



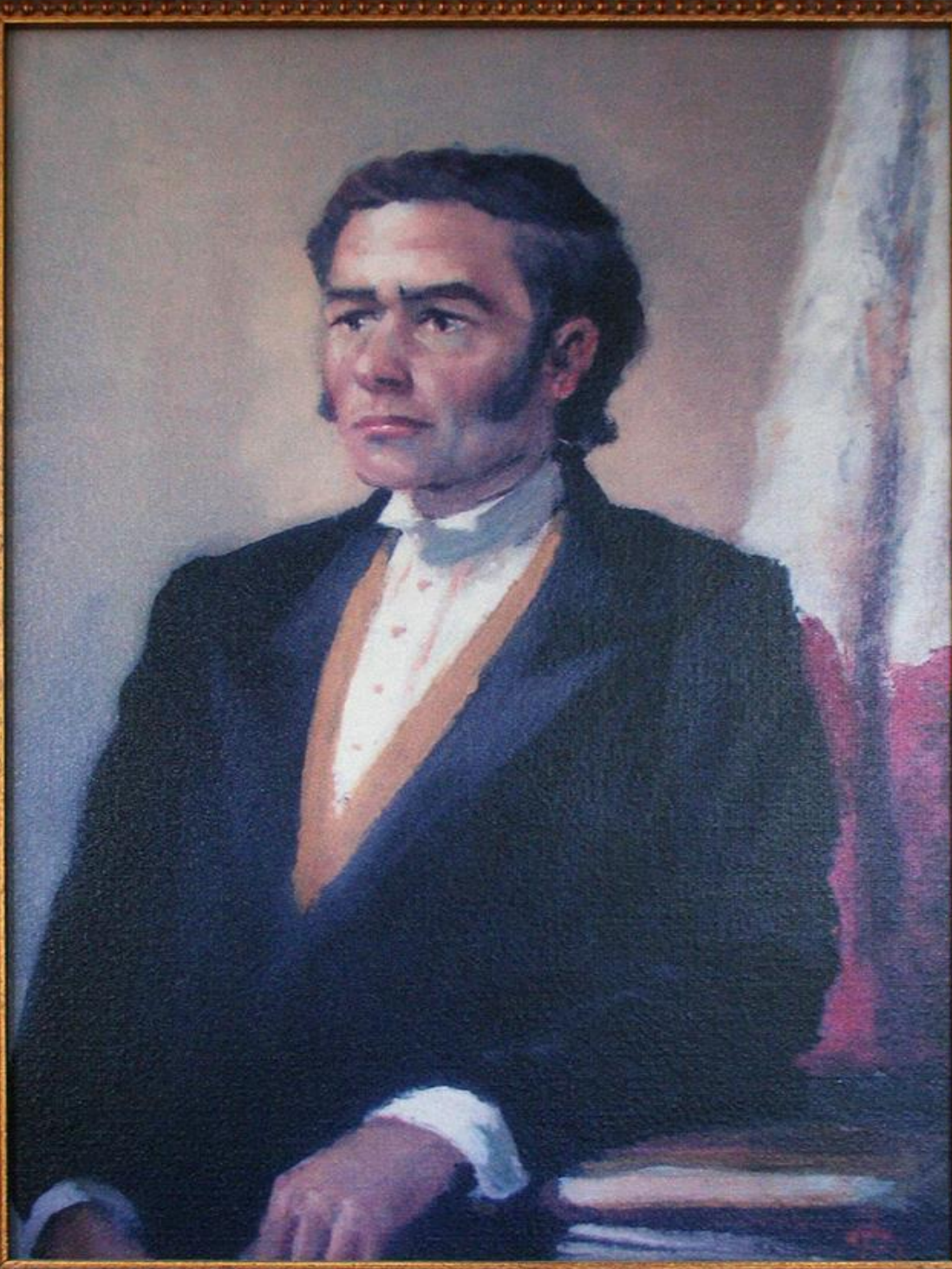
THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

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MIKIEL ANTON VASSALLI (1764 - 1829)

Zebbug - Malta - Lexicographer, writer and freedom fighter
 Father of the Maltese Language

*Kummissjoni Gholja
tar-Repubblika ta' Malta*



*High Commission
for the Republic of Malta*

MHC Press Release 05/2017

Malta High Commission in Canberra hosts reception to mark completion of Malta's EU Presidency

On 29 June 2017, Ms Denise Demicoli, Charge D'Affaires a.i., hosted Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Deputy Heads of Mission representing the EU Delegation and EU Member States in Canberra at a reception marking the conclusion of the first term of Malta as President of the Council of the EU.

Heads of Mission of Estonia, Denmark, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ireland and Cyprus, Charge` d'Affaires, and Deputy Heads of Mission from EU Member States in Canberra, attended the reception. The EU Delegation in Canberra was represented by Mr Bruno Scholl, Charge` d'Affaires a.i.

Charge` d' Affaires, a.i., Ms Denise Demicoli welcomed everyone on behalf of the High Commissioner, H. E. Mr. Charles Muscat. Ms Demicoli briefed those present with Malta's achievements during its first EU Presidency, with far-reaching advancement in the fields of migration, security, digital single market, trade, taxation, financial services and banking, maritime, EU enlargement policy, et al.

Ms. Demicoli thanked the EU Heads and representatives of missions present for their collaboration and collegiality, particularly the Netherlands and Slovakia, within the Trio of Presidencies which saw its completion with Malta's Presidency of the Council of the EU. Ms Demicoli extended best wishes to the Estonian counterparts in view of their forthcoming EU Presidency.



7TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD 19 – 20 October 2017 at Foreign Affairs - Malta



The Council for Maltese Living Abroad, which was set up by the Government of Malta in 2011, will hold the seventh meeting in mid October 2017 at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Malta. The meeting will be chaired by the new Foreign Affairs Minister Hon Carmelo Abela.

Following the Convention of Maltese Living Abroad held in March 2010, the Government of Malta published a draft Bill proposing to set up a Council for Maltese Living Abroad and the establishment of a Maltese Cultural Institute. The Council meets in

Malta at least once annually, apart from holding video conferences. The Council is composed of fifteen members from Maltese communities abroad in Australia, Canada, USA, the United Kingdom and the other European Union countries. They are selected by the Prime Minister after taking into consideration the organisational set up of the Maltese communities overseas together with another group of persons living in Malta who are versed in matters relating to Maltese living abroad.

The objectives of the Council are:

- To promote the quality of life of the Maltese communities abroad;
- To strengthen political, cultural, economical and social ties between the Maltese communities abroad and Malta;
- To facilitate the preservation of a cultural and linguistic identity among the community;
- To promote Maltese culture and in particular the teaching of the Maltese language abroad;
- To assist in the integration of the communities in their adopted countries;
- To analyse problems which Maltese communities encounter including issues relating to working conditions, professional and educational training and recognition of qualifications obtained by Malta;
- To advise the Minister of Foreign Affairs on any legislation or issue that can affect the interests of Maltese abroad

The aim of the Council ultimately remains the protection and promotion of the rights and interests of all the members of the Maltese Diaspora.

Maltese living abroad estimated at 900,000 – believe it or not.....

In its news bulletin broadcast, TVM reported on the estimated number of Maltese living overseas. According to statistics held by TVM the number of Maltese up to the fifth generation residing abroad around the world is estimated at about 900,000, which more than double the population living in Malta. By far the largest number of Maltese descendants up to the fifth generation lives in Australia where, according to the news report, from the census they are estimated at 447,000.

The second largest group of Maltese overseas lives in the United States numbering 220,000 and England with 91,000 is the third largest.

The surprising news was that there are Maltese who reside in places that one does not expect to find them, such as, Macao, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Christmas Island, Vanuatu as well as Trinidad and Tobago. There are some, if only a few individuals, living in countries such as Iran, Iraq, Botswana and Congo.

Malta's membership of the European Union appears to have led to a substantial increase in the number of Maltese living in Belgium now numbering about 668. In continental Europe the Maltese presence includes 900 in Italy, 23 in the Vatican, 600 in France and 276 in the Netherlands.

There is also a large longstanding Maltese community on the Mediterranean island of Corfu numbering 7,000.

Malta's commercial ties with the Middle East have led to an increase of Maltese presence in those countries including 733 in the United Arab Emirates and 36 in Qatar among others.

President's Kitchen: 'A truly inclusive green space for all the family'

The President of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca inaugurated the new attractions at The President's Kitchen Garden, following months of extensive refurbishment, which includes the upgrading of playground equipment, the installation of artificial turf and safety fences, the inclusion of a sensory garden, and the purchasing of modern gym equipment with specialised inclusive equipment earmarked for all.



President said, whilst thanking all those who were involved in the refurbishing project, which can now be enjoyed by all the family. President Coleiro Preca said that through this project, The President's Kitchen Garden is doing its part in reaching the international commitment of the United Nations' Agenda 2030, and its Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 11, and Target 11.7 which states that by 2030, all signatories of the SDGs are to 'provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.'

Also present for this inauguration were Shadow Minister for Sport David Agius, Shadow Minister for the Elderly and Persons with Disability Maria Deguara, Parliamentary Secretary for Persons with Disability and Active Ageing Anthony Agius Decelis, and Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations Clifton Grima.

Jean de Valette's dagger exhibition extended



The enthusiasm and interest shown at de Valette's dagger exhibition inspired Heritage Malta in collaboration with the Louvre Museum, Paris, to extend this prestigious exhibition till the 7th of September.

de Valette's dagger exhibition exceeded all expectations in terms of visitor numbers, especially local visitors. This is mainly due to the fact that this artefact returned back to Malta for the first time since 1798. The exhibition is divided

in three sections, with the main part focusing solely on the dagger. Complimenting the dagger there is also the sword which along with the dagger was gifted to Grandmaster Jean Parisot de Valette after the victory of the Great Siege. Although the sword could not travel without causing permanent damage due to complex conservation complex, visitors are able to view a 3D model of de Valette's sword suspended in mid-air.

A selected number of other related exhibits from the national collection are featuring in this exhibition while a fully illustrated catalogue has also been published to accompany the display.

de Valette's dagger exhibition is held at the National Museum of Archaeology till 7th September. The opening hours are from 9.00hrs till 18.00hrs, last admission at 17.30hrs every day. Admission to the exhibition is included in the museum's regular ticket price. For more information and other events organised by Heritage Malta visit the official website, www.heritagemalta.org or follow the official facebook page.



FAREWELL MR. GRECH AND THANK YOU

The members of the Maltese Melbourne Community together with the Maltese Community Council of Victoria farewelled the outgoing Consul General of Malta for the State of Victoria, Mr Victor Grech. The reception was held on Sunday 18 June at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville, Victoria. His term of office concluded at the end of June, after serving for almost four years. Among those present were the Honorary Consul of Malta for the State of

Victoria Dr Edwin Borg Manch ; the MCCV President, Mr Victor Borg; the Superior General of the Missionary Society of St Paul Fr Mark Grima mssp; MSSP Provincial, Fr Ivano Burdian mssp; members of the MCCV Executive Committee and presidents of affiliated associations. MC for the event was Mr George Saliba.

ATTENTION TO THE MALTESE COMMUNITY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND THE MEMBERS OF THE MALTESE ASSOCIATION OF WA

The Deputy High Commissioner, Denise Demicoli has informed the WA Honorary Consul, Mr Paul Calleja that she is to replace Victor Grech as he 'Counsel on the Move', and that if there was enough interest in WA, then she would be happy to visit the Maltese Association office to process documents, passports, etc. If you would be interested in having this service provided by the 'Counsel on the Move', please inform the Club office by email or phone no later than Monday 31st July 2017. Kind regards Albert Morris (Club Secretary) 13th July 2017

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR MALTESE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA Consul-on-the-Move – South Australia visit 1 to 3 September 2017

We are pleased to announce that the upcoming visit in the Consul-on-the-Move program will be held in Adelaide between 1st-3rd September 2017. Ms Denise Demicoli, the Deputy High Commissioner for Malta, will be providing assistance with an array of consular services ranging from citizenship applications to first-time or renewals of Maltese passports, and the registration of life-event certificates.

For further information on the services available, and to book your appointment call the Malta High Commission on (02) 6290 1724 / (02) 6290 1426 / (02) 6290 1573. FRANK L Scicluna – Hon Consul for Malta in South Australia - honconsul@live.com.au

History of Maltese Emigration - 1916

Jumping ship over politics

Joe Sherry in 1928 - JOE SHERRY and TONY AXIAQ swam in shark infested waters to reach Australian soil - they swam towards the lights of Sydney while shots were fired over their heads. This year the Sherry and Axiak families celebrate 100 years since Mr Sherry and Mr Axiak made that tough journey to eventually settle in Mackay.

Mr Sherry, also known as Giuseppe Xerri, was 25 years old and Mr Axiak was 21 when they left Malta. They were among 200 Maltese to make the trip to Australia in September 1916. But the French mail steamer 'Gange' was prohibited from docking and was anchored off Fremantle on October 21, 1916. The ship had been detained because of the referendum to impose conscription in Australia. Prime Minister, at the time, Bill Hughes feared the immigrants would "turn the tide" against the conscription vote.

Hughes implemented the Immigration Act's stipulation that "persons seeking to disembark at Australian port could be classified as prohibited immigrants if they failed a dictation test in any European language." The passengers were given the test in Dutch - they all failed.

The ship was turned around and headed to New Caledonia where the passengers spent 10 weeks before being allowed to return to Australia - their original treatment was deemed as discrimination.

Before the ship had departed for New Caledonia, Mr Sherry and Mr Axiak with 42 other men jumped ship under the cover of darkness - 15 were captured quickly including Mr Sherry, more were later found but Mr Axiak made it land with the help of wharf workers.

Mr Sherry's granddaughter Therese Townley said the family was proud of Mr Sherry and all he went through to set up life in Australia.

"They came from a place that was established to Mackay which was just starting off," Mrs Townley said. "It was pretty basic and they left their homeland with nothing - they had to start all over again." "They worked hard in harsh conditions to set us all up." Mr Sherry eventually purchased a cane farm which still remains in the family.



(Left): SHERRY FAMILY: Children of Joe Sherry, back from left, Frances Camilleri, Lawrence Sherry, Joe Sherry and Mary Borg. Absent Tony Sherry (dec)



(Right): AXIAK FAMILY: The children of Tony Axiak, back from left, Charlie Axiak, Margaret Bezzina and Fred Axiak, front, Tony Axiak,

Mary Schembri and Joe Axiak

Mrs Townley said Mr Sherry and Mr Axiak were reunited in Mackay a couple of years later and both worked in the sugar industry and became life-long friends. "My grandfather came to Mackay because he knew there were Maltese people here," she explained. Mr Axiak made his way to Mackay by working on the railway and arrived in 1918. He also established himself in cane farming after he took on a crop partnership with Gaetano Zammit in Farleigh. The Axiak still own cane farms in the Mackay area.



Maltese Bikers Could Soon Be Safer Thanks To This Award-Winning Local Startup by David Grech Urpani

Young Maltese startup INTACT has won the Best Company Award at this year's JA Europe Enterprise Challenge in Helsinki, and their idea could go a very long

way towards helping motorcyclists, especially in the event of an accident.

The concept behind INTACT, an early warning safety device for bikers, was praised by the European organisation's biggest movers and shakers, and even had the likes of Hitachi's Hans Daems praising the young startup's "passion and ambition."

The INTACT system was devised to alert emergency contacts and relatives of a motorcyclist in the event of a traffic accident. Connecting a PCM component sensor attached to the helmet of the motorcyclist to a mobile phone application (along with sensor on the bike itself), the system instantly sends out alerts about the accident and its location. This will in turn reduce the time wasted until a call is made and help arrives on the scene, which in some cases can mean the difference between life and death.

INTACT, which was actually founded last October, is made up of five young students currently in their first year of studies at St. Martin's Institute for Higher Education. Since then, they participated in Malta's JAYE Start-Up Programme in May, eventually taking home the winning title and a €2,000 prize in seed capital sponsored by the Malta Communications Authority. It was in fact that victory which landed them the opportunity to present their concept in front of the European jury, competing against 19 other startup companies from 15 different European countries.

EuroMed Postal: Trees in the Mediterranean Stamp issue

GOZO NEWS



A set comprising of two stamps is being issued by MaltaPost as part of EuroMed Postal Union philatelic stamp issue, themed 'Trees of the Mediterranean.' Artist Richard J Caruana designed this stamp set, and the €0.10 and €3.63

stamps depict Malta's national tree known as the Araar or Sandarac tree.

MaltaPost said that this tree was first reported growing in the Maqluba area in Qrendi and later, in the 1980s, other clusters were discovered in Mellieha. Today it is found in several afforestation projects, including Foresta 2000.

The stamps will be issued in sheets of 10 stamps. Each stamp measures 44mm x 31mm, and has a perforation of 13.9x 14.0 (comb.) bearing the Maltese Crosses watermark. The sheets measure 118mm x 185mm. Printex Limited produced the set in offset and the issue consists of 100,000 of the €0.10 stamp and 40,000 of the €3.63 stamp. This philatelic issue will be available as from Monday, the 10th of July, from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo, online at www.maltaphilately.com or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c.

AUSTRALIAN CENSUS 2016 STATISTICS

The release of 2016 Census statistics started recently. The initial release includes some data relating to the Maltese population in Australia. First generation Maltese The total number of first generation Maltese (persons born in Malta) at 2016 Census time stood at 37,613.

The largest number, just under half, were living in Victoria (47.5%), followed by NSW (38.5%), South Australia (6.6%), Western Australia (3.8%), and the Australian Capital Territory (2.4%).

Compared to the figure from the 2011 Census, where there were 41,270 Malta-born people in Australia, this represents a drop of 3,657 persons (8.9%) over a five-year interval or an average of 1.8% per year.

Maltese language spoken at home The number of those who stated that they spoke Maltese at home was 31,987. In the 2011 Census the corresponding figure was 34,396. This represents a reduction of 2,409 persons or 8.5% over the five-year period, an average loss of 1.7% per annum.

The number of speakers of Maltese was largest in Victoria (52.8%), followed by NSW (38.5%), SA, (4.2%), WA (2.6%) and ACT (1.2%).

FIRST GENERATION MALTESE IN AUSTRALIA

The first statistics from the Australian Census that took place last August have started to emerge. In the five years from the previous census in 2011, the number of first generation Maltese born in Malta has dropped by 9% to 37,613.



Victoria is still the State with the highest proportion of Maltese. Just under half (17,873 or 48%) reside in Victoria, compared with 14,481 or 39 % in New South Wales. The main reason for this decline in our community numbers can only be the ageing of our population and the number of deaths in the past five years.

SBS Radio will be relying on Census data when adjusting its community language radio programs. The statistic that will be more relevant, however, in this regard is the number of those who marked their census form as speaking Maltese at home. There was a 7% drop in this group since the 2011 Census, with just under 32,000.

The new SBS Radio schedule is expected to be published in the coming weeks. We hope that this small drop in the number of those speaking Maltese at home will not translate into any further cuts to the current

already low allocation of two hours per week of Maltese language programs.

Unless on this occasion we are treated fairly and equitably, the Maltese community will have no option other than to protest in the strongest terms and seek justice for our ageing community.

Dr. Victor Borg MCCV President



EUROPEAN UNION VISIT PROGRAM trip goes "too fast" FOR ABC REPORTER

ABC 7.30 journalist Julia Holman (@JulesHolman) now knows a lot more about the European Union after completing her EUVP trip to Brussels in the past fortnight. The European Union Visitors Program provides an intensive five day study program in Brussels for professionals from non-EU countries. "The programme is pretty jam-packed," Ms Holman said. "But I think that's the way I prefer it!" Her program covered the workings of the EU and included briefings on topics as diverse as trade, Brexit, migration, China, USA and climate action. Ms Holman said that by the end of her visit she was "exhausted" but had had "some really great, frank conversations ... it's all gone too fast!"

STUFFED EGGPLANTS

Joan Camilleri - That is not bragoli. That is stuffed Brungiel. (Stuffed Aubergines). Bragoli are made of beef, ham, eggs and cheese. These are basic ingredients, but everyone add his own ingredients: spinach, pork minced, mushrooms and so on.

INGREDIENTS

Meat

4 slices rump steaks thin

filling

200 g minced beef (or pork if you prefer)

4 strips ham chopped

250 g mushrooms chopped, fresh

50 g cheddar

2 tbsp Parsley chopped

1 egg hard boiled

1 eggs white whipped

4 tbsp bread crumbs

salt

Black Pepper

1 knob butter

sauce

2 onions large, chopped

3 cloves garlic

4 tomatoes peeled, chopped

1 tbsp Double Concentrated Tomato

2 carrots Peeled, chopped

150 g peas

2 potatoes peeled, chopped into four pieces

2 bay leaves

0.5 chicken stock cube

100 ml red wine dry

Rate this recipe

Add to favorite



INSTRUCTIONS

Meat -Beat the meat to soften up.

Filling - Saute the mushrooms in a knob of butter

Mix the sauteed mushrooms and all filling ingredients into a bowl.

Fill each piece of meat (about 2 tbsp). Roll up the filled meat slices and closed with a string or toothpicks.

cooking and sauce

Brown the meat in a pan with garlic and onion. Remove the meat.

Add some chicken stock into the pan with garlic and onions and place the potatoes, fresh tomatoes, the tomato concentrate, carrots, bay leaves and wine. Add a few salt and pepper according to taste.

Stir and cook slowly for about 10 minutes.

Put again the meat in the pan, add the peas and boil. When boiling, lower the fire and simmer to thicken the sauce.

Add more wine if the sauce begins to dry before the meat is properly cooked.4 hrs



About Maltese migration

Teresa Abela - A New Australian www.dailytelegraph.com.au



Deborah Abela with her novel *Teresa: A New Australian*.

A WOMAN gives birth in the shelter of a cave in Malta while German forces obliterate the tiny nation in World War II.

The dramatic story forms part of children author Deborah Abela's first historical fiction but is a true account of how her grandmother gave birth to her father Amante "Monty" Abela in 1942.

"She was incredible," Ms Abela said.

"When the bombs started to fall she had the contractions and had

two older sons with her.

"She waddled up to the cave and gave birth in front of Dad's two stunned older brothers.



Children play near rubble after a German aircraft bombing in Malta during World War II.

Hundreds of other people were there and would have huddled around her. I can't even imagine what that would be like. She was an amazing woman."

She named the lead character in *Teresa: A New Australian* after her grandmother. The novel follows a girl who escapes Malta, the most heavily bombed country in World War II, to start a new life in

Australia.

Deborah Abela's grandmother inspired her to pen her first fictional novel about Maltese migration to Australia. The book will be available at Maltese school in April and May (see below for more details) and will be unveiled in Malta's capital of Valletta in October.

Ms Abela, who attended Cerdon College at Merrylands, said she was inspired to pen the book because, while Maltese schoolchildren were familiar with their nation's role in the war, many were not taught what happened to survivors who escaped the country.

"No one knows what happened after the war," she said.

"My dad was brought up when the White Australia Policy was very strong and he grew up in a time when it wasn't OK to speak your language.

"He never taught us Maltese and we didn't learn it because it was a shame because it was encouraged to hide your nationality. "Sadly, when he came out to Australia he dropped everything."

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Fort St Angelo in Malta, which was awarded a George Cross for gallantry in World War II.

"He never taught us Maltese and we didn't learn it because it was a shame because it was encouraged to hide your nationality. "Sadly, when he came out to Australia he dropped everything."

Along with her family's anecdotes, much material for the book was sourced from other migrants.

"A lot who made the journey as kids are now in their 70s and 80s," Ms Abela said.

The village of Rabat, where Deborah Abela's father lived before fleeing to Australia.

"They're so cute because they recall so many amazing things like the first time they ate a grape on the ship out to Australia."

Her father arrived in Australia aged seven in 1950 and lived in Leichhardt but eventually followed most of the Maltese community to settle in Sydney's west. He raised Ms Abela and her siblings in Greystanes.

Today, 2616 Blacktown City residents were born in Malta.

RON VINCENT SINGS CAT STEVENS



Sunday July 30th 2017



1359 Sydney Road, Fawcner Vic 3060 Ph: 9359 0006

Doors Open 2.30pm - Showtime 3pm

WOULD THE REAL CAT STEVENS, PLEASE STAND...

Ron Vincent from Melbourne of Maltese parents has been performing professionally for 28 years, as a singer/ guitarist in many parts of Australia and all over the world, including places as far as Malta and the snow fields of Austria.

He grew up in the 70s listening to the soulful music of artists like Neil Diamond, Jimi Hendrix, Stevie Ray Vaughn, John Lennon and of course Cat Stevens, who would eventually be of key importance to Ron's performing career.

It all began as a father and son experience. Ron's father, a musician himself provided a strong musical grounding for Ron who started playing drums as an 8 year old. His drum teacher knew he had potential with a raw and natural talent and encouraged him to further his music. At the age of 14, a self-taught Ron picked up an acoustic guitar on holiday and has never looked back.

That was the start of a life-long love affair with music. Ron went on to have professional singing lessons in 1993 and some jazz ballet training for theatre work. In 1995 Ron performed voiceover work, his favourite role being the plant in "The Little Shop of Horrors". He then moved on to performing a Neil Diamond Tribute throughout Victoria.

Ron has continued to woo audiences for nearly three decades while playing in such cover bands as "Rendezvous", "Flat Chat" and "Third Stone" and was a regular attraction at Mentone's Night Hawk from 2003 until 2010.

During the last few years, Ron has passionately pursued his interest in Cat Stevens music. Ron's Cat Stevens show has developed a regular following in regional Victoria and the Mornington Peninsula. Audiences marvel at his uncanny likeness to Cat Stevens in voice and looks. Ron has performed his Cat Stevens Show at Sorrento's Spiegel Tent, Ringwood RSL, SS&A Club Albury, Theatre Royal Castlemaine, New Zealand, Tasmania & the UK, just to name a few.

"I have a strong emotional connection with the music. You can't just sing the song perfectly note for note, you gotta have that soul connection to get the mood across," Ron said.



RUŻAR BRIFFA – MALTESE DERMATOLOGIST, WRITER AND POET

Rużar Briffa (1906 – 1963) was a Maltese poet and dermatologist, and a major figure in Maltese literature. "I never thought of publishing these poems in a book. Some were written in hard times, others in moments of joy. And I wrote them for myself." These were the poet's words as they appeared in his first collection of poetry, *Poeżiji*, published in 1971 thanks to his second wife Louisette and his friend P. Valentin Barbara's constant encouragement.

Life - He was known as the poet "of smallness and simplicity - the best". Rużar Briffa studied at the Saint Elmo elementary state school and at the Valletta Lyceum. Having obtained his matriculation certificate, in 1923 he started teaching at elementary schools. In 1924, he began his studies in medicine at the University of Malta and completed them in London in venereology and dermatology. In 1932 he became a specialist in skin diseases. He was known for his humility and his greatheartedness in dealing with his patients, especially those suffering from leprosy.

According to his wife Louisette, he dreamed of beautifying disfigured and suffering patients through his medical work. This aesthetic concern emerges frequently in his literary work, so much so that he was known as the "Poet of Beauty" amongst his contemporaries. In 1931, together with his friend Ġużè Bonnici, he founded the Għaqda tal-Malti Università, which is active to date, and started issuing the magazine Leġen il-Malti ("Voice of the Maltese"). Rużar Briffa died on 22 February 1963. His full biography was released in 1984 by Professor Oliver Friggieri. The Maltese town of Mosta contains a road named in his honour, **Triq Rużar Briffa**.

Poetry - Many of his poems were written on bits of papers cut from notebooks or on the inner part of a used packet of cigarettes. Others were written on papers intended for medical prescriptions, on paper-bags; in short, he would use anything that was at hand to capture his poem on paper. Although Briffa wrote very little, he was greatly appreciated by literary critics. These are some comments Briffa passed on poetry, as an individual interpretation and universal expression:

My poems are no great events, no profound thoughts on Life, and not even exalted desires of another World. They are just impressions, to put it this way, snapshots of everyday life as my heart senses them. The power of a snapshot is in its size, which in spite of being small, captures details which in a larger photo would pass unnoticed ... I too feel my poems have the power of simplicity.

I did not write for glory. Poetry for me is by no means a matter of amusement, but rather of great suffering. I am struck by a thought and I keep brooding over it for several months -- or even years. Then I feel a sudden outburst. And no matter where I am, I would have to get a pencil and a paper and in a matter of a minute the poem flows out of nothing. No poem took me more than five minutes to write down. Poetry should only aim to reach the heart of the heart of man, and even if it arrives at it just once, then poetry would have reached its climax.

**U l-kotra qamet f'daqqa - u ghajtet "JIEN MALTIJA
miskin min ikasbarni – miskin min jidhak bija."**

**U l-kotra ghanniet f'daqqa – u semmghet mall-irjiegħ
l-Innu ta' Malta tagħna – u l-lehen kien rebbieh.**

**Fuq nghan l-imghoddi gwejjef – in-nghan tal-Apatija,
Xhin ruhna kienet riegħda – fuq sodda barranija.**

**U l-ombra ta' Vassalli – qamet minn qiegħ il-qabar
U ghajtet: "Issa fl-ahhar – jiena se nsib is-sabar."**

Pastizzi, traditional biscuits, Kinnie drinks etc in Brisbane

Welcome to Lucy's collection of ideas and adventures designed to inspire others to get off the couch and explore our local environment.



Qaghaq tal-ghasel - delicious sweet Maltese Honey Rounds

I was intrigued to discover that the flavours of the Mediterranean islands of Malta are strongly influenced by both its neighbouring cuisines - those of Italy and North Africa. Not too many countries can boast such a wild combination - gorgeous pastries, sausages, wines, cheeses, ravioli, hand made sweets and artisan preserves filled with African influenced spices.



Malta's favorite snack - Ricotta and Spinach Pastizzi

To my surprise, we have a thriving Maltese community here in Brisbane and they all call Joyce from Maltese Foods when in need of some delicious goodies to remind them of home. The savoury Ricotta and Spinach Pastizzi from Maltese Foods are generously stuffed full of ricotta cheese and would make a great snack and/or talking point for any upcoming function.

In Malta, savoury Pastizzi are an integral part of everyday life, accompanying many a strong Maltese coffee or home grown wine. Those Honey Rounds (Qaghaq tal-ghasel) also taste (and look) amazing - full of a sweet spiciness which reminds me of North African cuisine. Anyone searching for an unbelievable Fig Chutney, must try these ones made by Savina, and I could get quite used to sipping the bittersweet Kinnie soft drink on a hot summer afternoon. Ahh, so refreshing.



Kinnie Herbal Soft drinks - uses real Chinotto bitter oranges among other herbs

If you happen to know someone from Malta and truly want to impress them (trying to win some points with your Maltese mother-in-law or girlfriend perhaps?), order some traditional fresh Pastizzi, Galletti biscuits and genuine Kinnie herbal soft drinks from Maltese Foods and I'm absolutely certain you'll be onto a winner. Joyce from Maltese Foods is always keen to meet and connect with other Maltesers and is passionate about all things Maltese. Go on - be adventurous and give Maltese food a try.



Artisan Maltese Preserves made from Sun Ripened Tomatoes and Figs in aged wine vinegar

honconsul@live.com.au

IN MEMORY OF THE AZURE WINDOW by JORDAN



When booking my 25th birthday celebration in Malta last January, seeing the Azure Window was high on my priority list. The grandness, the sheerness, and astounding natural wonder made it a must-see activity. After hiring a taxi driver for the day to take us around the entire island of Gozo (highly recommend hiring one!), he pulled into the Azure Window just as the sun was setting. It was virtually desolate due to the time of day and time of year. Yet, it didn't fail to impress me.

My taxi driver told us stories about the power of this sea and the force of mother nature. I'll be honest, I didn't want to approach the edge as the wind was whipping in every direction and the sea was battering against the cliffs. Since my visit there, tourists have lost their lives by not heeding the warning signs and venturing too close to the edge.

Unfortunately, the Azure Window had its final day on March 8, 2017. Around 10 am local time during a fierce storm, it was reported that the entire Azure Window had collapsed – even the support pillar. Although the origins of the Azure Window are unknown, it was reportedly formed in the 19th century after the collapse of a sea cave. The location went on to become a popular filming spot.

Throughout the past 20-30 years, scientists have been warning about the dangers of both natural and man-made erosion. The Azure Window first showed signs of erosion in the 1980s after losing part of its arch. By 2012, a substantial part of the arch fell, widening the window. The damage was so great that in December 2016, an emergency order was enacted that fined people for climbing the Azure Window. However, the law was never enforced and the inevitable collapse occurred only a few months later.

The collapse of the Azure Window brings up the debate of human interaction with natural wonders, and the overall strength of mother nature. Did humans single-handedly cause the collapse of the Azure Window? No. But did human interaction speed up its ultimate collapse? Probably. For now, these are the lasting memories I have from the Azure Window in Malta. I'm so happy that I was able to photograph this majestic structure before its destruction.

St Georges Bay underwater Malta Cart Ruts (Cart tracks)



The Cart Ruts (Cart Tracks) at St Georges Bay are located beside Triq Ghar Dalam, these appear to have crossed the bay. Also in the bay, but perpendicular to the thin road side Cart Ruts, are much larger underwater Cart Ruts. These include the triangle/wedge shape and are similar to the ones seen at [Clapham Junction](#) and [San Gwann](#).

If the Cart Ruts are man made then how much has the land of Malta or the sea levels changed for these Cart Ruts to go across a Bay?

Cart Ruts just sitting on the dock of the Bay - The Cart Ruts are slightly strange in that one Rut is shorter than the other. What remains of the Cart Ruts go from the Ghar Dalam Road to the water. Did they ever go into the water? Was the water at that level when these were created? Were the submerged Cart ruts created at a different time? Why is one Cart Track shorter than the other, why are the Ruts themselves so narrow when compared to others, especially at Clapham Junction? Saint Georges Bay is a small shallow bay. You can see the small sandy St Georges Bay in the photo above. In the sandstone are wide holes that are a bit of a Maltese mystery. Are they ancient rock cisterns, larders?

Underwater Cart Ruts Junction

The Cart Ruts going into St Georges bay seem to stop at the waters edge although the rock shelf itself stops a few yards further on. There are "boulders" on the sea floor which

may be the broken remains of the sandstone shelf. Beyond this is the normal sandy sea floor bed of the bay.

When snorkeling in St Georges Bay you will not find any trace of the Cart Ruts where they enter the water or any tracks further along the line of the Cart Ruts. There are Cart Ruts underwater but they are



perpendicular to the ones on land. These Cart Ruts submerged on the sea floor are also much wider and defined than those seen beside Ghar Dalam road. There are also 'switch points', triangular ends to the rock lines, very similar to the ones found at Clapham Junction.

These set of points (or whatever these triangular ends are) can be found close together along the sea floor Cart Ruts (Cart Tracks).

The rocky sea floor here is not flat. Are all Cart ruts man made or has something else made some of them? Are the undersea Cart Ruts a different age, type and purpose to those on land?

Stone Age cisterns, larders, fire places...?

These were supposedly used to store food in the old days. Some show signs of the sandstone around them being a burned sandstone colour, the

same as found some of the Temples and on top of Qolla Safra. They may have been used as fire places. Some might be new or used as mini "Salt Pans" or to catch fish, this one is beside the water level. One of them had purple rocks or purple algae in it. Another one was again circular shaped but not hollowed out and has colouring around it.

The land and underwater (sea floor) Cart Ruts are found at St Georges Bay on Malta. From Valletta head towards Marsaxlokk and Birżebbuġa (B'bugia) Bay and keep going towards Birzebbuga and down the hill past Ghar Dalam. They are beside the Triq Ghar Dalam (Ghar Dalam Road) as you come down to the bottom of the road and start to enter the town. There are Public Toilets and a Car Park to the right.

The land Cart Ruts are not that large but if you look over Triq Ghar Dalam roadside railings towards the small but sandy St Georges Bay you will find them. The underwater Cart Ruts are near the land Cart Tracks, just off the sandstone ledge by the road and a few feet south or going towards Birzebbuga Bay. Perpendicular to the land Cart Ruts!



Hon. Consul Scicluna, I just wanted to thank you for hosting on The Maltese eNewsletter info regarding both Il-Pont online literary magazine and my latest publication Minn Fomm il-Kittieb Volumes 1 & 2. I take the opportunity

to say hello to my many Maltese-Australian friends, poets and writers, and thank you also for The Maltese eNewsletter, a truly colourful and informative publication which surely helps to shorten the distance between Malta and Australia. Regards, Patrick Sammut (Malta)

Bongu, Frank Proset & Thank you for another interesting & very informative on-line magazine, when I "opened" it I could not put it down, it makes for good & enlightening "historical" reading etc. as usual I welcome receiving it. Grazzi u Sahha Charles N. Mifsud. M.Q.R...J.P. (N.S.W.)

Hi frank I just like to thank you for your good work you are doing for the Maltese community. I just received my first new letter and I'm estatic, it's so informative and entertaining to read. I wish you all the best and thank you again for your good work . God bless you. Regards .Philip Aquilina.

Thank you for regularly sending me a copy of 'The Maltese E-Newsletter' I really enjoy reading it and I always save it in a special file in my Archives, however would it not be worth it if you were to publish past copies into a book format? I would be the first to subscribe to such a publication. Thank you and regards. Edwin Borg

Tomato season underway at Magro Brothers, factory ---- tours available gozonews.com



The firm Magro Brothers was established 100 years ago in May 1916 at Xewkija, Gozo. Gianni Magro was then already an established general provisions merchant, and at the age of 50 he decided to rope into the business his three sons; Wigi, Giuseppe and Manwel. Over the years the business expanded and soon became the premier company in Gozo.

In 1977, all the shares of Magro Brothers were acquired by Manwel's family and from then onwards, John & Michael, the third generation of the Magro family, took full responsibility for the running of the company. Today, John's three children, the fourth generation of the family, are already engaged in the family business

and are ably assisted by professional executives and managers from outside the family.

The company is still a family concern, still operates from the island Gozo and is still heavily involved in food processing and in the Maltese agricultural sector. The company processes over 85% of Malta's tomato crop from its 200 registered farmers in Malta and Gozo. It is also an important operator in the dairy sector and in the packaging of Maltese honey, local olive oil and pickled vegetables.

The company is continuously developing new products in response to changes in consumers' demands and lifestyles, both locally and also for overseas markets.

Over the last 3 years the company has invested 2.5 million Euros in new processing lines and a similar investment program is in place for the next 2 years.

Our export portfolio includes major supermarkets in several European countries and leading distributors in Africa and Asia. In Malta the company is renowned for its popular brands including The Three Hills Brand, Mayor, Savina, Hanini, Victoria and more recently Pinto's Pride

The Magro Brothers Factory at Xewkija, Gozo is ready and waiting for the first truckloads of plump and juicy tomatoes to arrive for this year's summer tomato season.

There are over a hundred and fifty employees involved in one way or another for this busy harvesting season.

Trucks and tents are set up to welcome and weigh the red fruits and Magro said that they also carry out visits to local farmers "to ensure that the plants meet the strict quality control adhered to by the company."

It said that the factory will now be operating around the clock with rivers of tomatoes making their way to their appropriate cans.

Magro Brothers is inviting the public to join them during this special time. Factory tours are available, with qualified tour guides showing the entire tomato process – a tour which will be enjoyed by all ages, it said.

Booking in advance is highly recommended. To book your tour please contact them on Freephone 8007 5533 or email on visits@magro.com.mt



.HAMRUN ASSOCIATION LIMITED (NSW)

100 Jackson Street Marsden Park 2765

PO BOX 870 BLACKTOWN 2148 ABN: 22 080 314 156 E: hamrunclub@gmail.com

President George Zahra: 0407 43 46 51

Dear members, friends and supporters Today (30 July 2017) we're celebrating the feast of San Gejtanu. The statue of San Gejtanu has been with us for close to 38 years, it started at Rooty Hill at Alex Apap's house and at the Catholic Church. If memory serves me, the statue arrived on a Sunday morning and during the evening Fred Rose, John Aquilina, myself and five others carried the statue through the streets. Since then the club has gone from nothing to where we are today. Great sacrifices, hard work and volunteering which some of these men and women have left us, to the glory to God. So it's nice to keep the tradition going and I know the Hamrun Club members and friends will continue for many more years. Also for those who always ask me who was the founders of the club, first it was George Pace, then Espedito Zammit, and the Apap Brothers. Not to forget the generous financial support and ongoing dedication from Fred Rose, and this started 2 or 3 years before we brought the statue to Australia. Thanks for your continuous support.

PROGRAM: On Sunday 30th July 2017 at their club 100 Jackson Street Marsden Park 2765

Program starts with a Mass at 3.30 pm Followed by the procession with the artistic statue of San Gejtanu accompanied by the Maltese band Our Lady Queen of Peace. At 8.30 pm. there will be spectacular fireworks display. George Zahra - President of Hamrun Club



Malta Cross Connection

Australian

based

Maltese

Cross Connection Imports Pty Ltd is an

online

shop

-

catering for the Maltese communities across Australia.

Our Mission is *To promote the Maltese Culture and distribute Maltese products through a user-friendly online environment*, provided with a dedicated personal approach.

In line with our mission statement, all our products, which are for sale on the **Malta Cross Connection** website are genuinely made and imported from Malta.

Our comprehensive catalogue contains more than 3000 products covering:

- Some of the largest book publishing companies in Malta ranging from Maltese culture, history, literature, academic, novels, hobbies and children's books;
- DVDs from established producers including documentaries, drama, traditional feast and local movies; and
- CDs from recognised Maltese artists across the various music genres.

Cross Connection Imports is a distinct business in Victoria, having strong connections with Maltese writers, publishers and producers, providing the customers with access and convenience to a large range of products. If you would like to list your products on our website, kindly contact us with the product details. Promote the Maltese Language and Culture. Mark Bonello - mabonello@bigpond.com



Malta legalises same-sex marriage, as parliament votes in favour of marriage equality bill

Yannick Pace 13 July 2017 maltatoday.com.mt

Celebrations at Castille Square after parliament voted in favour to legalise same-sex marriage. Malta legalises same-sex marriage, as

parliament votes in favour of marriage equality bill

Parliament has approved the controversial Marriage Act and other Laws (Amendment) Act that will make Malta the 15th nation in Europe, and 25th world-wide to legalise same-sex marriages. All the House's MPs, with the exception of Nationalist MP Edwin Vassallo, voted in favour of the law, after both the Government and Opposition had publicly declared their support for the bill. Before the vote, the Prime Muscat asked the Speaker of the House to allow each MP to stand and state their vote, if the Opposition was in agreement.

Maltese-Palestinian Walid Nabhan wins European Union Prize for Literature

Nabhan follows Immanuel Mifsud and Pierre Mejlak as Maltese winners

A Palestinian-Maltese writer has been named one of the European Union's 2017 Prize for Literature winners.

Walid Nabhan was nominated for the prize on the strength of his novel *L-Eżodu tač-Ċikonji*, published by Klabb Kotba Maltin in 2013.

The EU Prize for Literature is given to 12 writers every year, with writers from countries involved in Creative Europe eligible. Winners from each of the participating countries – 12 different countries each year - are selected by national juries comprised of publishers, booksellers, authors and critics.



In Malta, the jury selecting a winner is put together by the Akkademja tal-Malti, with a five-person independent jury having chosen Mr Nabhan as a winner.

Mr Nabhan follows Immanuel Mifsud (2011) and Pierre J. Mejlak (2014) as Maltese winners of the prize.

Born in Jordan to a family of Palestinian refugees, Mr Nabhan subsequently moved to Malta, eventually obtaining citizenship here. He has published several works in Maltese and translated various books from Maltese into Arabic.

The autobiographic *L-Eżodu tač-Ċikonji* tells the story of a Palestinian refugee who finds himself living in Malta, blending a tale of human relationships with a political narrative.

The jury that selected Mr Nabhan as a winner was made up of Stella Borg-Barthet, Stephen Bonanno, Norbert Ellul Vincenti, Marco Galea and Adrian Grima.

Winners receive a €5,000 award as well as various opportunities to promote their works to a European audience. The prize is funded by the European Creative Programme.

Other winners of the 2017 prize are: Rudi Erebara (Albania), Ina Vultchanova (Bulgaria), Bianca Bellová (Czech Republic), Kallia Papadaki, (Greece), Halldóra K. Thoroddsen (Iceland), Osvalds Zebris (Latvia), Aleksandar Bečanović (Montenegro), Jamal Ouariachi (The Netherlands), Darko Tuševljaković (Serbia), Sine Ergün (Turkey) and Sunjeev Sahota (United Kingdom).



Walid Nabham



Gnejna Bay

A mother and her two daughters in amazing swimming costumes enjoying a sunny day at the beach at Gnejna Bay in 1926.

Submitted by Nany Serg nee Borg



What is Valletta 2018?

VALLETTA 2018: AN ISLAND-WIDE FESTA - when you live on an island, the horizon always holds the promise of new and exciting connections to be made, while the

shore draws you back home to a wealth of detail that's just waiting to be explored.

Malta and Gozo can be likened to tiny but vibrant stages packed with drama, excess and exuberance constantly playing out in close quarters, amid tight-knit communities; all the while, these small island scenarios have co-existed with the comings and goings afforded by our harbours, and today they walk alongside ever-growing international connections.

The strategic geography of the Maltese Islands – which places them right between Europe and Africa – thus puts our communities in a unique position to host such a diverse cultural celebration as the European Capital of Culture. And our Mediterranean style is another valuable feature of the islands' identity, capable of reaching out to the varied and valuable perspectives that surround it.

VALLETTA 2018 THEMES -- ISLAND STORIES - What's island life really like, anyway? We may be able to drive across the whole of Malta or Gozo in a single morning, but it doesn't mean we've seen it all. Indeed, a closer look at island life soon reveals that there's more than one narrative at play.

One side of the story goes that Malta and Gozo are small, loud, emotional islands where you can never escape your neighbour's gaze and where your family's always just around the corner bearing either good news, bad news, enough food for a week, or all three.

So living on our Islands is often seen as a domestic drama, with a dose of tragicomedy that's hard to resist. The up-side to that view is that Malta, the largest island in our archipelago, also happens to be one of the most densely populated countries in the world – a fact that brings to the fore issues of over-crowding and a growing concern over space and what to do with it.

How to explore and reconcile the various narratives that play out in Malta and Gozo is a question that's constantly evolving. Certainly, community spaces and the image of the open sea play a big role in our journey towards imagining better solutions – for when private spaces aren't easy to come by, islanders turn to community spaces for company, and to the sea for air to breathe.

The narratives that island stories seeks to draw out portray vivid, timely pictures of life on our shores. They are stories about its realities, its communities and the spaces they use, of how old spaces are – or could be – used for new things, and of how to create new spaces inside which one may appreciate tradition.

voyages - Thanks to its harbours, Valletta has always been a melting pot of different cultures. Malta's ancient heritage, combined with a strategic geographic location that places it right between Europe and Africa, make it a unique capital city. It's a space that's able to host meaningful encounters with and between its close neighbours, both in and beyond the Mediterranean.

Our capital is no stranger to surges of conflict and resistance: Valletta is a city surrounded by fortified bastions, built for warding off external attacks and for celebrating victory within. Even now, the city stands inside a wider global context that's marked by growing political instability, and which brings into sharp relief issues of violence, exile and migration.

Valletta 2018 is an opportunity to celebrate life and creativity in our capital while nurturing vital dialogue; it provides a space in which to challenge dominant perspectives, and extends a hand of friendship to all artists and creatives. An openness to different cultures is vital for a healthy community, and as we strive to recreate a sense of belonging in an age of cultural diversity, we have the power to give diverse communities a platform for expression and the necessary networks to support meaningful exchange.



IL-KUNSILL TA' TAX-XBIEX L-EWWEL FIL-"GREEN COUNCIL AWARD"

Il-Kunsill Lokali ta' Ta' Xbiex ġabar 160 tonnellata skart riċiklabbli, jiġifieri 89 kg per capita tul is-sena li għaddiet, biex ġie l-ewwel post fil-Green Council Awards għal "Best Performing Local Council" fost il-kunsilli ta Malta u

Għawdex kollha li jaqgħu taħt l-skema tal-Green Mt. Green MT, l-Iskema Nazzjonali awtorizzata għal ġbir ta' skart tal-ippakkeġġjar, organizzat is-seba' edizzjoni ta' dawn l-premijiet. Is-Sindku Max Zammit f'isem il kunsill ha l-opportunita sabiex jirringrazza lir-residenti tas-sehem tagħhom fis-separazzjoni tal-iskart u l-miżuri ambjentali li l-istess kunsill tant itihom importanza. Tajjeb li wiehed jirrimarka li dan huwa il-ħames premju konsekuttiv f'din il-leġislatura ta' Kunsill ġdid.

L-IMNARJA – FESTA BI TRADIZZJONI



L-akbar avveniment agrikolu tas-sena wasal magħna, u qed ssiru l-aħħar thejijiet fil-ġonna tal-Buskett sabiex titkompla t-tradizzjoni annwali fejn il-bdiewa, r-raħħala kif ukoll il-poplu iġġenerali jipparteċipaw bil-kbir f' dan l-avveniment. Fuma bosta raħħala, bdiewa u diletanti tal-agrikoltura li jkunu jistennew bil-herqa l-akbar wirja u l-aktar kompetizzjoni akkanita tal- prodotti agrikoli. Fl-Imnarja, l-viżitaturi jistgħu japprezzaw il-ħidma tal-bdiewa u r-raħħala li jaħdmu qattiegħ s-sena kollha u li jkabbru prodotti għall-ikel u jindukraw l-annimali b' tant imħabba,

għożża u kburija.



Bastille Day 2017?

Bastille Day will be celebrated across France on Friday July 14.

Many people attend large public events, including parades, performances and firework displays.

In Paris, there is a big military parade called the Fete de la Federation held along the Champs-Elysee, where personnel march, ride and drive while military aircraft fly over the route.

It's the oldest military parade in the world and

thousands of people line the streets to watch. The event is usually opened by the French president, who addresses the troops, and attended by world leaders.

People also mark the occasion with communal meals filled with traditional French dishes and street parties. The words "**liberty, equality and fraternity** (brotherhood)" can be heard during the celebrations. They were the three core beliefs of the people behind the revolution in the 18th century. As it's a national holiday, the post offices, banks and many businesses will close.

Public transport may also be affected and roads might be closed. Bastille Day is celebrated with a huge parade in Paris, which is attended by thousands every year



Maltese feast names give clues to island's Muslim history — by Tim Diacono

Medieval historian Charles Dalli tells us that Christianity probably failed to stand its ground in Malta during Arab conquest, and was replaced by

Islam Some of Catholicism's biggest feasts in Malta, including Lent and Easter, kept their Muslim names indicating continuity from the Arab rule

It is not easy to imagine Malta – so fiercely proud of its Roman Catholic roots – as the Islamic society it once was, and scant records exist of the centuries in which the island was under Arab rule. Yet, as medieval historian Charles Dalli explains, remnants of a Muslim Malta still remain – perhaps ironically in the Maltese names for Catholic feasts. For example, the Maltese word *Randan* (Lent) comes from *Ramadan* – the holy month of fasting and sacrifice in Islam. Similarly, *Għid* (Easter) has its roots in *Eid al-Fitr*, the joyous Islamic feast that marks the end of Ramadan, and *Milied* (Christmas) originates from *Mawlid*, the Islamic celebration of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad.

Also, the Maltese word for 'Friday' (*Il-Ġimgħa*) is called so because it was the day in which Muslims on the island used to attend their weekly congregational '*Jumu'ah*' prayers. "The indication is that the local scene was very heavily Arabicised and Islamicised by the time the Normans conquered the island," Charles Dalli told *MaltaToday*. "Although the Normans certainly urged the public to convert to Christianity, they didn't Latinise them and allowed them to continue speaking Arabic. This is probably why the Maltese words for Christian feasts are derived from similar Islamic celebrations."

Yet the history of Arab rule in Malta is mired in controversy. Historians in the mould of professors Stanley Fiorini and Horatio Vella believe that Christianity, introduced to Malta by St Paul at around 60AD, had stood its ground throughout the Arab rule between 870 and 1090. Yet this argument relies heavily on the interpretation of a passage in a medieval poem, composed by an anonymous Greek poet who had been exiled to Malta. The passage refers to a Christian bishop who had greeted Roger II of Sicily, the son of Count Roger, upon his arrival to Malta. This, some historians argue, is evidence that a Christian community with its own churches and bishop thrived in Malta during Arab rule. However, Oxford professor Jeremy Johns last year claimed that Fiorini erred when translating the Greek text, and that the poet had actually written about a bishop sent by Sicily to Malta to help convert the people to Christianity.

This is the train of thought favoured by Charles Dalli – that Malta was an Islamic society under the Arabs. Indeed, he does not exclude the possibility that the Arabs had repopulated the island after having captured the vast majority of the Maltese people they had found when they had conquered the island from the Byzantines.

"Look, anybody who believes in an ethnic continuity of Maltese people dating back from the time of St Paul is quite frankly living in cloud cuckoo-land," he said. "There is absolutely no such thing as pure Maltese DNA." Dalli believes that the conversion of Maltese society from Islam to Christianity was a gradual process, abetted by the Normans who conquered the island in 1091. "The Normans financially incentivised the natives to convert to Christianity by imposing a religious tax on Muslim subjects," he said. "It is also possible that churches were erected where mosques were pulled down, and that the Mdina Cathedral was built on the site of the largest mosque on the island."

A report in 1240 indicates that this conversion was very gradual; around 800 Muslim families lived in Malta at the time, with Christianity still a minority religion. In around 1492, Sicily embarked on a systematic religious cleansing of the island and deported the Maltese Muslims to the southern Italian town of Lucera, where they formed an artificial community. To save themselves from deportation, people were effectively forced to convert to Christianity. However, Dalli is particularly interested in the space in between, in the 400 or so years in between the arrival of the Normans and the mass ethnic cleansing of Muslims. "Muslims and Christians lived side by side in Malta during that period, a sign of how close Abrahamic faiths are to each other," he said. "Malta was a bridge where the two cultures converged."

Victoria shivers through cold morning with sub-zero temperatures

By Andie Noonan



Photo: Frost sets in on Mt. Hotham in Victoria's north where it got to -3.8C overnight. And people with

umbrellas in the city.

Canberra shivers through -8.7C morning on first day of energy price hike

Victoria has shivered through a cold start this week with sub-zero temperatures recorded overnight and severe frosts in parts of the state. Bureau of Meteorology forecaster Richard Russell said the coldest temperature recorded was at Mount Hotham Airport where it was -7.9 degrees Celsius. Melbourne city 1.1C - In Melbourne, Essendon dropped to -2C this morning, its coldest temperature since August 2003. Laverton got to -1.7C, the coldest there since 2011.

In the city's eastern suburbs, including Scoresby and Moorabbin, the temperature dropped to about -0.5C. The city fell to a chilly 1.1C. Severe frost warnings were in place for the entire state, except the South West and Wimmera districts. "The north-east fared the worst there with some particularly nasty frosts," Mr Russell said.

"Anywhere you could see the temperature below zero ... would have had some reasonably widespread frosts, particularly in lower areas, the bottom of valleys, where cold air tends to pool in the early hours of the morning." Kyabram, in the state's north, recorded a temperature of -4.2C, the coldest morning there since 1985. In Shepparton the temperature dropped to -3.8C, the coldest morning since 2012.

Other parts of Australia also felt the chill, with the temperature plummeting to -8.7C in the CANBERRA, ACT overnight.



HOT WEATHER IN JULY AND AUGUST IN MALTA

July and August are the two hottest months of the year in Malta, although July tends to be the driest and the sunniest of the two. At this time of the year, the average temperature for the island rises from 25°C at the start of the month, all the way up to 27°C in the final few days. Daily highs increase in the same fashion, rising from 30°C to 34°C, whilst daily lows also rise from 21°C to 23°C throughout the month.

Since 1987, the highest maximum temperature which has ever been recorded in Malta in July is 43.1°C, which was registered in 1988. Not only is this temperature the hottest recorded in July, but it's also the hottest temperature ever recorded in Malta since 1987. On the other hand, the lowest minimum temperature ever to be recorded on the island during this month is 17.4°C, which was registered in 1992.

The average sea temperature for Malta in July is 26°C, which almost everyone will find perfect for swimming, scuba diving and snorkelling. The high numbers of sunbathers and swimmers you'll see on the beaches during your holiday in Malta is testament to this. At this time of year, Malta receives an average of 0mm of rainfall, with days and weeks passing by without a single drop of rain falling. Despite the extremely low average rainfall, Malta does receive some form of precipitation on around one day each July. If you are unlucky enough to experience some rainfall during your holiday, it will most probably be moderate rain, thunderstorms or light rain.

Poeżiji Maltin fl-Istati Uniti

Stefan Pullicino



Maltija fl-aqwa forma tagħha.

Poeżiji bil-Malti jinqalgħu minn fuq il-karta

F'Jannar li għadda studenti tal-Midja fl-MCAST ħadmu numru ta' films qosra mnebbħa minn poeżiji bil-Malti li l-istudenti jistudjaw fis-sekondarja, fosthom għall-eżami tal-Malti ta' tmien l-edukazzjoni sekondarja. It-tnedija tal-proġett saret mill-Ministru għall-Edukazzjoni Evarist Bartolo. Huwa kellu kien ta' tifhir għall-istudenti li ħadmu l-films u għal dawk kollha li għenu.



Il-poeżiji li nbiddlu fil-films kienu:

- 'Qasba' ta' Mario Azzopardi,
- 'Lejl ta' Tfulija' ta' Gorġ Borg,
- 'Pitirross' ta' Victor Fenech,
- 'Marsaxlokk' ta' Charles Flores,
- 'Aqta' Kamra u Ibni Fjura' ta' Immanuel Mifsud,
- 'Geraldine' ta' Trevor Zahra,
- 'Fjura tas-Sur' ta' Mario F. Bezzina,
- 'Gargir mal-Ħerża' ta' Marjanu Vella,
- 'Univers leħor' u 'Poeta' ta' Dun Karm Psaila,
- 'Il-Ħajku' ta' Anton Buttigieg u
- 'Tifkiriet ta' Tfuliti' ta' Karmenu Vassallo.

Il-proġett tal-films huwa wieħed minn għadd ta' inizjattivi li l-Taqsima tal-Malti tad-Dipartiment tal-Kurrikulu ħadet f'dawn l-aħħar xhur biex jinholqu riżorsi edukattivi kemm għall-istudenti u għall-għalliema. Dawn ir-riżorsi wieħed jista' jsibhom fuq is-sit elettroniku malti.skola.edu.mt. L-istudenti tal-MCAST li ħadmu fuq dan il-proġett huma James Abdilla, James Azzopardi, Claire Bonello, Luke Borg, Edward Brooks, Soraya Cardona, Leah Cauchi, Sephora Cutajar, Roberto d'Amato, Alexander Ellul, Jake Vassallo u Ivan Zarb Ferrante, bl-għajnuna ta' Ian Attard. Ritratti: Claire Bonello

