



THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

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Noel and Sue Radford parents of 19+1 Kids



Mirror By Nicola Agius

© Provided by Trinity Mirror Plc Credits: B&Q Britain's biggest family The Radfords are set to welcome a new addition to their brood - as mum Sue Radford is pregnant with her 20th child.

Sue - whose family have their own reality show, **19 Kids And Counting** - confirmed the happy news today by sharing a picture of a scan on social media.

She then shared a picture of a chalkboard revealing the latest arrival is due in September 2017.

She was immediately inundated with messages from friends and fans congratulating her and Noel for 'evening out' their number of offspring. "Wow congratulations to you all.. hats off to ya your amazing xx," said one admiring follower.

"Massive congratulations Sue Noel and your amazing brood! Hope all goes well xx," wrote another. It comes after the family opened up about their Christmas plans on This Morning in December 2016. Noel and Sue, from

Heysham, Lancashire, welcomed their 19th baby Phoebe in July last year.

They are also parents to Chris, 27, Sophie, 22, Chloe, 21, Jack, 19, Daniel, 17, Luke, 15, Millie, 14, Katie, 13, James, 12, Ellie, 11, Aimee, 10, Josh, 9, Max, 7, Tilly, 6, Oscar 4, Casper, 3 and toddler Hallie.

Provided by Trinity Mirror Plc Credits: Manchester Evening News Syndication However, Noel and Sue - who do not claim any extra state benefits aside from the regular child benefit - didn't have a table quite big enough for their Christmas dinner plans. Explaining ahead of the festive season how it will work, Noel said: "It's going to be like a conveyor belt. The plates will go down, people will eat then they're out again."

The couple bought three turkeys, 3.5 kilos of potatoes, 56 Yorkshire puddings and an endless

supply of vegetables to make sure everyone's tummy was filled on Christmas Day. When it comes to presents, Sue confessed she has to start her planning very early. The pair were childhood sweethearts. Sue got pregnant with their first child Chris at the age of just 14.

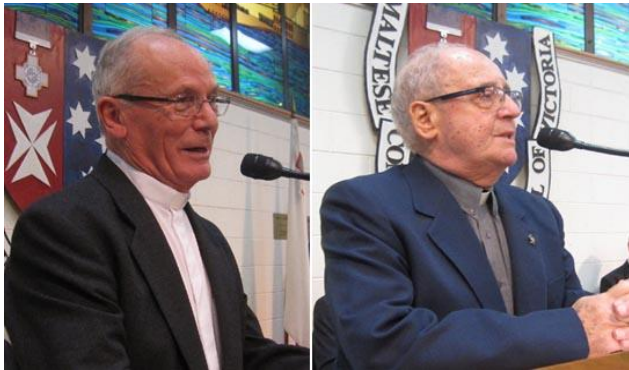
Now, she and Noel, who starred on **18 Kids and Counting** on Channel 4, also have three grandchildren. In addition, they also have a holiday abroad each year. Noel and Sue said their original plan was to have three children, but they loved the experience so much that they simply kept going



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Ad Multos Annos: 50 Sena



ta' Saċerdozju ta' Fr. Tarcisio Micallef

u Fr. Denis Carabott

Paul Vella (Melbourne)paul.vella44@gmail.com

Dan l-aħhar, żewġ Patrijiet tas-Sočjeta' Missjunarja ta' San Pawl f'Melbourne, iċċelebraw 50 sena ta' Saċerdozju. Dawn huma Fr Denis Carabott, mssp u Fr Tarcisio Micallef, mssp. Għal din l-okkażjoni, il-Kunsill Malti tal-Victoria organizzza Quddiesa fil-Kappella ta' San Pawl, f'Parkville u wara, riċeviment fis-sala taċ-Ċentru.

Il-Quddiesa kienet konċelebrata minn dawn iż-żewġ Patrijiet, flimkien ma' Fr Ivano Burdian (Provinċjal f'Parkville), Fr Edwin Agius, Fr Emmanuel Adami u s-Superjur Ġenerali tas-Sočjeta', Fr Mark Grima, mssp. Madwar 100 ruh attendew għal din il-Quddiesa. L-Omelija sabieha saret minn Fr Mark Grima.

Wara kulhadd telgħa fis-Sala taċ-Ċentru għal diskorsi u riċeviment.

Fost dawk preżenti kien hemm is-Sur Eddie Micallef, Chairperson tal-Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV); Fr Mark Grima, Superjur Ġenerali, MSSP; Fr Ivano Burdian, Provinċjal, Parkville, MSSP; Fr Edwin Agius, MSSP; Fr Emmanuel Adami, MSSP; Fr Frank Buhagiar, Kappillan, Parroċċa St Andrews, Werribee; il-Kanonku, Fr Emmanuel Bonello, Kappillan, Parroċċa San Ġużep Haddiem, North Reservoir; u Dun Karm Borg. Preżenti wkoll kien hemm ex-Presidenti tal-MCCV, Prof. Maurice Cauchi u s-Sinjura Edwidge Borg.

MC tal-lejla kien is-Sur Gorg Saliba. Is-Segretarju tal-MCCV, is-Sur Andrew Gatt, qara messagġ mill-Kummissarju Għoli għal Malta fl-Awstralja, l-Eċċellena Tiegħu is-Sur Charles Muscat.

Kelliem tal-lejla kien il-President tal-MCCV, is-Sur Victor Borg fejn tana ħafna tagħrif fuq iż-żewġ Patrijiet. L-ewwel tkellem fuq Fr Denis Carabott li qalilna li twieled f'Hal Għaxaq fit-3 ta' Mejju, 1942. Wara li spiċċa l-edukazzjoni sekondarja huwa għamel żmien apprentista fil-Malta Drydocks. Fl-1958 huwa ingħaqad mal-MSSP u ġie ordnat Saċerdot mill-Isqof Mikiel Gonzi fil-11 ta' Marzu, 1967. Fl-1970 Fr Denis wasal fl-Awstralja u serva ma' Fr Pius Zammit.



Huwa kien jieħu ħsieb il-Maltin tas-Southern Suburbs. Bejn l-1980-89 kien Kappillan North Sunshine u bena l-community centre. Fl-1981 mar Ruma fejn studja t-Teoloġija. 1991 mar il-Peru u fl-1999 irritorna f'Parkville fejn f'2003 mar lura North Sunshine bħala Viċi Kappillan fejn għadu hemm sal-lum.

Il-President Victor Borg imbagħad tkellem fuq Fr Tarcisio Micallef li qalilna li twieled f'Birkirkara. Wara li kien ħadem ma' John Batta Delia tal-ġhamara huwa ħass il-vokazzjoni u dahal mall-MSSP fejn wara seba' snin studju huwa ġie ordnat Saċerdot mill-Isqof Mikiel Gonzi. Huwa kien l-ewwel wieħed li mar fid-Dar il-ġdida ta' Żebbuġ, Għawdex, fl-1973 għaliex kienu trasferaw in-Novizjat f'din id-dar. Minn hemm ġie trasferit bħala Direttur tal-Istitut ta' San Ġużwpp, Santa Venera (1976).

Is-Superjur kien qallu biex imur l-Awstralja biex ikun wieħed minn dawk li jifih l-Missjoni l-ġdida fl-Indoneżja, imma din qatt ma rnexxiet minħabba l-problema tal-Viża. Huwa baqa' l-Awstralja u wara li wasal Melbourne fejn għamel sena u nofs f'Wantirna, huwa ġie trasferit għal għall-Parroċċa ta' St Joachim, Lidcombe, Perth.

Fl-1982 lahaq il-Vigarju tal-Missjoni tal-Awstralja u allura kellu jinzel Melbourne, pozzizzjoni li żamm għal disa' snin sa 1991. Fl-1994 reġa ġie elett għal din il-pożizzjoni sal-1997. Imbagħad fl-1998 ġie trasferit għal Sydney fid-dar li kienu waqqgħu u bnew mill-ġdid. Huwa għadu hemm sal-lum, 19-il sena.

Wara d-diskors tas-Sur Victor Borg, tkellmu Fr Tarcisio Micallef u Fr Denis Carabott fejn indirizzaw lil dawk preżenti u komplew jagħtun aktar tagħrif fuq il-hidma Pastoral tagħhom.

Fit-tmiem tad-diskorsi, il-President, Victor Borg, għamel preżentazzjoni f'isem l-MCCV lil Fr Tarcisio Micallef, filwaqt li l-Viċi President tal-MCCV, is-Sur Edwin Borg-Manche' għamel preżentazzjoni lil Fr Denis Carabott.

Il-President u s-Segretarju tar-Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group ukoll għamlu preżentazzjoni lil Fr Tarcisio u Fr Denis f'isem il-membri tal-Grupp.

Wara dan kulhadd ha parti f'riċeviment fejn kien hemm ikel u xorb.

Irrid insemmi wkoll li s-Sibt ta' wara, 25 ta' Marzu, ġiet iċċelebrata Quddiesa oħra u riċeviment fil-Parroċċa ta' St. Bernadette, North Sunshine, fejn numru kbir attendew.



THREE ANZACS FROM MALTA A TRUE STORY OF FRIENDSHIP, LOVE AND LOSS

By Dr. Gioconda Schembri

'Three Anzacs from Malta' tells the story of three young men, Charles, Waldemar and Anthony, who, in their early twenties, leave behind all they hold dear to pursue their dreams for a bigger and brighter future in a faraway land. Educated, charming, and adventurous, they soon settle in their adoptive home, securing steady jobs, forging new friendships, and finding love.

But their carefree days end abruptly when the sombre clouds of a global war darken their world. What unfolds is one of the deadliest conflicts humankind had ever seen, one that would destroy a whole generation of youth. From the tiny Mediterranean island of Malta to the vast Australian continent, and from the unforgiving slopes of Gallipoli, all the way to the muddy trenches in Flanders, 'Three Anzacs from Malta' follows these young men as they carve out their

destinies amidst unprecedented bloodshed and suffering. This is a timeless story about migration, the heartache of separated families, loss and war.

But this book is mainly a tribute to the tenacity of the human spirit in the face of enormous adversity, as well as a celebration of the virtues that transcend borders and time: courage, friendship and love. The book also includes various photos, extracts from letters and a war diary.

Where to purchase the book - Print book & ebook (for kindle):

https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=three+anzacs+from+malta

Also available at [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk), [amazon.it](https://www.amazon.it), [amazon.es](https://www.amazon.es)

Ebook (for tablet)

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/search?query=three+anzacs+from+malta>

About the author - Gioconda Schembri



Gioconda S. Schembri née Mifsud was born in Malta. After graduating as a Doctor of Laws from the University of Malta, she joined the public service and served for three years at the Malta High Commission in Canberra as First Secretary, as well as Acting High Commissioner for several months. Gioconda migrated to Australia in 2002, where she has worked with the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, the Australian public service, the Consulate of Malta, and as a freelance translator of the Maltese language. Her interests

are varied and include history, theatre, music, literature, international politics, travel, and crafts. She lives in Melbourne with her husband, Darren, and son, Thomas.

We invite all those who are interested in the study of Maltese history, heritage and culture to contribute to this Newsletter. If you would like to contribute an article, photographs or other relevant content, please contact us on honconsul@live.com.au. You will receive full credit and our appreciation for your work

Your contribution will be preserved for future generations



Għid it-Tajjeb

L-Għid it-tajjeb nixteqilkom
Minn qiegh qalbi f'dawn il-jiem;
Jalla bil-Qawmien ta' Kristu
Qalbkom tfur bl-hena u s-sliem.

Kristu bata, miet w irxoxta
Sabiex jifdi lil kulhadd
Issa jmiss il-parti tagħna –
Li ma niċhduh qatt u qatt!

Kristu ssallab fuq injama
Fost żebliħ, swat u tbatija
Twieled f'għar gheri u fqajjar
Biex jifdina minn kull ħtija.

Fit-tlett snin li dam itterraq
Mat-treqat tal-Palestina,
Smajt lill-folol ta' spiss jgħidu:
'Dan il-bniedem biss jaħjina!'

Għaliex Kristu l-Bniedem Alla
Kien ifejjaq lil kulhadd –
Għalih mhemmx razez, fruntieri,
Qatt ma ħares lejn wiċċ ħadd.

Kristu Rxoxt hu l-Missier twajjeb
Mis-salib fetah idejh
Għaliex ried meta jitgħolla
Lilna jigbed il-koll lejha.

U għalhekk f'dan l-Għid Imqaddes
Nitolbuk Mulej Ġesu'
Irxuxtana mill-mewt tagħna
Imla 'l qalbna b'kull virtu'.

Lill-Maltin u 'l-Għawdxin kollha
Imla 'l qalbhom b'ferħ ġenwin
Li Ġesu' bil-qawmien tiegħu
Fedat lilna l-bnedmin!

Kav Joe M Attard Victoria Ghawdex

DRAWWIET U MEMORJI TAL- GHID TAL-IMGHODDI

“Dak iż-żmien konna nagħtu ħafna importanza l-purċissjonijiet tad-Duluri u tal-Ġimgħa l-Kbira. Kien għad kelli xi ħames snin meta konna noqgħodu Bormla, u niftakar kif dakinhar tal-Għid, kienu joħroġu bl-Irxox, u t-tfal kienu kollha joħroġu bil-figolla tagħhom biex iberikielhom il-qassis. Illum it-tberik tal-figolli għadhom jagħmluha f'xi rħula, imma dak iż-żmien kulhadd kien joħroġ bil-figolla quddiem l-Irxox. Għadni niftakarhom jiġru bl-Irxox matul it-triq kollha, u kien ikun hemm briju kbir, speċjalment miż-żgħażaġh..

Imbagħad f'nofsinhar il-familja kienet tingabar għall-ikel. Dak iż-żmien għall-ikla tal-Għid in-nies kienet tħobb issajjar xi ħaruf jew xi ħasi. Imma l-ħaruf tal-Għid kien iktar popolari. Konna nagħmlu dixx bil-ħaruf u ieħor bil-patata u nieħduh għand il-furnar, għax dak iż-żmien ħafna nies ma kellhomx forn fid-dar. Il-furnar kien iżommilna xi tliet sold, skont il-kobor tad-dixx. Wieħed irid jiftakar li dak iż-żmien kulhadd kien isum matul ir-Randan kollu, u ħafna nies kienu joqogħdu biss b'loqma ħobz u naqra ilma. Seba' bukkuni kienu jgħidulha. Kien hemm ukoll min kien saħansitra joħroġ jittallabha dik il-loqma ħobz! Kienu jieklu forsi ikla waħda fil-ġurnata, imma mill-bqija, speċjalment nhar ta' Ġimgħa, ħobz u ilma biss kienu jieħdu. Għalhekk li l-Għid, meta jasal, kien jintlaqa' b'daqstant briju!” **Paulina Agius neè Bonello -BIRZEBBUGIA**



MaltaPost new stamp issue depicting Balcony Corbels

On Thursday, MaltaPost will issue a set of three stamps depicting balcony corbels known as 'saljaturi.' This set is the second in the series "Balcony Corbels" following the one issued in 2016.

Balconies have had a very important role in defining the character of the Maltese urban landscape, especially through their profusion of colours and decoration. They vary in size and style with the oldest balconies being open and made of stone. The most popular balcony is the wooden one, which is usually closed and includes glass panes.

The stamps bear a face value of €0.51, €1.32 and €1.55. They were produced by Printex Ltd by the offset process and the issue consists of 130,000 of the €0.51 stamp, 60,000 of the €1.32, and 40,000 of the €1.55 denomination.

The issue will be in sheets of 10 stamps and each stamp measures 31mm by 34mm with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb) bearing the Maltese Crosses watermark. Each sheet measures 185mm by 118mm. Cedric Galea Pirotta designed the set.

The stamps will be available as from Thursday, the 30th of March, from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo. Orders may be placed online at maltaphilately.com or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Triq Hal Qormi, Marsa, MTP 1001; Telephone: 2596 1740, e-mail: info@maltaphilately.com.



VALLETTA GREEN FESTIVAL

25/04/2017 - 30/04/2017

This highly-anticipated three-day event transforms one of the largest open spaces in Valletta, Pjazza San Ġorġ, through the introduction of an 'infiorata' – a floral carpet composed of some 80,000 seasonal flowering plants. Throughout the Valletta Green Festival, a varied programme of events will also explore the theme of environmental sustainability from multiple angles, with educational workshops, information sessions, and music and entertainment events taking

place around Pjazza San Ġorġ and other venues within the capital.

Venue St George's Square – VALLETTA, MALTA

Email: valletta.lc@gov.mt Website: <http://www.cityofvalletta.org> Email: info@valletta2018.org



ANZAC CENTENARY 1914-18 2014-18:

Malta – The Nurse of the Mediterranean

As the First World War spread across Europe to Turkey and Salonika, new medical facilities were needed to treat the Western Powers battle casualties from these two new campaigns. It was not just the wounded that needed treating, harsh climatic and living conditions meant that disease, particularly dysentery and malaria, was rife and within a short period of time thousands of men required urgent care. As with the Crimean War before, the island of Malta thus became a key medical centre and earned its nickname as the **'Nurse of the Mediterranean'**.



Badly wounded from **Gallipoli** started to arrive in Malta by May 1915, and by the end of the campaign some 58,000 troops from the Dardanelles had been treated within the Maltese hospitals. At its peak in January 1916 there were **twenty-seven hospitals** on the island with some 25,000 beds. The Valletta Station Hospital served as a sorting base for the wounded arriving in the hospital ships prior to their being transferred to the other hospitals and camps scattered over the Islands. The Valletta Hospital itself was reserved for dangerously ill cases that could not be safely moved. The principal hospitals and camps used were the commissioned Naval and Military hospitals at Bighi Naval Hospital, Valletta

Hospital, Cottonera Hospital, Forrest Hospital, Mtarfa Hospital and Chambray Convalescent Depot. The highest number of patients treated in one day was 21,000. From the **Salonika** campaign some 78,000 sick and wounded were treated, though admissions into Maltese hospitals declined after April 1917 after a number of hospital ships were sunk by German submarines and it was deemed too dangerous to transport the sick and wounded to the island. Many of the hospitals were therefore closed and transferred to new facilities in Greece.



Convalescing facilities were also built for the recuperation of the sick and wounded. In May, 1915 tea rooms were set up in Sliema to provide rest and refreshment for the sick and wounded soldiers. The tea rooms were manned by a band of local volunteers and

hosted weekly concerts. They proved popular with the soldiers and during the course of the war around 50,000 men were served. In October a Gymnasium in Valletta was converted, equipped with a library, bar, a billiard table and a fully equipped stage and over 80,000 men passed through its doors. Around this time **Australia Hall** (photograph above) was built by the Australian Red Cross, a combined recreation centre and theatre providing entertainment for wounded soldiers of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. There are about 300 Anzacs that are buried on the island, predominately in the three main cemeteries at Pieta, Kalkara and Paolo, including **six men from the 22nd Battalion**: 582 Pte Chenery; 732 Pte Crowther; 308 L-Cpl Looker; 1223 L-Cpl Fricker; 1944 Pte Parker; 1623 Pte Thomson. All are buried in the **Pieta Military Cemetery**. Published as 'news' 100 years on to the day, follow the 22nd Battalion on the project website <https://anzac-22nd-battalion.com/hospitals-malta/>



THE MYSTERIOUS HYPOGEUM OF PAOLA - FACTS OR FICTION

This photo of the Hypogeum was taken around the time that a rumour about missing children started making the rounds. The story was even recorded in National Geographic magazine in 1940. Photo taken in the mid-1930s by Geo Fürst

Children 'disappeared' in the maze below

Years ago, one could walk underground from one end of Malta to the other, however all entrances have been closed by the government because of a tragedy. Or so National Geographic magazine wanted its readers to believe in a 1940 article.

According to the author, a group of elementary schoolchildren vanished while on a visit to the tunnelled maze of the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum. For several weeks, people heard "wailing and screaming" wafting up from underground, but despite numerous excavations and searches, the children were given up for dead. Heritage Malta's Senior Curator of Prehistoric Sites, Katya Stroud, believes this myth – similar to ones tied to the Rabat St Paul's Catacombs – was made up to keep adventurous children away from such sites where they could easily get hurt.



There have not been any discoveries of a collapse on site, nor have there been any printed records of the incident.

Aliens in Paola? The people buried in the Hypogeum were not extra-terrestrials – they just happened to have long heads due to their long skulls, one of the three main types of skull.

This can be traced back to Sir Themistocles Zammit's first report about the Hypogeum in 1910.

Apart from skeletal fragments found there, the site in fact yielded the remains of some 10 skulls. Since Sir Zammit was a doctor, he recorded their measurements.

But this came at a time when there was an ongoing phrenology debate linking different skull sizes to different ethnicities.

Of the three main shapes of skulls, those at the Hypogeum were of the long-headed type. But as the years rolled by, people interpreted this to mean that the skulls were "elongated".

For some time, these were linked to what is known as "snake" or "serpent" priests, while in the 1980s, some said that those buried at the cemetery were aliens. To their disappointment, those who actually saw the skulls on display (they were still exhibited at the National Museum of Archaeology in the 1980s), realised that the skulls were, in fact, not elongated.



7,000 skeletons? It is a common belief that 7,000 people were found buried on site when the Hypogeum was being excavated. Again, this idea can be traced back to Sir Zammit's writings. However, Sir Zammit's was clearly an estimate of how many people could be buried at the cemetery over the succession of many centuries. Sir Zammit had found fragments of some 100 people in one particular area, and he calculated the 7,000 figure according to the size of the site.



How Holy Week and Easter are celebrated in Malta

Nearly every town and village took part in the Masses, ceremonies and processions organised during Holy Week. There is so much happening from sacred exhibitions, to concerts, religious displays and quiet processions with a full array of costumes and symbolism.

The Holy Week activities begins on Friday 7th when a statue of Our Lady of Sorrows, known in Maltese as *Id-Duluri*, is carried with great devotion throughout the many towns and villages. The community participation was widespread: locals of all ages sang hymns and prayed along the way. On this day, many people also remembered Our Lady's sorrow by fasting on bread and water, and some walked barefoot behind the statue.

At the beginning of Holy Week, bakers prepared delicious breads with sesame seeds and almonds, called the "Apostles' loaves", to recall the meal served to the apostles at the Last Supper. For the Maltese, the commemoration of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday (13 April) included the popular tradition of holy exhibition tables.

Tables are arranged with plates of rice, grains, olives, dates and nuts in eye-catching designs to celebrate the Last Supper. Much of this food was later distributed to poor families in the parishes. In the evening the 'seven visits' took place, which

are the visits to seven different churches, to pay homage to the Altars of Repose. Temporary steps were placed in front of the altars; they were covered in red damask carpets with elaborate side curtains to match. Special flowers, such as anthuriums, roses and posies, decorated the tabernacle, and 12 large candlesticks, which represent the apostles, were placed on the steps. By far, the most memorable of all the activities in Malta during Holy Week were the

Good Friday processions. An impressive group of statues depicting scenes from the passion of Christ were carried in procession through the towns. These life-size statues are made of either wood or papier-mâché and dressed in rich velvet clothes with real capes and swords. The statues are mounted on platforms elaborately decorated with flowers, olive branches and lights. Local participants dressed in biblical costumes and brought the important characters from the Old and New Testament to life. Children carried banners and tablets with religious quotes. There were also Roman legionnaires carrying spears and shields, these were announcing themselves with trumpets and drums while Roman soldiers in full armor and helmets rode on horseback followed by hooded penitents who carried heavy wooden crosses; other penitents dragged long chains behind them. Accompanying the processions were local bands playing traditional marches and giving the entire scene an almost cinematic feel.

Finally on Easter Day the Statue of the Risen Christ was carried out dancing in the village street accompanied by church bells and fireworks. After listening to Holy Mass families and friends gathered together to feast over a great lunch after which children exchanged *Figolli* (almond cakes) and Easter eggs





EASTER TRADITION

Blessing of homes

IT-TBERIK

The post-Easter period is mainly characterised by the blessings of homes. In every Maltese and Gozitan town and village various priests are visiting families to meet and bless them and their houses. Such an occasion is a good starting point for the priest to get to know better the people who reside at his parish.

Obviously there are different ways of doing house blessings. Some prefer to bless families street by street in a limited span of time, say two months. Others prefer to prolong the blessings over a year. Irrespective of the manner it is done, house blessing is still relevant for sound pastoral work. In a certain sense, it is an experience of casting down the nets. And the catch one gets is indeed surprising at times. In fact, sometimes places where one thinks he will be less received turn out to be the places where one is welcomed with an open heart. The contrary is also possible.

The secret of it all is the courage to go and meet the people where they are at. Priests have to realise that it is Jesus Christ who in our person goes and meets his people to draw them back to his heart, to encourage them to keep going to enter the narrow gate, to support them to do God's will in their lives, no matter how hard it is.

Consolidated by a listening ear as well as a warming presence, the blessed water is

capable of imparting the healing a wounded heart desperately needs. My pastoral experience informs me that a simple prayer and a blessing is all that is needed in complex situations where there seems to be no solution to them. Our Loving God cares for his people simply by accompanying them in all the hardships they face.

Fr Mario Attard OFM Cap.

Employers' association elects first female president

Dolores Sammut Bonnici, managing director and co-proprietor of the Green Skip Services Ltd and G.S.Rec. Ltd, has been appointed as the new president for the Malta Employers' Association



Dolores Sammut Bonnici
The Malta Employers Association has elected its first female president, Dolores Sammut Bonnici.

Sammut Bonnici takes over the reins from Arthur Muscat.

Sammut Bonnici is an entrepreneur and managing director and co-proprietor of the Green Skip Services Ltd and G.S.Rec. Ltd, dealing in industrial waste management.

She has served on the MEA council for a number of years, and previous to being appointed President, was also Deputy President of the MEA during the past four years.

Sammut Bonnici is the outgoing President of Malta Association of Women in Business, which aims to promote of female entrepreneurship, enhancement of business education, mentoring and business networking. As President of MAWB she has actively participated in two European projects, namely AMIE and Breaking Gender Stereo Types, Give Talent A Chance.

Additionally, Sammut Bonnici sits on the Enterprise Consultative Council, and is a member of the Malta Association of Family Enterprise and of the Foundation of Human Resources Development.



Isle of MTV at the Floriana Granaries on 27 June 2017

A press statement issued by the Malta Tourism Authority states that for the eleventh successive year, the Isle of MTV Malta special will be taking place on 27 June at The Granaries in Floriana, contradicting media reports which appeared in sections of the press. "Over the past few years, tens of thousands of tourists and Maltese have

attended this spectacular concert, which has now placed itself firmly on the international events calendar. Such an important event aids in promoting and increasing Malta's stature as a tourism destination."

"The Isle of MTV concert takes place on a yearly basis and is open to the public free of charge, with a line up of top international artists which always attracts an impressive crowd. The Isle of MTV concert is the pinnacle of a week-long celebration of live music events in various locations." "This event is of huge benefit to the Maltese Islands as the show is shown repeatedly on the MTV channel in around 20 different European countries."



Ancient instruments, reinvented

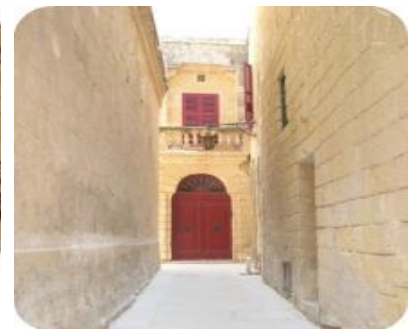
The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra is organising a concert named Instruments of Innovation, yet it will be showcasing two instruments with ancient histories: the trumpet and the harpsichord. John Cordina explains why.

Musical instruments have an ancient history; the oldest-known flutes are over 30,000 years old, and odds are humans used objects as

makeshift drums even earlier. In time, new ways of making sounds - and new sounds at that - started to be discovered.

Trumpets, the first brass instruments - which are defined by the way sound is produced, through vibration of the lips, and not the material they are made of, are known to have existed for over 3,500 yearsAd Two trumpets were found in the burial chamber of Tutankhamun, who died in 1323BC, and they remain operational: they were played a BBC broadcast in 1939. The instrument is also mentioned several times in the Bible. However, the trumpet as we know it today - a staple of orchestras, brass bands and jazz ensembles alike - has a much shorter history.

Why is living in Malta permanently so alluring to visitors?



The dream of living in Malta is a recurring one for many visitors, after they had spent their holidays in Malta and gone back to their home country.

In fact, many confess that if they could, they would hop on the first plane back to the Maltese islands in an instant. Many foreigners are choosing Malta as their retirement destination. If you'd like to find out why Malta is such an attractive retirement spot.

So what's living in Malta really like? Imagine a tiny captivating island positioned strategically at the heart of the Mediterranean, just a few hours away (by plane) from most European countries. Served by most major airlines, **low cost airlines** were also introduced recently, which make flights to Malta even more affordable. Whats more, the island of Malta is under an hour away from Tunisia and Libya, making it an excellent bridge to North Africa. In addition, this charming little island has a warm almost all year round climate.

Concerned about language barriers? No need to be. The official language of the Maltese islands is Maltese. However, **English is the second language** and virtually everyone speaks it on the island. Italian is also widely spoken.

And let's not forget **safety**. Malta has been voted time and again as an incredibly safe country with a very low crime rate. Couple that with a **laid back Mediterranean lifestyle** and the awesome Malta weather and it's very easy to see why so many visitors have the recurring dream of living in Malta permanently.

In fact, over the past few years, the Malta real estate industry has witnessed a huge increase in interest in Maltese property from visitors all across the globe, after they spend their holidays in Malta.

Another important factor that people look for when thinking of relocating to another country are the medical services that the country offers. Malta boasts **excellent medical services**, state hospitals and countless private clinics and hospitals. One of the state hospitals, namely **Mater Dei Hospital**, has been opened recently and possesses state of the art equipment and medical technology.

In addition to hospitals, health centres and clinics, Malta and Gozo are also well equipped with various pharmacies that are located in each town or village. If you're currently thinking of relocating to Malta, you're probably also thinking what the **cost of living** is like. For more information on costs and prices of items, visit our Cost of Living in Malta page. Foreigners wanting to **work in Malta** have to apply for a work permit. If you'd like more information on conditions of employment in Malta and what's required to apply for a work permit. As regards to **Malta's education system**, it's very similar to that in the UK.

If you have kids and want to know more about education in Malta and Gozo, visit our Malta Education System and Schools page for valuable information on the system as well as lists of the different schools available. As you can see, there are many advantages that come with living in Malta and the ever welcoming Maltese people will help you adjust to the transition in no time!

FOREIGN MINISTER INVESTED WITH ONORIFICENZA DI CAVALLIERE DI GRAN CROCE DELL'ORDINE DI SANT'AGATA



Friday, 31 March 2017,

Minister for Foreign Affairs George W. Vella is on an official two-day visit in San Marino. The Minister arrived in San Marino this morning.

This afternoon, Minister Vella delivered a speech at a seminar discussing "*L'Integrazione nel Single Market dei Paesi Terzi Europei: Il particolare caso dell'associazione alla UE degli stati di ridotte dimensioni*" (The Integration in the Internal Market and the Challenges to be faced by the

Small States of Europe).

Later on, during a ceremony held at the Palazzo Pubblico, the official government building, the Minister for Foreign Affairs was also invested with the Onorificenza di Cavaliere di Gran Croce dell'Ordine Equestre di Sant'Agata. This honour is bestowed by the Government of San Marino to foreign dignitaries whose work and achievements enjoy particular appreciation.

The primary messages delivered by Minister Vella during the various official interventions were that of enhanced bilateral engagement with San Marino, as well as support to the ongoing negotiations on an association agreement between the country and the European Union.

Tomorrow, Minister Vella will deliver a keynote address during the investiture ceremony of the incoming Capitani Regenti of San Marino (Captains Regent) to which Minister Vella has been invited as the guest of honour. The Captains Regent are the two heads of state of San Marino elected by the Grand and General Council, the country's parliament, every six months. The ceremony of investiture traces its origins back to the thirteenth century.

Minister Vella will then hold official bilateral talks with Nicola Renzi, during which topics of common interest for both countries will be discussed.

Troy Cassar-Daley – An ABORIGINAL OF MALTESE FATHER



Discussing his childhood, Cassar-Daley told Radio National that music was an escape for him. Growing up with a Maltese Australian father who lived in Sydney city and an Aboriginal mother in Grafton, music helped him make sense of living in two different worlds. "I had some dysfunction in my family, living between Mum and Dad. I found that a hard tightrope to walk for a while." **By** Ryan Liddle **Source:** The Point 2016

The child of a Maltese father and Aboriginal mother, Troy was born in the inner city Sydney suburb of Surry Hills on May 18, 1969. He spent his early years there, becoming a fan of the South-Sydney Rabbitohs in the process. before relocating with his mother to Grafton in northern New South Wales.

Troy credits his love affair with music to both his mum and his dad. At the age of 11, he made his very first trip to Tamworth, the home of Country Music.



This trip would further fuel Troy's passion for music, and the very next year he returned as a performer, busking on what's dubbed 'The Boulevard of Dreams' - Tamworth's Peel Street. By 16 he had formed his own band, Little Eagle.

Troy moved to the home of the Golden Guitar in 1990, and shortly after this is named as a finalist in The Tamworth Star Maker competition.

At 21, Troy catches the eye of legendary country singer,

Brian Young, who invites him to take part in a 9-month tour around Australia that takes in some of the most remote towns and communities across the nation.

Upon his return Troy takes over the reins as lead singer of The Blue Heeler Band, formerly headed by artist, James Blundell.

It was in 1994 that he made his major breakthrough with his debut solo single, 'Dream out Loud' climbing to number one on the Australian music charts.

The following album, 'Beyond The Dancing' would net Troy his very first Golden Guitar and Aria.

A further three Golden Guitars would follow in 1999 with 'True Believer', and within just a few years Cassar-Daley would cement himself as a household name.

As Troy's success grew, he performed both on stage and in the studio, with industry stalwarts such as Slim Dusty, Leigh Kernighan, Jimmy Barnes, Gina Jeffrey's and Kasey Chambers.

Troy joined Channel 7's popular singing show, 'It takes two' in 2006.

In 2010, the Cassar-Daley family, consisting of Troy, his wife, Laurel Edwards, and two kids, Clem and Jem, leave Australia for the 'Country Music Capital of the World', Nashville Tennessee.

After returning to Australia he joined with country star Adam Harvey, and together they performed covers of well-known classics, in the 2014 album, 'The Great Country Songbook.'

They started their tour with a massive show at Sydney's iconic Opera House.

Honouring the efforts of Indigenous Civil Rights activist, Charles Perkins, Cassar-Daley, with the help of Australian music royalty, singer, Paul Kelly, wrote the album 'Freedom Ride' in 2015.

Despite songs of a political nature seldom appearing in Country Music, 'Freedom Ride' scored Cassar-Daley a whopping six Golden Guitars at the 2016 Country Music Awards.

To date Troy has won 32 Golden Guitars, 4 Arias, 2 APRA Country Song of the Year awards, 9 Deadly Awards, 4 CMAA awards, 1990 Tamworth Star Maker Award, and sold over 450,000 albums - including gold and platinum records.

Dr. Christopher Agius Chiropractor, Parramatta NSW - Chris has a Bachelor of Chiropractic Science and Masters of Chiropractic degree, both from Macquarie University. He has keen interest in sport and sporting injuries and has worked closely with the Sydney Bulls Rugby League Club and Sydney Olympic Football Club over many years. Chris also has a love of teaching, continuing in an academic role at Macquarie University for the past ten years. He both lectures and tutors at an undergraduate and postgraduates level in a variety of subjects. Chris believes this helps him in practise as he can clearly describe conditions and is up to date with the most current research and evidence based medicine. Previous to Chiropractic Chris was a qualified massage therapist and practiced while studying at university. This helped pave the way to Chris' treatment protocol including a strong emphasis on soft tissue



therapy, stretching, muscular rehab, and of course chiropractic adjustments and mobilisation. Chris has also had an interest in acupuncture, and completed multiple Dry Needling courses which he incorporates into his treatments where necessary

Dr. Stephen Agius Chiropractor, Kogarah NSW - Dr Stephen Agius has had over 15 years clinical experience since his graduation from Macquarie university with a Bachelor of Science majoring in Anatomy and Physiology, as well as a Master of Chiropractic. Stephen's keen interest in sport saw him also add an International Chiropractic Sports Science Diploma (ICSSD) to his impressive skill set. In addition to his clinical work, Stephen has also worked extensively with a number of elite sporting teams including:



- The St George Dragons Rugby League Club
- The Sydney Bulls Rugby League Club
- Sydney Olympic Soccer Club and
- Eastern Suburbs Soccer.

Having worked with so many professional athletes Stephen's has a thorough understanding as well as a keen interest in the treatment and management of all sporting injuries. Stephen's other areas of interest include the management of headaches, treatment of sciatica and of bulging discs. He believes in a holistic approach to health and aims to keep all of his patients pain-free and active. He endeavours to empower his patients by ensuring each and every one is educated on their condition and aware of how to manage it. Dr Stephen Agius is very passionate about the importance of maintaining a healthy functioning spine. Stephen is also a member of the **Chiropractors Association of Australia**, The Chiropractic and Osteopathic College of Australia and the International Federation of Sports Chiropractic.

1,516 divorces obtained in first four years - Joanna Demarco Saturday, 1 April 2017, A total of 1,516



divorces were obtained from Malta between the introduction of divorce in 2011 and the end of 2015, according to a report by the National Statistics Office (NSO). The law came into effect on the 1st of October 2011, following which 42 divorces were obtained between that date and the end of the year. In 2012, the first year following the legalization, a 441 divorces were obtained, the highest number of divorces per annum recorded in the past four years



The Original Maltese Pastizzi Co.

Anthony's Pastizzi is a family run business established in 1984 that has grown to be one of the largest hand made Pastizzi manufacturers in Melbourne.

With 13 Pastizzi varieties to choose from, where we use only fresh ingredients and no preservatives, these traditionally made pastries are sure to tempt your taste buds.

We also make 3 varieties of Maltese Ravioli, Maltese sweets and other Maltese delicacies. Forget the rest and try the best - Choose Anthony's Pastizzi – you'll be impressed! We also can deliver our products to your door in our refrigerated vehicles just open the order form window and leave your details and I will SMS a day and time you will receive your order.

Contact Us Postal Address

ANTHONY'S PASTIZZI

Number 1 Shop 4 Pascoe Street, Pascoe Vale, VICTORIA 3044

3 doors from 7/11 Phone: 03 9306 3354

Email: anthonypastizzi@optusnet.com.au Call Anthony Direct: 0412 456 985

Products

PASTIZZI - Ricotta, Spinach & Ricotta, Fetta Cheese, Spinach & Fetta, Peas & Meat, Beef, Pizza, Bacon & Ricotta, Chicken & Corn, Ham & Cheese, **Vegetarian**, Plain Peas and Apple

MALTESE RAVIOLI - Ricotta Spinach & Ricotta Beef

OTHER PRODUCTS (THESE ITEMS MUST BE ORDERD IN) Maltese Sausage, Maltese Black Pudding, Pepper Cheese

MALTESE SWEETS Date Slices

Valletta 2018 and Marsovin launch limited edition commemorative wine

The Valletta 2018 Foundation and Marsovin Winery have launched the first edition of the Valletta 2018 commemorative wine, at Blitz Gallery.



Jeremy Cassar (left) with V18 chairman Jason Micallef

The creation of this wine collection followed suit after the Foundation partnered up with Marsovin to produce a series of three wine private labels to commemorate the historic title of Valletta as European

Capital of Culture. Two of these wines will be released this year and the third in 2018. This initiative also paved the way to a strategic partnership between these two entities which would see Marsovin and



its wine brands as the official winery supporting and representing the walk towards our capital being crowned European Capital of Culture. The mark of this collaboration has seen its inception through the recent, La Valette wine rebrand of which labels bear the claim 'Official Wine Valletta 2018 – European Capital of Culture'. Valletta 2018 Foundation Chairman Jason Micallef said: "The art of viticulture and winemaking mastered by local craftsmen under the Marsovin brand has evolved over the years to one of excellence. Valletta 2018 is proud to have embarked on this journey with Marsovin whose philosophy reflects the Foundation's mission statement of stimulating cultural, social and economic regeneration through innovative practice". The label design is inspired by two elements ever present in our Capital, the typical Maltese balcony and the stone carvings which adorn the walls of St. John's Co-Cathedral.

The wine will be made available for sale in all leading outlets and from the Marsovin Cellars. For more info kindly contact tel: 23662401 / 23662445 or email cellars@marsovinwinery.com



IS-SUQ TAL-BELT

THE VALLETTA MARKET

Is-Suq tal-Belt, or the indoor market, was built in 1860s under British rule. Although a few businesses still operate within the market, it has for the most part been neglected over the years. The regeneration of the old market, located in the heart of Merchants Street, is long overdue. This overlooked gem deserves

to be restored to its former glory – a central hub of activity.

The process of evaluation of ideas and proposals for the regeneration of the market is at an advanced stage. The regeneration takes into account the historical character of the site, so as to respect Valletta's credentials as a World Heritage Site and as a future European Capital of Culture.

The project will take place in public private partnership and will lead to economic, social and urban regeneration. The design, composed of wrought iron of which the inner part of the building is constructed, will serve as inspiration for the future works on the place, including restoration works on the building and its facade.

Work on the project is expected to start in the second half of 2014 and is to be completed by 2017. The estimated investment will amount to around €8 million and will lead to the creation of 140 jobs once complete. The project aims to boost social, economic and cultural activity in Valletta as well as its surroundings. The restored market will not only simply sell fruit and vegetables, as is currently being done. Several food stalls and a lounge area will also be installed. 15% of the building will be retained for cultural activity.

- See more at: <http://valletta2018.org/infrastructure-projects/the-regeneration-and-conservation-of-the-covered-market-is-suq-tal-belt/#sthash.egQzuihl.dpuf> *Is-Suq tal-Belt*, or the indoor market, was built in 1860s under British rule. Although a few businesses still operate within the market, it has for the most part been neglected over the years. The regeneration of the old market, located in the heart of Merchants Street, is long overdue. This overlooked gem deserves to be restored to its former glory – a central hub of activity.



Mons Alfred Vella
CONVENTION 2015 – MALTA
Director of 'Malta Emigrants' Commission'

Emigration: ties between the past and the present

Migration is not today's phenomenon but since the creation of human beings.

The phenomenon of Emigration has been with us since the very first appearance of human beings on earth. On our Island, the pre-historical site Għar Dalam is proof enough of all this. This historical site is a show case of remains much make us understand and instigate us to study this phenomenon. It is not only local but worldwide phenomenon. Emigration served its very purpose to make peoples mix and find ways and means to live with each other. In this way emigrants influenced and left their impact on locals and new settlements emerged. All this was not that easy, and emigration was always a high risk adventure.

In the course of human experience, countless were the occasions where famine and natural calamities led to situations where people, sometimes in their masses, had to seek shelter and a new living elsewhere in their own land or in other countries.

On other occasions, people have to flee because of tensions between culturally and ethnically diverse groups or between the rights of the individual and the power of the State, civil conflicts, wars, persecutions and expulsions.

In this study we are going to analyse all this phenomena, its impact and historical value. We are going to apply all this to our local situation.

Classic examples of such experiences are deeply rooted in the collective memory of every people and are also found in the Bible. For instance, Joseph's brothers had to go down into Egypt, driven by a devastating famine.

In ancient times, people had to travel from one place to another on foot aided by animal-drawn carts, or on makeshift boats. When improvements in transportation facilities started to make it easier for people to move from one place to another, more and more people started moving.

The arrival of passenger ships and planes opened the door to a widespread migration phenomenon which practically involves all nations, either as countries of departure, of transit or of arrival.

Millions of men, women and children, young and old alike, continue to face the drama of emigration to seek work and a better standard of living for themselves and their families, if not to survive.

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Maltese migration

Among these millions there were several thousands of people of Maltese origin who had to seek a future abroad because they could not find work or an economically decent living in these islands, especially after the two World Wars.

On the whole, emigration from Malta was free from political harassment or racial and religious pressures. It was in the main of an economic nature, with the push factor being a restricted national territory, while the pull factor was provided by the opportunities offered by much larger countries and the jobs available there.

In the old days, many of the Maltese you used to establish themselves in countries around the Mediterranean. However, there were also some who were adventurous enough to find their way as far as South America. In the 20th Century, especially after World War II, when job opportunities in Malta were very lacking, many Maltese people were obliged to leave their country and the community of their origins and travel to Australia, the United States of America, Canada, the United Kingdom and other countries.

A substantial part of the working-age population of Malta and Gozo had to emigrate in those years. The process sometimes involved the families as a whole. To the extent that there was hardly any Maltese family left in these islands which did not have some members who had to emigrate.

The biggest challenge awaiting such migrants was perhaps the nature of the work they would be able to find and the challenges of setting up a new home in a foreign land. However, there were also the differences of the language, culture and social system of the host society which sometimes may complicate further the effort for integration.

The story of Maltese migration is in itself a strong witness to the value of real integration in a society where all are active members and responsible for one another's welfare, generously offering a creative contribution and rightfully sharing in the same rights and duties. *(This article will conclude in the next Newsletter -Editor)*



Hastings Gardens Tricia Ann Mitchell

Valletta's Hastings Gardens honour the memory of Alexander Ball with this majestic mausoleum erected under British rule

The Hastings Gardens were one of our favorite spots for jogging, walking, or just taking in a splendid sunset. Shawn and I would occasionally bring a coffee or homemade banana bread to Hastings, climb onto a wide section of the mighty fortifications, and watch the world

go by on land and on sea.

The gardens take their name from Lord Hastings, who was a Governor of Malta during the 1820s. Built atop Valletta's formidable bastions, Hastings Gardens are shaded by olive and oleander trees. The park provides a bit of reprieve from the cacophony of honking horns in Valletta, and it offers a silhouetted view of the town of Mdina.

Like the Lower Barrakka Gardens, during the height of summer you might occasionally find Hastings closed to the public, as it's a popular site for wedding receptions, private parties and community events. Teenagers also flock there with their significant others, so don't be surprised if you turn a corner and see them locking lips. On such a densely-populated island, there just aren't many places to go to find privacy! Admission free.

Carmel Baldacchino Malta's first national team coach



The MFA XI as they lined-up against Catania on May 19, 1955. The national team beat the Italian side 3-2 at home. (Back row, left to right) Joseph Grech, Lolly Debattista, Victor Formosa, Tony Vella, Joe Cilia, Guzi Alamango. (Front row) Frans Bonnici, Salvinu Schembri, Charlie Azzopardi, Lolly Borg, Pullu Demanuele. Inset: National coach Joe Griffiths.

At the start of the 1954-55 season, the MFA appointed a national team coach for the first time. The man selected for the position was Joe Griffiths, a pioneer of coaching in Malta and one of the most respected men in football.

Joe Griffiths was born in Cospicua on December 10, 1910. From an early age he showed great interest in sport in general, in particular football. His name is linked forever with that of Melita FC. A great player and clubman, he spent his entire career with the Amateurs, first as a player and then as club secretary. In the pre-war years, he contributed a series of cartoons to the Times of Malta, and, after his playing days were over, took up free-lance journalism, reporting and analysing games and becoming a regular columnist on local and foreign football affairs with different local dailies. An early believer in organised coaching, he lobbied for a foreign tutor to hold courses in Malta. Later on he went to Loughborough College in England, attending successfully an FA coaching course. He coached Floriana, Rabat Ajax and Sliema Wanderers and gave technical advice to several other clubs in Malta.



Top-level Tennis arrives in Malta Providing comprehensive individual & group tennis lessons for players of all levels

OUR FOCUS

Our main focus is to ensure a complete pro-training environment and highly personalized coaching to players committed to their tennis development. TennisLine Academy programs are dedicated to the instruction, development and success of each player with strong focus on physical, technical, tactical and mental components.

TennisLine Academy gives the opportunity to develop tennis skills, make new friends and have fun after regular school hours. We follow **Tennis10s** - the ITF official program for introducing tennis to children aged 10-and-under, using the slower balls, smaller rackets and on smaller courts. This program is made up of three progressive stages:

-  **STAGE 3 / RED LEVEL** (age 8 & under)
-  **STAGE 2 / ORANGE LEVEL** (age 8-10)
-  **STAGE 1 / GREEN LEVEL** (age 9-10)



Private coaching for individuals or small groups is available for all ages and abilities and is specially designed to help players achieve their top performance. The main objective is to provide players with all the tools to understand tactical patterns, mobility/footwork and placement on the court. In the short term, this will help players to understand the game and how to play with more confidence. We use specific drills and competitions for singles or doubles players depending on the needs of each participant. Our depth of tennis expertise ensures that each aspect of a player's development is addressed. *Tennis lessons are available Monday through Sunday all year round.* www.tennisline.com.au info@tennisline.eu
mob: +356 7759 0232TennisLine on Facebook

Consul on-the Move in Adelaide

The Maltese Community of South Australia would like to thank Mr Victor Grech the Consul General for Malta in Victoria for spending few days with us assisting in the applications of the biometric Maltese passport as part of the Consul-on-the-Move project which was launched by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Vella, last year.



Mr. Victor Grech joined the Malta Public Service in 1976 and has served in various Government departments positions in Malta, notably within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, as well as in Maltese Missions Overseas. Mr Grech's first overseas assignment was as Trade and Industry Officer at the Malta High Commission in London (1985 – 1987); subsequently served as Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France (1998 – 2001); and in more recent years, as Head of Administration of the Permanent Representation of Malta to the European Union in Brussels, Belgium (2004 to 2007 and from 2009 up to 2011). In the course of his career, Mr Grech has also served at the Ministry of Development, Energy, Ports and Telecommunications (1976 to 1980); followed by the position of Private Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister within the Ministry of Finance (1981 to 1984); the Ministry of Home Affairs (1987 to 1993); the Law Courts of Malta (1994 to 1996).

Consulate General Melbourne

Where to find us Melbourne Consulate Suite 613, 6th Floor 343 Little Collins Street Melbourne, VIC 3000

How to get there The office of the Consulate is found in the central business district of Melbourne and can be reached by tram, train or bus.

Opening Hours The opening hours are Mondays to Fridays from 9.00am to 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

NAXXAR - an old town with a cute historical centre



Naxxar is built on a hill in the central-northern part of **Malta**, covering an area of approximately 11 km² and a population of over 12,000. Naxxar is an old town, in fact it dates back to the pre-history as cart ruts, Punic tombs and Catacombs have been discovered in various areas.

Most probably Naxxar got its name from the **shipwreck of St. Paul** in Malta. Tradition says that the people of Naxxar were the first to help when the ship hit the rocks. Then St. Paul converted the villagers to Christianity and this is why many people connect Naxxar with Nassar which actually means 'conversion to Christianity'. This theory is further proved by the village motto 'Prior credidi' which means 'The First People to Believe'.

Although Naxxar seems to be purely a residential town, a small stroll in the village shows you otherwise. In the main square of Naxxar, there is Palazzo Parisio and the Parish Church, while the old part of Naxxar hosts several **narrow streets** and **quaint houses** that make Naxxar a very picturesque town.

PALAZZO PARISIO: Palazzo Parisio was built in the 19th century by Marquis Giuseppe Scicluna as his own private residence. He enriched the palace with artistic designs, refined architecture and charming gardens.



NAXXAR PARISH CHURCH: Naxxar Parish church was built in the 17th and is strategically located in the main square of Naxxar. The grand façade of the church is on the baroque style; having a massive bronze door and two clocks, one of which is a painting showing the time as quarter to twelve. On the inside, the main attractions are the painting shows the Birth of Our Lady by Mattia Preti (1613-1699) and the statue of the Vitorja (Our Lady of Victories), which holds a display of precious jewels that the Naxxar people offer the Vitorja in return for answering their prayers.

DEFENCE TOWERS AND FORTIFICATIONS: When the Knights of St. John arrived in Malta they built a number of towers, two of which are in Naxxar: Tal-Kaptan Tower and Gauci Tower. Both were crucial during the Great Siege of 1565. After the Seige, the Knights saw the need to strengthen Malta's defence line, and so they built another 13 towers, two of which are also in Naxxar. The Ghallis Tower guards the entrance to Salina Bay while the Qalet Marku tower is just a few hundred metres away. Both towers have recently been restored to their original state by the "Din I-Art Helwa" Foundation, and are open to the public by appointment. In the 1930's, when Malta was under the British rule, a number of pill-boxes were built both along the coast and inland. One of these pill-boxes is at the summit of the "T'Alla w Ommu" Hill in Naxxar. It has a squarish shape and has two levels - the top level used to shoot at the enemy and the lower level used as lodging for soldiers.

TAKE A WALK: Take a walk in the old part of the town, start from the road opposite the Parish church, and discover the narrow streets, old houses, wooden balconies and bright coloured flowers that give Naxxar a magical and peaceful character. There are a couple of small chapels around the town that reflect the villagers' dedication to religion. You can then relax in any of the public gardens that are in Naxxar or stop for a coffee at one of the cafeterias in the town centre.

NAXXAR FESTA: The Naxxar Festa is held on the 8th of September, in honour to Our Lady of Victory. Naxxar is thriving with activity during the week prior to the festa. The Parish Church and the main streets are decorated in bright festive colours and people go out to the centre to listen to brass bands playing cheerful music and watch the air and ground fireworks that fill the air with a beautiful array of colours. On the streets, there are stalls selling local delicacies, such as candy floss and Nougat – it is the typical Maltese Festa sweet made out of sugar paste and nuts.



Gozo ferry - MV BANCINU

Hondoq ir-Rummien tragedy - 1948

Eddie Attard

On Saturday, October 30, 1948, the Gozo ferry MV BANCINU made the 1.15pm trip from Mġarr, Gozo. In view of the strong southwesterly winds the ferry proceeded to St Paul's Bay,

instead of landing passengers at the usual berth in Marfa.

The 4.30pm trip from Marfa was cancelled as the crossing between Mġarr and St Paul's Bay took about 75 minutes either way. Moreover, it took more time to embark and disembark passengers at St Paul's Bay as the boat did not moor alongside the quay.

The police were informed of these ferry arrangements. However, at about 3.30pm some passengers who intended crossing to Gozo on the 4.30pm trip had already boarded the bus leaving Valletta for Marfa.

When they were informed that the BANCINU trip was being cancelled, one of the passengers said he had phoned Mariano Xuereb, the manager of the Marfa-Mġarr Transport, and inquired about the cancellation. Xuereb replied that he was willing to provide a luzzu (fishing boat) for the stranded passengers at Marfa, provided BANCINU arrived at Mġarr before 5pm.

On that day Police Constable Mikiel Azzopardi, who was stationed in Gozo, had escorted four people to be detained at Corradino Prison as they had fines converted into detention by the Gozo Court. From Marfa, Azzopardi went to the police headquarters at Fleur-de-Lys, Birkirkara, and later boarded the bus to Marfa.

Azzopardi was not aware of the ferry trip's cancellation and when he was told of the arrangements he promised the other passengers he would look into the matter.

When the bus arrived at Mellieħa at about 4.35pm Azzopardi phoned Sergeant S. Galea, who was on duty at Mġarr, Gozo, to confirm that the luzzu was being sent. However, he was told that the manager of the Marfa-Mġarr Transport had changed his mind and the luzzu was not being sent to pick up the stranded passengers.

Disappointed at the manager's decision, Azzopardi phoned Superintendent Joseph Depiro who was in charge of the Gozo Police District, and requested him to remedy the situation. Supt Depiro obliged and he phoned Sgt Galea and told him to make arrangements to pick up PC Azzopardi and the others. Among the stranded passengers was Karmnu Camilleri, a Gozitan police constable stationed at Tarxien and who was engaged to be married.

Two of the victims: Police Constables Mikiel Azzopardi and Karmenu Spiteri



Salvu Refalo and Karmnu Grima agreed to do the trip and proceeded to Marfa where they found 24 men and a woman at the quay, many more people than they had expected. In view of the number of passengers Refalo and Grima insisted on making two trips, but the passengers protested and boarded the luzzu.

Between Malta and Comino the sea was calm; however, when the luzzu passed Comino the sea became rougher because of the direction the wind was blowing.

The coxswain therefore advised the passengers it would be better to proceed to Hondoq ir-Rummien creek instead of Mġarr.

Twenty-one passengers insisted on continuing to Mġarr, even though the boat was being buffeted by the waves. Meanwhile Leli Camilleri from Żurrieq, who was a member of the Society of Christian Doctrine

(MUSEUM), invited the passengers to pray and started reciting the Rosary.

As the luzzu was approaching Mġarr it could not take any more pounding and it capsized near Il-Ġolf ta' Ċawl shortly after 8pm. Karmnu Attard, the youngest passenger, swam against the rough sea to reach the shore and was carried ashore by a wave, then washed back. When he finally succeeded in scrambling ashore, he made his way to the call office at Qala to inform the Mġarr police of his fellow passengers' plight.

On his way to Qala, Attard covered himself with a sack which he found in a boat on the seashore at Hondoq ir-Rummien. The youth, who used to work in a restaurant at Marsa Wharf, discovered that he had lost £3 from his trouser pocket while swimming.

The following day, Attard visited Ta' Pinu Sanctuary and left his golden ring at the sanctuary as an ex-voto offering to Our Lady for saving his life. In a statement he made to the police, Attard said most of the passengers sat on the poop of the luzzu and only two had wanted to continue to Mġarr. He also said that water was entering the boat and when the waves struck, the passengers panicked and the vessel capsized about 50 metres from shore. When the police were informed about the tragedy, all available personnel stationed in Gozo under the direction of Supt Depiro, as well as several Gozitans who gathered at Mġarr Harbour, were summoned to action. Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel were requested to help and the destroyer Cheviot and a torpedo recovery boat, together with an RAF launch, sped to Hondoq ir-Rummien.

HONDOQ IR-RUMMIEN - GOZO - MALTA



Meanwhile, it was confirmed that Michael Buttigieg of Nadur, Pawlu Zammit of Xaghra, and Ċikku Ġauci had swam safely ashore. After resting for a long time on the Blata taċ-Ċawl, Zammit was hoisted up the cliff by his two brothers and another man. The survivors were later taken to the Gozo Hospital and made statements to the police about the incident.

When the luzzu was lifted from the seabed and drawn ashore, a suitcase containing some items was found. Attard said the suitcase belonged to PC Azzopardi. Giuseppe Caruana, the technical expert appointed by Magistrate Giovanni Gouder, who conducted the inquiry, said the safety load had been amply exceeded — not more than 13 passengers should have been taken aboard.

In a statement issued on November 1, the police said that 16 persons who had been on the luzzu were still unaccounted for and that seven corpses had been recovered from the sea.

The missing bodies were recovered in the following days

after searches by RAF aircraft, and naval and police vessels. Some bodies were recovered off Fomm ir-Riĥ on the western side of Malta six days after the tragedy.

Post mortem examinations revealed that nearly all the victims died from asphyxia due to suffocation caused by water entering the lungs. Some other victims had died as a result of cerebral contusions and shock.

Those who lost their lives were:

Duminku Attard, Karmnu Azzopardi, Mikiel Azzopardi, Rita Buttigieg, Salvu Buttigieg, Manwel Camilleri, Ġorġ Curmi, Ġużeppi Dingli, Ġużeppi Gatt, Ġorġ Galea, Karmnu Grima, Ġanni Mercieca, Wistin Magro, Grezzju Magro, Ċikku Portelli, Salvu Refalo, Baskal Sammut, Karmnu Spiteri, Manwel Sultana, Manwel Vella, Pawlu Vella, Ġużeppi Scicluna and Manwel Zammit.

The first funeral was held on November 3. The funeral cortege of seven recovered bodies left the Gozo Central Hospital at about 8.30am for the Cathedral in Victorira, where the Bishop of Gozo, Mgr Giuseppe Pace, celebrated Mass. The cortege was led by the Cathedral Chapter, relatives of the victims, a representative of the Governor, Prime Minister Paul Boffa, the Commissioner for Gozo, Edgar Montanaro, Gozitan Members of the Legislative Assembly, the collegiate chapters of Għarb, Nadur and Xaghra, the College of Parish Priests and other members of the clergy. A Royal Air Force and a Malta Police detachment also formed part of the cortege. The funeral of Emmanuel Camilleri took place on November 4 at 4 pm in Żurrieq. The pallbearers were MUSEUM members. Rev. Professor Peter Paul Saydon led the cortege, which included family members, workmates, representatives of the St Catherine Band Club and members of the Catholic Action.

Condolences were sent to the families of the deceased by the Governor, Sir Francis Douglas, Dr Boffa, Dr Enrico Mizzi, leader of the Nationalist Party, and Prof. Giuseppe Hyzler, leader of the Democratic Action Party.

Some bodies were recovered off Fomm ir-Riĥ on the west of Malta six days after the tragedy

A committee was set up by the Prime Minister to raise funds for the dependants and other members of the victims' families. The committee was chaired by Lt. Colonel Victor Vella, and Maurice Bonello was appointed secretary. It was proposed to hold fund-raising activities and that the funds collected were to be forwarded to Mr Bonello or the Commissioner for Gozo.

Another committee chaired by the Prime Minister was appointed to examine the inquiring magistrate's report and to recommend to the government what action should be taken. The members of the committee were Dr Joseph Cassar, Dr Mizzi, Prof. Hyzler, Dr Francesco Masini, Dr Joseph Miceli and Henry Jones, all members of the Legislative Assembly.

The select committee held four meetings and during the first meeting Dr Boffa informed the committee that he had received an anonymous letter containing certain allegations against the police regarding their actions during the night of the tragedy. For this reason two witnesses were heard in connection with this letter, however, the committee unanimously decided that the allegations were baseless.

In their report dated December 12, 1949, 13 months after the tragedy, the chairman and five committee members stated that they were fully satisfied that the inquiry held by Magistrate Gouder was exhaustive and that there was no reason for recommending further inquiries.

The committee recommended that the regulations regarding the transport of passengers in boats be rigidly enforced and no unauthorised boats should be allowed to carry passengers. Moreover, carrying more than the authorised number of passengers was not permitted.

However, the other committee member, Mr Jones, disagreed and in a separate report demanded further investigations to establish why the last trip was not performed on the day in question.

He also questioned why the MV Bancinu landed the passengers at St Paul's Bay instead of Marfa on the day under review. Mr Jones claimed that the master's interest in proceeding to St Paul's Bay on the 1.15pm trip "would lie in the fact that he thus misses the last trip and is able to leave his boat earlier than usual".



MEMORIES

Maltese migrants arriving in Sydney Australia on the P&O **STARTHNAVER** on 10 August 1948.

Fr. Wistin Grech and Fr. Robert Cassar are at the right corner

MALTESE WRITERS ASSOCIATION

(Melb. Aust) in 70s

Back row: Manwel Nicholas Borg, Guzi Abela, Joe Briffa, Charlie Vella, Joe Scerri and Karmenu Borg

Middle row: Manwel Cassar, Fr. Lawrence Dimech, Josephine Cassar and Carmela Nicholas Borg

Front: Danny Cassay and Doris and Monica Briffa

