

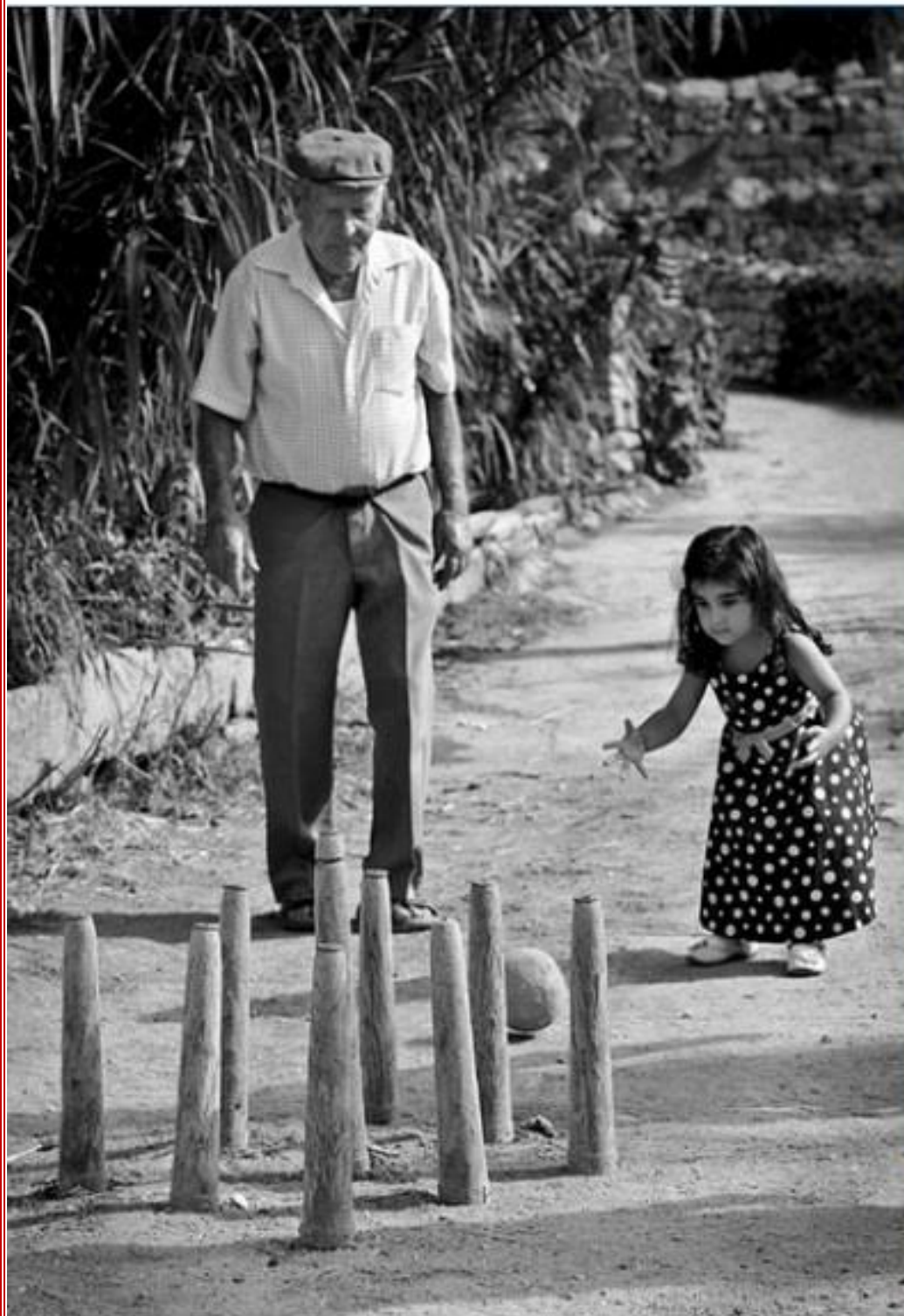


MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The journal of the Maltese Diaspora

Editor: Frank L Scicluna OAM JP

Email: maltesejournal@gmail.com



INHOB B NILGHAB MAN-NANNU



because
they are the
APPLE
of my eyes

The **SONG**
in my heart

The **WARMTH**
in my smile

The **FROSTING**
on my cake

The **ROSE**
in my garden

the **LIGHT**
of my life



A Grandfather
is someone with
silver in his
hair and gold
in his heart.

Joseph Tabone migrated to Australia in 1961

This story is part of a collection of stories from the Skola Maltija's Maltese Migration Projects [From Malta to Australia](#).



Biography of Joseph Tabone
written by Georgia Tabone

My nannu lived in Gozo Malta. He lived in a village called Xargha on Bullara street. Nannu worked very hard on a farm with his father, mother, six brothers and three sisters. In Malta, Nannu's family used to grow all their vegetables and also had some fruit trees. They also had goats for milk to drink and had sheep for wool where they

made blankets and clothing. But nannu had a donkey for transport. The donkey was also used to work the ground for the fruits and vegetables. It was a simple and hard life. But they always had food on the table. Nannu Joe has fond memories of his childhood days.

At age 17 Nannu started thinking about leaving Malta and coming to Australia. A lot of people his age were thinking the same as friends older than him had already been there. He heard many nice and wonderful things about this large country. He was told how nice it was in Australia and how there was plenty of everything. He heard that there were plenty of jobs to get paid lots of money and have enough money to buy food and clothes as well send money back to Malta.

So Nannu decided to come to Australia looking to make a better future for himself and eventually start a family.

Nannu came to Australia in 1961 in February at the age of 18. Nannu fell in love the Australia instantly. He came to Australia on an aeroplane called KLM. He lived in Pendle Hill in N.S.W. on a big farm.

My nannu loved Australia more and more each day and he loves the nice weather as it was very similar to Malta. When he started working he liked it more. My nannu worked on a chicken farm and a market garden. He was able to then send some of the money he had earned to his family back in Malta so they could have more things too.

My nannu said that working in Australia is very good as it was not as hard as Malta because in that time, the Maltese were poor and had to do everything by hand. Also in Malta it was very difficult to get a job and here in Australia it was easier. He said to me he can make a better living here in Sydney Australia than Gozo Malta.

My Nannu had a wonderful life in Malta and had a great childhood living there. But he also had a great time since the day he came to Australia at 18. As people say time flies when you're having fun and my nannu sure had a lot of fun. My nannu still has some happy memories from Gozo Malta and they will always be with him to the end!

<http://www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au/stories/from-malta-to-australia/joe-migrated-from-malta-to-australia-in-1961/index.html>





Capsized on the Mercanti Reef off Dragonara Point.

MALTA DIARY: The ill-fated voyage of the MV 'Star of Malta' in 1955 – and my ill-fate because of it!

Albert Fenech

b-c-ing-u.com | June 15, 2016

It was the 29th of July 1955 and I was nine years old. We were in Malta on holiday from England, that is my late mother Pauline, my younger brother Edward and I, staying at our maternal grandparents' home in Falzon Street, Sliema. My late father Frank stayed behind in England to earn the family bread at RAF Cardington in Bedfordshire.



Word of mouth quickly spread in the early morning that the MV 'Star of Malta' had foundered on the Mercanti Reef off Dragonara Point, just off the Sliema Seafront, in heavy morning mists. Deaths and injuries were mentioned.

My mother's youngest brother, my Uncle Gino, a habitual roof dweller as an ardent pigeon fancier, took me up on the roof with him where in the distance we saw the ship wedged on the reef. We went downstairs again and

Gino decided to go and get a closer look, walking the short distance to the Seafront, a 15-minute walk.

I was absorbed in curiosity which had to be satisfied and without anybody being aware I slunk off and walked the short distance to the Tal-Karmnu area on the Seafront to get a closer look of the ship surrounded by an armada of small boats.

Curiosity satisfied, I returned home – to pandemonium! My mother Pauline, nannu George and my nanna Giovanna were beside themselves with worry after they noticed my absence and my return welcome was frantic with shouts and chastisement.

Nannu George meted out a lot of stern finger-wagging and stories of the horrors and ill-fate that befalls boys who run away from home; nanna Giovanna took the role of my guardian and tried to smoothen matters with expressions of "the boy being overcome with curiosity" and how "boys will be boys" (she herself had given birth to four).

My mother took a much more proactive and physical role and gave me a few good whacks with a wooden spoon to "teach me a lesson" and "not be the cause of her early death through worry". The wooden spoon was her chosen tool of chastisement when either my brother Edward or I fell out of line, I being a frequent recipient of the sound of wood meeting the flesh of the posterior!

For the rest of the day I was left in my underpants so as "not to run away again".

At the time, the ship was just a ship like any other and of no particular significance except for enhancing my seafaring dreams of Treasure Island and Robinson Crusoe.

Much later I learnt the Star of Malta had a long, vastly chequered and highly interesting and fascinating history.

It first rode on the sea waves after being launched in 1925 as the luxury yacht 'Camargo', specifically built for American millionaire and expert yachtsman Julius Fleischmann from Cincinnati who was a descendent

of the famous yeast manufacturing family. He loved to tour the South Pacific with his wife and two children and devoted his time to charting the many Japanese islands there, maps which later became highly essential to US Intelligence in World War II.

In 1938 it was bought by Generalissimo Rafael Trujillo, President of the Dominican Republic and renamed 'Ramfis' but in 1942 it was bought by the US Navy and was converted for naval services and re-commissioned as the USS Marcasite (PY-28) under the command of Lt. Cdr Leander Jeffrey and was assigned to Pearl Harbour to escort merchant ships operating in the Hawaiian Islands. It was later assigned to Seattle as a patrol and weather station ship and was decommissioned on 5th October 1944, sold and renamed MV 'Commando'.

Dawn on 29th July 1955 turned out to be a fateful day. The MV 'Star of Malta' had left Syracuse in the early morning on its return journey to Malta carrying 57 passengers. As it approached Malta's coast at about 8am the sea was shrouded in heavy mists and it ran into the Mercanti Reef some 200 feet off Dragonara Point, capsized and keeled over to one side. The ship was under the command of Commodore S.G. Kent OBE, an experienced sea captain who earlier had been instrumental in overhauling the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

The ship's second cook A. Grech and a passenger, a Ms Mary Borg went missing and presumed drowned while all the other passengers and crew survived.

When news of the accident spread a flotilla of small fishing and pleasure boats sped to the area to assist but as the passengers had already disembarked, the opportunity was taken to salvage anything possible, including crates of fresh fruit and a number of cages containing chickens and some other livestock were all pilfered as 'souvenirs'.

A postal hand-stamped 'damaged by seawater/ex Star of Malta 29.7.55' was applied to all letters and cards salvaged, a hand-stamp of great value now.

The ship remained wedged on the reef but later in August was re-floated by the Danish salvage company Svitzer and towed to the Rodriquez Shipyard in Messina, repaired and returned to continue the Malta-Syracuse link, this time under the command of Yugoslav Captain Velkjo Hajjia.

In September 1955 a Maritime Inquiry held Commodore Kent as being responsible for the accident. The assessors reviewed his previous blameless record as a sea captain but under the circumstances had no alternative but to suspend his Master's Ticket for 12 months and thus ended an illustrious sea career.

In March of 1966 it was purchased by the Cantieri Navali della Grazie of La Spezia in Italy and broken up, and thus ended another illustrious and chequered career at sea. Reviewing all this in retrospect, I am glad I stole away to see the wreck 61 years ago. It was an experience well worth a few whacks with a wooden spoon and an afternoon in underpants. Incidentally, I did not drive my mother to an early grave. She died four years ago at the venerable age of 89, God rest her good soul.



About Albert Fenech

Born in 1946, Albert Fenech's family took up UK residence in 1954 where he spent his boyhood and youth before temporarily returning to Malta between 1957 and 1959 and then coming back to Malta permanently in 1965. He spent eight years as a full-time journalist with

"The Times of Malta" before taking up a career in HR Management but still retained his roots by actively pursuing freelance journalism and broadcasting for various media outlets covering social issues, current affairs, sports and travel.



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REPUBLIC STREET IN VALLETTA CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Malta beat out 14 other famously festive destinations including New York, Nuremberg and Reykjavik.



Valletta Christmas lights; Photo by Ray Anastasi - Sent to us by Harry Bugeja

CNN Travel has ranked Malta as the top destination to visit during the Christmas holidays, citing the Maltese islands' cribs, lights and even the annual pantomime as major attractions.

Malta beat out 14 other famously festive destinations, including New York (which came in at second place), Nuremberg in Germany (sixth place) and Reykjavik in Iceland (ninth place).

The article gushed about preseppi (nativity scenes), saying they were "an integral part of Christmas in Malta." "Every year, residents proudly open their shutters, and sometimes even their garage doors, to display their holy crib confections to the public."

The article also spoke with awe about Bethlehem f'Ghajnsielem, "a life-size nativity spread over 20,000 square meters of formerly abandoned fields. Inhabited and animated by more than 150 actors, including entire families, the village takes visitors back in time to Judea of 2,000 years ago."

The article ended by recommending a visit to the Manoel Theater, for its annual Christmas pantomime, as well as the Malta Toy Museum in Valletta, "a heart-warming homage to childhood."

More than 1.76 million tourists have visited Malta between January and September 2017. The number is set to go up to 1.84 million by the end of the year, according to Trading Economics' global macro models.



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INVITES YOU TO COME & CELEBRATE

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With a Dinner Dance

Date: Saturday 20th January 2018 **Time:** Doors open 6:30 pm for 7:00pm start

Place: Mandavilla Function Centre - 1788 The Horsley Drive, Horsley Park

Entertainer: Joe Apap

Dinner: 3 Course Meal, Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks, tea, coffee, pastizzi & fruit platters

Contact:

Ray & Josephine Bigeni: 9627 4182, Mob: 0439 974 182 **M'Anne Teuma:** 4579 6771



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We remind you that the National Maltese Language Council, after the second public seminar held and a long series of meetings he had with people from different entities, published the final draft report writing words from -English in Maltese.

THE MALTESE charm - *together we continue to discover the beauty of Isienja*. Listen to us in the program Saturday after the news of noon, on Malta Radio (93.7FM) ...

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THERESA AND CHARLIE HILI TALK ABOUT EMIGRATING FROM MALTA TO AUSTRALIA OVER 60 YEARS AGO. "I HAVE NO REGRETS."

J. Thompson

I am an Australian filmmaker who lives in New York City. I recently went back to Sydney, Australia to visit my family for the Christmas holidays. While I was there, I sat down with my grandparents, my Nanna and Nannu, who emigrated from Malta to Australia over sixty years ago, when they were pregnant with my mother, Gejtana (who now goes by Gail). They spoke about their childhoods in Malta, growing up during the horrors of World War II, their sacrifices, hopes and dreams upon setting sail to a foreign land, and about their ever-growing Australian family, now with 13 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. The StoryCorps Archive Kristen Felice

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TORONTO - ONTARIO
2017 CHRISTMAS CONCERT



December 8th 2017.

Start Time: 7pm

3224 Dundas St W, Toronto. ONTARIO

Featuring The Malta Band, The Maltese Heritage Group,
Ivy Spalding, Sue Anne Ellis, and
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ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH
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START TIME: 12:00 PM
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FULL COURSE LUNCH
BINGO SESSION TO FOLLOW
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MALTESE GUILD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

26 November 2017

MALTESE CULTURAL CENTRE

6 Jeanes Street, Beverley - South Australia 5009



MEMBERS OF THE NEW COMMITTEE 2017/18

President; Chev. Charlie Farrugia OAM JP

Vice President: Mr John Mangion

Secretary: Mr. Anthony Farrugia

Assistant Sec : Mr. Warren Farrugia

Treasurer: Mr. Gus Vella

Councillors; Mrs Doris Agius Mangion

Ms Doris Muscat

Mr. Tony Vassallo

The members of the Maltese community of South Australia
congratulate the members of the new committee
and wish them every success in all their future ventures

Ġużè Ellul Mercer— author, politician and journalist



From Wikipedia. **Ġużè Ellul Mercer (born 22 March 1897 – Died 22 September 1961)** was a Maltese author, journalist and politician. He joined the Labour Party (PL) and he started his parliamentary career in 1924. He was subsequently elected Member of Parliament at the general elections held in 1951 and 1955. In 1955, he was elected Labour Party deputy-leader for parliamentary affairs. He was also appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Public Works and Reconstruction in 1955, but lost that position after the 1958 election.

Early life and career - Ellul Mercer was born in Msida in 1897, to Salvu Ellul and Jane née Mercer. He was the eldest amongst twelve siblings. His maternal uncle, Anthony Mercer was involved in setting up boy scouts in Malta during Baden-Powell's governorship of the islands. His maternal grandfather was a Scottish architect and civil engineer who designed a new dock at the Malta Drydocks. On

the islands he met with his future wife, having one daughter together, Jane. Ellul Mercer's grandfather was Anglican, but converted to Catholicism on his deathbed.

His paternal grandparents were merchants and mastika-producers, owning a shop in *Strada Merkanti*, in Valletta. Ellul Mercer's parents also became spirit merchants. One of Ellul Mercer's siblings became a Franciscan friar, acting as a missionary in Guatemala and Honduras. He returned to Malta following the death of his elder brother. Ellul Mercer was educated at the Gżira elementary school, at *Flores College* and the Lyceum. During the First World War, he entered the civil service as a clerk, reaching the grade of *Chief Clerk* by 1950.

Marriage - On 26 July 1921, he married Maria Teresa née Brockdorff, the daughter of Frederick Brockdorff a publisher from Imsida. They lived at 40, Ta' Xbiex Wharf, Imsida. They had a son, Martin, went on to become a Labour Party candidate in 2013.^{[1][2]} On 11 January 1953, his wife died in their Tas-Sliema house. She was 55, and she died within two years of the death of Ellul Mercer's mother. The loss of his wife had a negative effect on Ellul Mercer.

Politics - Early involvement - Ġużè Ellul Mercer became involved in politics since 1919, before the establishment of the Labour Party. In 1924 he joined the committee of the Labour Party Club in Imsida, becoming assistant editor of the Labour newspaper *Il Cotra* (English: *The Crowd*) in 1928 and its editor in 1930. In 1928, he penned a series of short stories titled *Il-Ħrejjef ta' Barraminu* in the newspaper *Il-Ħmar*, with his writings being condemned by church authorities. The local police took the director of the newspaper, C. Satariano, and its editor, Ġużeppi Arena, to court over these writings. At first, they were fined for their actions but were found not guilty on appeal.

Ellul Mercer had a heart condition, and on 24 April 1929, he tendered his resignation from the Executive Committee of the Labour Party, however he continued his involvement with the party, becoming president of his local Labour Party club in 1931.

After the Second World War - In 1945, Ellul Mercer was involved in the drafting of the new 1947 Maltese self-government constitution by the National Assembly. He was one of the main speakers for the *Labour Front*, made up of the General Workers' Union and the Labour Party. The other main speakers were Paul Boffa, Reggie Miller, Mosè Gatt, Indri Cilia, Leli Tabone, Nestu Laiviera and Turu Colombo. Ellul Mercer was elected on the Assembly's Working Committee and its Financial Committee. The Assembly met for its last adjournment on 7 March 1947. The main achievements of this Assembly were the return to self-government on 5 September 1947 and universal suffrage for those aged 21 and over. Electors were limited with one vote, used to elect representatives in a unicameral Parliament, the *Assemblea Leġislattiva*.

In 1947, the Labour Party won the general elections, but within two years the Labour Party suffered an internal rift following disagreements between its Leader, Paul Boffa, who represented the moderate wing of the party, and one of its rising stars, Dom Mintoff, who stood for a more radical and socialist approach. Ellul



Mercer joined Mintoff's fringe, even if he had worked with Boffa since the 1920s. Ellul Mercer followed the decision of the Labour Party's General Conference, which had removed Boffa from the party-leadership.

Ellul Mercer contested the 1950 general elections, but he failed to win a seat. In this election, although the newly renamed *Malta Labour Party*, led by Mintoff, and the *Malta Workers Party*, led by Boffa, together gained more votes and seats than the *Partit Nazzjonalista*, the two leftist parties' inability to reach a compromise led to the formation of a minority Nationalist government led by Enrico Mizzi.

Following Mizzi's death on 20 December 1950, Giorgio Borġ Olivier became Prime Minister, however this minority government was weak, with another election held in 1951. Ellul Mercer was elected in this election, as well as in the successive two election in 1953 and 1955, contesting the seat for the fifth electoral district, made up of Gżira, Imsida, Tas-Sliema and San Ġiljan. In 1952, Ellul Mercer was involved in an activity by the Labour Party's youth association, organising lectures and seminars at the Marsascala Labour Party club.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister - Following the electoral victory at the 1955 general elections, Prime Minister Mintoff chose Ellul Mercer as Minister for Public Works and Reconstruction. On 9 March 1955, Ellul Mercer was elected Deputy Leader of the Labour Party following Joseph Flores' resignation, who became speaker of the *Assemblea Legislattiva*. In the contest for the deputy-leadership, Ellul Mercer gained 217 votes, with E.C. Tabone getting 93 votes.

On New Year's Eve 1956, Deputy Prime Minister Ellul Mercer broadcast the traditional message of greetings to the Maltese people. Ellul Mercer stated that the Maltese can look both to their future and their past with satisfaction, and that the country had managed to close the first, and most difficult phase, of the post-war reorganisation of its social and economic life. This would ensure the security, education and better living conditions for the whole Maltese islands.

For the first time in Maltese history, children were to be provided with full-time education, which became free. Technical education was introduced, with unskilled adults receiving training. Ellul Mercer said that the country's industrial progress would be ensured, with the Grand Harbour improved, an adequate water supply secured and afforestation plans. Ellul Mercer closed his speech by referring to the proposed integration of Malta with the United Kingdom, describing optimism for Malta's foreign-relations with the United Kingdom.

As Minister for Public Works and Reconstruction between March 1955 and April 1958, Ellul Mercer completed a number of projects, such as the widening and reconstruction of traffic links at Porte des Bombes, Floriana, and the reclamation of land leading to improved linkages and road-infrastructure in Imsida. Ellul Mercer was also instrumental for the extension and construction of schools. By March 1957, eighteen schools were built anew, with extensions constructed in many others. Eleven new schools were planned for in 1957, with the extension of the Ғaž-Żebbuġ school, and a new girl's secondary school in Blata l-Bajda.



THE MALTESE YOUTH OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA together with the Malta Community Chest Fund Australia are proud to announce our first Fundraising Gala Dinner in Adelaide, with all profits going directly to the Malta Community Chest Fund in Malta.

Saturday 10 March 2018 KRYSTAL FUNCTION CENTRE (Port Adelaide, South Australia)

5 course meal (beer, wine and softdrink incl.) Live entertainment by **PULSE BAND**

Adults: \$65 pp 12 & Under: \$40 pp

Gather all your family and friends and put a table together. Tickets to be released early December!

Please contact Tessamarie Agius on 0410 890 225 or Jane Agius on 08 8268 7168. Alternatively through our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/malteseyouthsa>

Ottini - Maltese Number 8 Shaped Biscuits

These Maltese biscuits were one of my favourites whilst growing up and to be honest they still are as I grew to miss them whilst living here in England. So obviously I had to make them. The recipe is very similar to [Qagħaq tal-Ġunġlien \(Maltese Biscuit Rings with Sesame Seeds\)](#) with some ingredient changes and also, this time I used a food processor. Needless to say there was less mess in the kitchen and took less time to prepare!! It is quite easy to shape a number 8, actually easier than you had thought. Also, when I bake my OCD kicks in and I always have to weigh the prepared dough and divide its weight into equal and even shapes haha. Using this method I always get equally shaped (well approximately) finished products. So if you miss these biscuits like I do, here is how I made 10 of them first thing on a Saturday morning. You can dunk these in hot tea or coffee, that's how we like them :) You will need...

- 250g plain flour
- 85g caster sugar
- 1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
- 1 egg
- ½ teaspoon ground aniseed
- Pinch ground cloves
- 90g salted butter, at room temperature, cut into cubes
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 tablespoon orange flower water - Ilma zahar (if not available add another tablespoon of water)
- Grated zest of 1 orange
- Sesame seeds

Method - Preheat the oven to 180°C.

1. If you are using a food processor, start by adding the flour, sugar, spices and baking powder into the food processor and pulse for a few minutes. If not using a processor add the dry ingredients in a large bowl and mix well. Add the butter and blend until all butter has been incorporated into the flour. If using your hands, mix the butter in with your fingertips until mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.
2. In a small bowl beat the egg and mix in the orange zest, water, orange flower water and oil. Mix well. Add to the dry ingredients whilst food processor is running and blend until the dough comes together. Again if using your hands, add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients mix well until you get a soft dough.
3. Divide the dough into 10 equal sized balls (about 50g each), a bit bigger than golf balls and roll into thin long sausage like shapes, about 30cm long. Shape into a number 8 and carefully transfer into a plate with sesame seeds turning over to cover both sides with the seeds. Place on a tray lined with greaseproof paper and bake in the preheated oven for about 20-22 minutes.
4. Let cool down and serve with tea or coffee. Enjoy!!

Posted by [Ramón and Amanda](#) <https://ramandalicious.blogspot.com.au/>



Civil Society Network - MaltaGustizzja Demonstration - Featuring Antonio Di Pietro

The demonstration will also be addressed by writer Immanuel Mifsud, journalist Caroline Muscat, civil society network activist Miriam Galea and Italian investigative journalist Marilu Mastrogiovanni.



Anxiety Disorder by Dr. Victor Chircop-Sullivan

Anxiety is a term which describes normal feeling people experience when faced with threat or danger or when stressed.

what is
generalized
anxiety
disorder?

When people become anxious that typically feel upset, uncomfortable and tense. Feelings of anxiety are caused by experience of life such as job loss, relationship, breakdown, serious illness, major accident or the death of someone close. Feeling anxious is appropriate in these situations and usually we feel anxious for only a limited time. These feelings are regarded as clinical anxiety but are part of very day life.

High anxiety disorder are feelings of continual or extreme discomfort and tension with fear of panic attacks, usually without discernible cause, they are disorders that affect

the way the person thinks, feels, and believes and if not treated cause considerable suffering and distress.

Types of anxiety disorders

Most types of anxiety disorder are characterised by heightened anxiety such as :-

Agoraphobia as fear of being in places or situations from which it may be difficult or embarrassing to get away, or the fear that help might be unavailable if needed.

Panic disorder such as experiencing extreme panic attack in situations where most people would **not be afraid, attacks are accompanied physical symptom of anxiety with a fear that the attack will** lead to death or total loss of control.

Social phobia such a fear that others will judge everything they do in a negative way. They believe they are permanently flawed and worthless if any signs of poor performance is detected.

Post traumatic stress disorder such as people who have experienced major traumas such as torture, vehicle accidents, fires or personal violence continue to feel terror long after the event is over.

The result of all this

Stress hormone boost - responding to signals from the hypothalamus and pituitary gland, the adrenal glands pump out high levels of stress hormone cortisol. Too much cortisol short-circuits the cells in the hippocampus, making it difficult to organise the memory of a trauma or stressful experience, Memories lose their context and become fragmented.

Racing heart - The body's sympathetic nervous system, responsible for heart rate and breathing, shifts into overdrive. The heart's beats faster, blood pressure rises and the lungs hyperventilate, sweat increases and even the nerve endings on the skin tingle into action, creating goose bumps.

Flight and fright - The senses become hyper alert, drinking in every detail of the surrounding and looking for potential new threats. Adrenaline shoots in for muscles, preparing the body to flight or flee.

Digestion shutdown - The brain stops thinking about things that bring pleasure, shifting its focus instead to identifying potential dangers. To ensure that no energy is wasted on digestion, the body will sometimes respond by emptying the digestive tract through involuntary vomiting, urination or defecation.

Body responses - The body responds by putting the brain on alert, the amygdala triggers a series of changes in the brain chemicals and hormones that puts the entire body in anxiety.

Conclusion - Stress is our way of life, but too much stress can lead to panic situation because the brain is too much under duress that unless one can control the stress factor, the heart and the rate of breathing. So it is important that one controls excessive stress situations. Simply, in a stressful situation try to relax, find something that could occupy our brain other than unpleasant events. enjoy the company of good friends and occupy your brain in a pleasant circumstances. And above all, seek medical and/or psychological help.



Electronic vote counting to be introduced – counting could be ready within 12 hours



Report: Ruth Castillo

The Electoral Commission has signed a contract with the Idox Group in the UK so that the counting of votes for the MEP and local council elections taking place in 2019 will be done through an electronic system. The Chief Electoral Officer, Joseph Church, said that in this way the official result will be known within 12 hours after the counting starts.

By means of an investment of over €2 million, we will see a radical change in the counting process

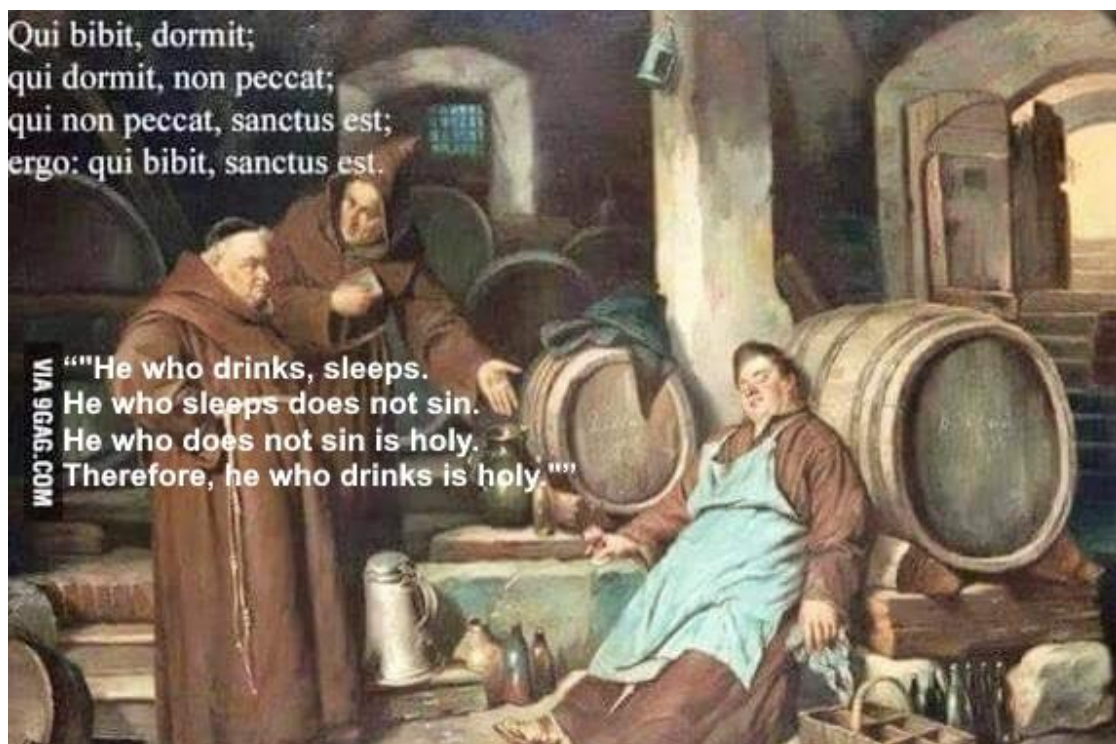
which will go from counting by hand to an electronic counting system.

Mr Church explained that “we are aiming to finalise the result by Sunday, in other words if we begin counting on Sunday morning, by that same evening we will have released the official result, unless, of course, there is some kind of problem during the process.”

Idox Chief Executive, Andrew Riley, explained that the ballots will be scanned using specialized scanners.

Mr Riley said, “the electronic counting system works by scanning in the ballot papers that are currently in use, recognizing when marks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 etc. have been placed on the ballot paper and then determining automatically what the result of the election is from these preferences. The Electoral Commission will still remain in control of deciding on ballot papers that are dubious or anyway spoilt, meaning that the election is still in the control of the Commission.”

Mr Riley added that the identical system which will be used in Malta has been used in Scotland and other countries for around six to seven years.





Lufthansa wants to open base in Malta for maintenance of large airplane fleet

Report: Adrian Spiteri

Lufthansa International is considering Malta for its base for the maintenance of a new fleet of large airplanes, the Airbus A350, which at the moment are the largest passenger planes in the

industry.

In an interview with **tvm.com.mt**, the Chief Executive of Lufthansa Technik, Marcus Motschenbacher, said that the negotiations with the Government for this project are at an advanced stage and if they are approved, the company will invest more than four million Euro in Malta.

15 years since Lufthansa Technik established its first hangar in Malta for the maintenance of airplanes, Lufthansa International is considering Malta to carry out maintenance on the new airbus A350.

According to Mr Motschenbacher, if the negotiations lead to an agreement, the Government will require a larger hangar than the one there is now.

Following a visit to the Lufthansa Technik facilities, Minister Konrad Mizzi confirmed that there are ongoing talks on this issue. "In the next few weeks to Lufthansa Technik International will be evaluating a proposal from Malta to create new guidelines in our country which will lead to one of the most modern airplanes being serviced in Malta. We hope that this proposal will be accepted, and the Government is lending its full support."

Right now there are three airplanes at the Lufthansa hangar at Hal Farruġ. This same hangar can accommodate only one airbus A350 and therefore it will need to enlarge its facilities to continue providing the maintenance for the planes it is servicing at the moment.


"We are working together with Lufthansa to evaluate what infrastructure is needed at the airport to ensure that we have enough parking space, enough space to manoeuvre the planes and to have an area in which they are comfortable working in and which is close to the hangars they have now," the Minister said.

Mr Motschenbacher said he was confident that Lufthansa will choose Malta, because of the success story it has had over the last ten years. "The decision is still not finalised but it will be finalised, basically in the next couple of weeks and I hope for a positive outcome because we are well positioned."

He added that the first maintenance on the fleet of the Airbus A350 is expected to be carried out at the end of next year.

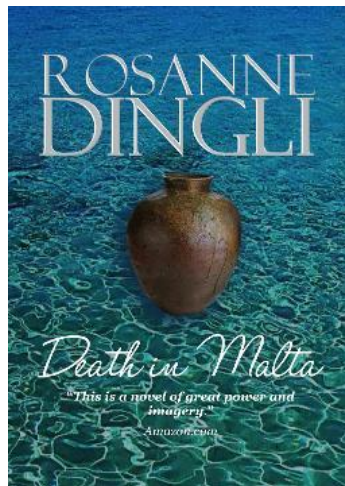
MALTESE
Newsletter

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Death in Malta

by Rosanne Dingli (Goodreads Author)



Novelist Gregory Worthington flees to Malta, where he hopes to find sanctuary from his crumbling marriage and inspiration for his next novel. The inspiration arrives upon hearing of the village mystery of a missing child. This becomes the subject of his writing, but his investigations are fraught with difficulty. His romance with a local woman can either restore or ruin his career, but who is the unexpected female visitor? The village parish priest shows veiled antagonism towards him, which is countered by a friendship struck with a mysterious doctor. "Life is not a novel, Mr Worthington, in which everything is resolved by the last twenty pages," says the parish priest. But there are questions that must be answered, and Worthington determines to find the solutions before he leaves Malta. Poignant and moving, punctuated by comical scenes and passionate interludes, "Death in Malta" is a powerful novel of love and loss, disappointment and dislocation - curiosity and consequences.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born and raised in Malta, Rosanne Dingli received her education and her most significant youthful experiences in the Mediterranean. She was there when Malta became independent from Britain in 1964.



Speaking three languages fluently from childhood, the cocktail of cultures of her early life became inseparable from how she understood the world.

Emigrating to Australia in 1982 confounded a number of long-held presumptions about culture, freedom, what it means to be a woman, and the whole business of becoming an author. Her first published piece, in 1985, when she was living in Narrandera, NSW, set her on a one-way journey towards life as a writer, which she has tried several times to give up, without success. It led her at different times to jobs that consistently confirmed the publishing industry endures swift and sudden changes, and is as full as other things in life of rogues, angels and every other kind of creature in between. She has met the full gamut, from sour scoundrels to sweet spirits.

Her first novel, *Death in Malta*, was written quickly, but took years to edit to its present form. According to Luke was a labour of intensity, love and discovery. *Camera Obscura* is the book she had to write. *The Hidden Auditorium* was a matter of renewing acquaintance with one favourite character.

<http://www.rosannedingli.com/death-in-malta.php>

"Death in Malta's protagonist is human, vulnerable and believable." Amazon.com

The Road to Women's Suffrage and Beyond – at the Ministry for Gozo Gozonews.com

The Ministry for Gozo and the Central Bank of Malta, are organising a public event to mark seventy years since Maltese women obtained the constitutional right to vote.

It was on 25 – 27 October 1947, the women of Malta exercised for the first time the right to vote.

This had been enshrined in the 1947 Constitution, which was promulgated in September 1947 and which reconstituted self-government to Malta.

The Road to Women's Suffrage and Beyond – is the title of the event, which will take place next Friday, the 24th of November at the Ministry for Gozo, St Francis Square, Victoria, starting at 6.00pm.

Key speeches will be delivered by the Minister for Gozo Dr Justyne Caruana, and Dr Carmen Sammut, University of Malta.



Dr Carmen Sammut is Pro Rector for Students & Staff Affairs and Outreach. She lectures in the Department of International Relations (Faculty of Arts) where she also served as Head of Department.

She holds a PhD in Media and Communications from Goldsmiths College, University of London. She obtained her Masters (cum laude), a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) and a BA Degree from the University of Malta.

Dr Sammut currently teaches and writes about journalism, international communications, political communication and issues of culture in international affairs. At the University of Malta she also teaches journalism within the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences (MAKS).

Dr Sammut also played a role in civil society, namely in relation to gender-related issues. She regularly moderates events which included the Convention of the Maltese Living Abroad and the Women's Forum during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2015.

There will also be musical interludes performed by Ms Britt Arend, harpist, Malta Philharmonic Orchestra. Entrance will be free of charge and to reserve a seat, kindly phone on +356 25503105. Refreshments will be served after the event.

The Central Bank of Malta is issuing a silver coin to mark the 70th Anniversary of this significant achievement. Designed and engraved by artist Noel Galea Bason, the diameter 38.61mm; Gross weight 28.28gr; Alloy 0.925 Silver, the minting limit is 1,500 coins.

The issue date is the 1st of December. Any items purchased with this product will be posted on 1st of December 2017.



IL-PRESIDENT TA' MALTA U IL-MALTA COMMUNITY CHEST FUND FOUNDATION

Bi-ghajjnuna tiegħek fl-Istrina tas-sena l-oħra, il-Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation kienet strumentali biex Nigel jkun jista' jmur l-Ingilterra għal trapjant f'qalbu. L-operazzjoni ta' Nigel inxxtet b'suċċess. Niltaqghu fis-26 ta' Diċembru, l-ghada tal-Milied, fl-Istrina! [#jienalistrina](https://www.facebook.com/MCCFFmalta/)

Nhar il-Hadd 3 ta' Diċembru f'12:00, I-E.T. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President ta' Malta, ser tkun qed tiffirma kopji tal-ktieb 'Tisjir mill-Qalb' fil-Kulleġġ St Edwards, waqt is-St Edward's Christmas Village.

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

Eleanor Borg shows us around Wollongong, Australia



Travelling is always risky business – get stuck in a touristy area and your meals are terrible as is the rest of your stay. Eleanor Borg shows us around Wollongong in Australia.



Rachel Zammit Cutajar

Travelling is always risky business – get stuck in a touristy area and your meals are terrible. The same can be said of sightseeing, hotels and nightspots. Travelling to a place where you know people to recommend the right places makes your stay all the more enjoyable. Eleanor Borg (21), was born in Malta and is currently living in Wollongong, Australia and on student exchange at the University of Wollongong for one semester.

Best spot for sightseeing - Catch views of the entire city at the top of Mount Keira. Just 80km south of Sydney, Wollongong is a place of natural beauty. The hike up Mount Kiera is a must. It's a one and a half hour hike each way – longer if you get lost – which is very easy to do. Once you get up there you have an unobstructed view of the whole of Wollongong. It's pretty breathtaking. Nan Tien Temple also deserves a mention. This is a large Buddhist temple, a short drive out of Wollongong in the suburb of Berkeley. Culturally it is rich, and there are a variety of activities you can participate in. It's grounds are impressive and definitely worth wandering around. North Wollongong Beach is a pretty beach 15 minutes away from North Wollongong Station. It's the perfect place to grab a good cup of coffee and a couple waves.



Go on an adventure camping in the Blue Mountains

Everyday is a day for adventure in Australia. Whether you're an experienced hiker or enjoy a *passigata* along Sliema front there's something for everyone.



If camping is your thing, hop on a train and spend the weekend at the Blue Mountains and explore all they have to offer. The Royal National Park also offers some stellar camping spots and provides you with views for days. If you're just looking for a day trip there's Belmore Falls, numerous treks round The Royal National Park and the Sublime Point hike. If you're not a Wild Thornberry at heart or would just prefer something a bit more chilled out there are some amazing coastal walks such as the Bondi to Coogee Coastal walk and the Kiama Coastal Walk. Both require a trip by train so think

ahead and pack some snacks.

Take in the soothing sounds of the ocean at North Wallongong Beach

Whether you're a sea person or a land person, Wollongong has something for everyone. North Wollongong Beach and Fairy Meadow Beach are great for some soothing ocean sounds, or for a dip in the water if you're feeling warm enough. On a sunny day these beaches will be packed (by Australian standards - nothing compared Take in the soothing sounds of the ocean at North Wallongong Beach

Whether you're a sea person or a land person, Wollongong has something for everyone. North Wollongong Beach and Fairy Meadow Beach are great for some soothing ocean sounds, or for a dip in the water if you're feeling warm enough. On a sunny day these beaches will be packed (by Australian standards - nothing compared to Ghadira on a Sunday in August). If you're not all that fond of sand and sea you can check out Mount Kiera, Sublime Point or the Royal National Park. All of these offer breathtaking views and are well worth a visit.

If you need some quiet time in between lectures and are craving some greenery, check out the Botanical Gardens, which are situated right across the road from the main bus bay at Uni. It's the perfect escape from

the world. If you're feeling lazy and want to stay on campus, the duck pond offers a similar escape, just make sure you've got your sandwiches somewhere safe and out of reach from the ducks.

If you're traveling as a student, check out the various student parties throughout the week. The most notorious being Wednesday night at the Grand Hotel and Thursday night at the Illawarra Hotel. Wednesday at the Grand is definitely always interesting. There are three rooms all playing different music from High School Musical mash-ups to Jay-Z to Tiga. A typical night at the Grand ends in a snack pack from Fatboy's and running to catch the party bus before it leaves. You can only catch the party bus if you're a student at the University of Wollongong, as this takes you back to the student accommodation premises on campus.

Thursday at the Illa is retro night. It's good fun and people are always down for a dance. If Dancing Queen and Mr. Brightside don't do it for you, there's another dance floor that plays hip hop / R 'n' B music. Once again, no night out is complete without a trip to Fatboy's.



Best place to eat - Il Pozzo Cafe

There are loads of good restaurants, bars and what not in Wollongong but my number one would have to be Il Pozzo cafe. It's situated right across the road from North Wollongong station. They offer a wide range of sandwiches, snack packs (halal meat with chips and sauces), burgers etc and even cater to gluten free and vegan diets on request. Plus, it's run by a Maltese lady and her Aussie husband so you can always go there when you need your Maltese lingo fix and some Maltese treats. Pro tip; ask for a Nutella frappe and Ingrid's homemade almond cookies (biskuttini tal-lewz).

Best spot for shopping - The food market on Crown Street in Wollongong is the place to be on Thursdays

Crown Street is your best bet, there are loads of shops from outdoor shops to supermarkets to clothes shops. There are also some pretty good places to stop and grab a bite to eat or a coffee mid-retail therapy session.

There's also a food market every Thursday evening (weather permitting), which features a large variety of cuisines and is a good way to spend a Thursday evening with friends. If you want something slightly trendier, you can hop onto a train and head to Bondi Beach in Sydney on a Sunday morning and check out Bondi Market. (Pro tip; public transport on Sundays costs \$2.60 for the whole trip, so save your far flung adventures for Sundays).

How to get there - Wollongong is just 80km south of Sydney. Emirates offer daily flights to between Sydney and Malta with a stop over in Dubai. Once you get to the international airport, you can hop into a car and take the Grand Pacific Drive if you're looking for an adventure. You will experience costal rainforests, quaint seaside villages and the 665-metre Sea Cliff Bridge all before you arrive at your destination. If you're in a hurry, there is a motorway that can get you there in under 90 minutes. Alternatively you can hop on a train to Wolli Creek Station from any international airport. Once you arrive you need to disembark and board the South Coast Line train to Wollongong.



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Chorus Urbanus in a Christmas Carols Bonanza at St George's Basilica



BY GOZO NEWS · GOZITAN CHOIR, CHORUS URBANUS ARE PREPARING FOR ITS VERY POPULAR ANNUAL, CHRISTMAS CONCERT, TAKING PLACE NEXT MONTH.

Following on from the Choir's participation in the very successful musical "Fiddler on the Roof," Chorus Urbanus are also in rehearsals for this 20th edition of "Il-Kuncert tal-Milied"

This Christmas Concert has now become synonymous with Chorus Urbanus and this year the Choir will be presenting a –

Christmas Carols Bonanza – with a selection of well-known traditional and contemporary yuletide carols and songs. The Urbanus Junior Choir under the direction of Ms Maureen Zerafa will be accompanying Chorus Urbanus in this year's concert.

The Choir has also announced that George Curmi, better known as "Il-Puse," a leading Maltese violinist, as well as Yuri Charyguine on the accordion, will be accompanying the Choir and the orchestral ensemble on the night. The concert is being held at St. George's Basilica in Victoria, on Sunday 17th of December, starting at 8.00pm.

The entrance for the concert is free of charge and patrons are being requested to be seated at least 15 minutes before the start of the concert.

Malta will host the FINE (European Federation of Nurse Educators) Nursing Conferences from 21-23 February 2018 at the Valletta Campus of the University of Malta.

In this connection, the Department of Nursing of the University of Malta is inviting nurses, nurse educators and researchers across Australia to participate in this conference.

The invitation is especially extended to members of the Maltese-Australian Community, who practice in this field of expertise, to participate as a delegate or as a presenter.

Information about the Conferences may be accessed from <http://www.fine-europe.eu/?p=1489&lang=en>.

European Federation of Nurse Educators (FINE)

Conference Malta – 21 au 23 Février 2018



Maltese migrants arriving
in Australia - 1949

TISLIJET MILL-BRAZIL MINGHAND MONS JOSE' AGIUS

Ghaziz Frank,

Kull darba li nircievi l-bullettin tal-Maltin u Ghawdxin imsiefrin, li int tant turi interess fihom, niehu ferha kbira għax dejjem nitgħallem xi haga għida dwar is-safar ta' tant nies, fosthom hafna min niesi, lejn l-Awstralja, l-Amerka, l-Kanada u pajjizi oħrajn. u fl-imbieghed Brazil, jien tnebbajt biex nikteb din il-poezija, li fiha nqiegħed bil-miktub dak li nhoss kull darba li nzur qrabati kemm f' Malta kif ukoll fl-Awstralja.

SAFAR

Tkun imbiegħa kull waqt it-titjira
Li gabitni mil-bogħod fi ftit sghat
Biex nithenna b' tghanniq ta' mhabba
Ma wlied huti, mal-hbieb, mal-qrabat.

Għalkemm tferxxu fuq art barranija
U hemm kisbu gejjieni ta' gid,
Qalbna ccartet u nqasmet fi bcejec
Bejn l-art għida u l-art tat-twelid.

Dik il-ghaqda u s-sliem ta' familja,
Fejn trabbejna b' xulxin nagħtu kaz,
Xejn ma kelna mil-frugħa tal-hajja,
L-ghozza rebhet kull hjiel ta' nuqqas.

Sama s-safar firidna, , kabarna:
Min bogħod telaq ifittex l-ghixien,
U min tbiegħed biex "jixhed il-Kelma"
Ohrajn baqghu god-dar; bla dewmien

Jistennew li jircievu xi ittra
Bejn il-hena u l-biki ta' ferh,
Ittra tasal xahar wara nkitbet
Madankollu ggib farag u serh.

Dawk li tbiegħdu dlonk fasslu hajjithom,
Malajr sawwru familji tajbin,
Dawk li baqghu jitniehdu bix-xewqa
Li xi darba jaraw lil xulxin.

Li xi darba l-familja tingabar,
Li tiltaqa' imqar għal ftit jiem,
Biex kull wiehied isir jaf lil iehor
U jitwettqu l-holmiet ta' quddiem

Tkun mishuta kull waqt it-titjira
Li haditni bogħod bogħod fi ftit sghat
Biex nitnikket b' tghanniq ta' firda
Minn ma huti, ma wliedhom, qrabat.

A very good day to you all Maltese in Australia.

Even we, here in Malta we miss you - Our beloved Maltese brothers and sisters. May God protect you all and bless all your days. I would like to say 'Hello' to my beloved sister Carrie Gauci and her son Joseph from Richmond Victoria-Australia. Love you so much.

Thank you for this wonderful magazine, which is a bridge between Maltese in Australia and Maltese in Malta.

Salvinu Caruana- Marsaxlokk Malta.



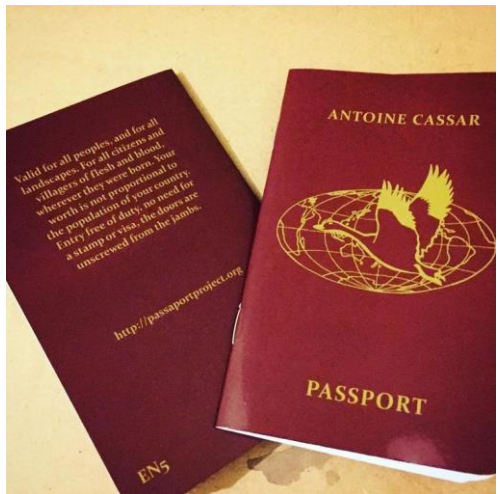
ANTOINE CASSAR

Presenting the *Passport* poem during the *Literature Lunch* of the European Economic and Social Committee, Brussels, July 2011. **Antoine Cassar** is a Maltese poet, translator, editor, and cultural organiser, and a creative activist

for migrants' rights and universal freedom of movement.

Born in London to Maltese parents in 1978, Antoine grew up between England, Malta and Spain, and worked and studied in Italy, France and Luxembourg. In 2004, after a thirteen-year absence from the Maltese islands, he returned to Qrendi, the village of his family, to re-learn a language he had almost forgotten.

A writer of poetry in Maltese and occasionally in English, in 2008 he represented Malta at the *Biennale des Jeunes Créateurs de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée* in Bari, Italy, and recited his poetry with Nabil Salameh of the Italo-Palestinian musical band Radiodervish. His book *Muzajk, an exploration in multilingual verse* (Ed. Skarta, 2008) was presented at the Leipzig Book Fair and at the poetry festivals of Copenhagen and Berlin. Cassar's Maltese poems have been translated into around twenty languages, including Spanish, French, Russian, Mandarin, Kannada and Japanese.



In 2009, his composition *Merhba, a poem of hospitality* was awarded the *United Planet Writing Prize*. The prize consisted of a two-week stay in the village of Sungal, Himachal Pradesh, India, working as a voluntary teacher to disadvantaged and illiterate children.

One of Cassar's most important poetic works to date, *Passaport* (2009), printed in the form of an anti-passport for all peoples and all landscapes, has been published and presented in several languages, in dozens of venues in Europe, Asia and North America, with profits donated to local associations providing assistance to refugees and asylum seekers.

Bejn / Between, a selection of 33 Maltese poems with parallel translation in English (by the author, Éire Stuart & Alex Vella Gera), plus the long English poem *The Long Rope*, was published and presented in Malta in late 2011 (Ed. Skarta). Cassar's latest publication, *Map of the Mediterranean* (Għaqda tal-

Malti, 2013), is a long poem describing the shapes of the Mediterranean Sea as seen from all four cardinal directions, in relation to the history of its peoples, including ancient and contemporary migrations.

In March 2013, Antoine Cassar was the editor of *Le monde n'est pas rond*, an international artistic newspaper based in Luxembourg, published by *Personne n'est illégal* in association with *Passaport Project*. Designed by visual artist Marco Scerri, the newspaper explores the contemporary realities of migration, borders, and human rights through the publication of alternative journalism, art and illustration, photography, prose and poetry, in 4 languages. *Le monde n'est pas rond* migrated to an artistic webzine on 18th December 2013, International Migrants Day.

Forthcoming in 2016, *40 Jum / 40 Days*, a book of poems about domestic violence, childhood trauma, and walking as self-therapy.



BAŻAR

B'RISQ

IČ-ĊENTRU PASTORALI
SGĦAJTAR, NAXXAR1, 2, 3 U 8, 9, 10
TA' DIĊEMBRU

IL-ĠIMGĦA 1 TA DIĊ MILL-4.30 SAS-7.3

IL-ĠIMGĦA 8 TA DIĊ MID-9 SA 12

IS-SIBT MID-9 SA 12 U MILL-4.30 SAT-

IL-ĦADD MID-9.00 SA 12.00

IKUN HEMM HELU, PJANTI,
KOTBA, AFFARIJET GĦAD-DAR,
RIGALI, ĠUGARELLI U
ĦAFNA AFFARIJET OĦRAQed jingabru affarijiet godda jew
użati biex jinbieghu waqt il-bażar
Napprezzaw ħafna l-ghajnuna tagħkom

Grazzi mill-Qalb!



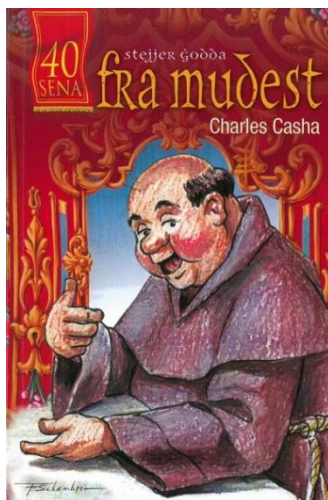
FRA MUDEST ta' Charles Casha

A lovable monk who likes wine very much
Very simple minded, but people in the
village love him a lot

Fra Mudest was obsessed with red wine.

The Abbot of the convent where he lived one day realized that wine was being stolen from the cellar. One night, he kept watch, and discovered that Fra Mudest was going down every night to steal wine.

Over the next days, he started to casually tell Fra Mudest stories about a ghost which appeared in the cellar, in an attempt to dissuade him from going there at night. But the passion for wine was too strong for Fra Mudest to stop, and he kept going there, this time taking a stick with him. The Abbot decided to take it a step further, and one night, he waited for Fra Mudest in the cellar, wrapped in a white sheet. As soon as he saw Fra Mudest, he came out of his hiding place.



Fra Mudest immediately took out his stick and beat himself savagely with it, before feeling terrified to his room. The next day, he found the Abbot: "What you told me about the ghost in the cellar is true! ..but Abbot, why do you look as though you have received a very heavy beating?"



CONGRATULATIONS RUSSIA!

[Polina Bogusevich from Russia has won the 15th Junior Eurovision Song Contest!](#) Polina's song, *Wings*, scored a total of 188 points from the international expert and the kids juries plus the result from online voting. The home team Georgia finished second with 185 points. Grigol Kipshidze represented Georgia with the song *Voice Of A Heart*. Australia's Isabella Clarke finished third with 172 points for her song *Speak Up*. Congratulations to all 16 participating artists!



WHO IS GIANLUCA CILIA? THE MALTESE CONTESTANT

Gianluca Cilia represented Malta at this year's Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2017 in Tbilisi, Georgia. Let's get to know a bit more about him.

Nine-year old Gianluca Cilia was born on 12th November 2007 in Malta. At the age of six, Gianluca

began singing and taking part in music lessons at Harmonic Ensemble. In 2015 he took part in his first major competition, "Oltroceano" in Palermo, where he went on to win the festival.

Just one year later, Gianluca represented Malta at an international singing festival in Romania, where he placed third with his song "Mamma lo canto per te". Later on in that year he took part in "Arpeggio" in Malta, where he placed first. On 1st July 2017, Gianluca took part in the Malta Junior Eurovision Song Contest, which was used to decide who would represent Malta at the upcoming Junior Eurovision contest. Each participant sang covers of popular songs, and with his rendition of "Perdere l'amore", Gianluca came out on top.

His song "Dawra Tond" was performed in both Maltese and English and was received well by the audience.

WELL DONE, GIANLUCA

WENZU U ROZI

Oldest couple in the village, with very contrasting personalities. Wenzu enjoys having a drink at the local wine-shop ta' Kurun, Rozi waits for him baton in hand to check if he is drunk by the redness of his nose. Occasionally,

Zolli, Rozi's sister, comes for a few days at their house. Wenzu is afraid of her more than Rozi.

This was the first story that was ever written about the characters Wenzu u Rozi. One night, Wenzu came in late from his daily visit to Kurun tal-Inbid, the local winebar. Rozi was already in bed, and Wenzu, being almost drunk and very tired, just got into bed beside her, clothes and all. Rozi immediately scolded him: "Don't you even close the door behind you, you drunk fool." Wenzu replied: "Go and close it yourself, I'm too tired." Rozi: "But you came in last, close it, I don't sleep with the door open." Wenzu: "But I do, it's not my problem." After some time arguing, Wenzu came up with a bright idea: "Let's do a bet. Whoever speaks first, will be the one who has to go and close the door." Rozi agreed. For Wenzu, this was an excellent way to just go to sleep. Rozi couldn't sleep, knowing the door was still open..

But she was determined not to lose a bet with her husband. After a few minutes, she heard some steps outside. The steps stopped in front of her door, and she heard someone come in. Right up to their bed. "Wenzu, Rozi, your door is open". It was the local chemist. Neither Wenzu, who was already asleep, nor Rozi, made a sound. The chemist tried to shake them and wake them up but they did not budge. "Oh my God", he said, "they're dead." He quickly went to bring the parish priest and doctor. The priest started to perform the last rites on Wenzu, but as soon as he touched his feet, Wenzu woke up shouting "Stop stop stop you're tickling me!" Rozi sat up: "You talked you drunkard. Now go and close the door." The chemist, priest and doctor, were left speechless. Author George Zammit

WENZU U ROZI

● Oldest couple in the village, with very contrasting personalities.

● Wenzu enjoys having a drink at the local wine-shop ta' Kurun, Rozi waits for him baton in hand to check if he's drunk by the redness of his nose

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