war now moving to a successful conclusion, it is surely that we cannot continue to hold our island continent for ourselves and our descendants unless we greatly increase our numbers.

**We either populate or perish.....**



## Immigration Restriction Act 1901 (commonly known as the White Australia Policy)

In the last decades of the nineteenth century, concern was growing in the Australian colonies about the level of 'coloured' immigration to Australia, particularly from China, and many colonies passed restrictive immigration legislation. Following Federation in 1901, one of the first pieces of Commonwealth legislation passed was the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901*, based on the earlier colonial legislation. The overall aim of this and other related legislation was to limit non-white immigration to Australia, particularly Asian immigration, and thereby preserve the predominance of the British within Australia. A new feature of the Act was the Dictation Test.

The Dictation Test applied to all non-European people entering Australia between 1901 and 1958. The applicant was required to write out 50 words in any European language (after 1905, any prescribed language) dictated by an immigration officer. As the language used was at the discretion of the officer, it was easy to ensure failure if an applicant was thought to be 'undesirable', either because of their country of origin, criminal record, medical history or if they were considered morally unfit. A person who failed the test was deemed a prohibited immigrant and deported.

Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test were available to non-European Australian residents wishing to travel overseas temporarily, and to non-European visitors entering Australia temporarily for work, education or to visit family. The Dictation Test was abolished in 1958, signalling the end of the White Australia Policy. It was not until many years later that the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* was passed.

Despite the restrictive legislation, many non-European immigrants, including people from Asia, did enter or continue to reside in Australia during the period of the White Australia Policy. Records in the Archives' collection show how these people negotiated the restrictions imposed by the Act, the impact it had on their lives, changing community attitudes to the Act, and the negative impact this legislation had on Australia's relations with Asian neighbours. These records are useful for both understanding the Act and its impact on Australian social and political history, as well as for researching family history.

**SAHHA - CIAO - GOODBYE**