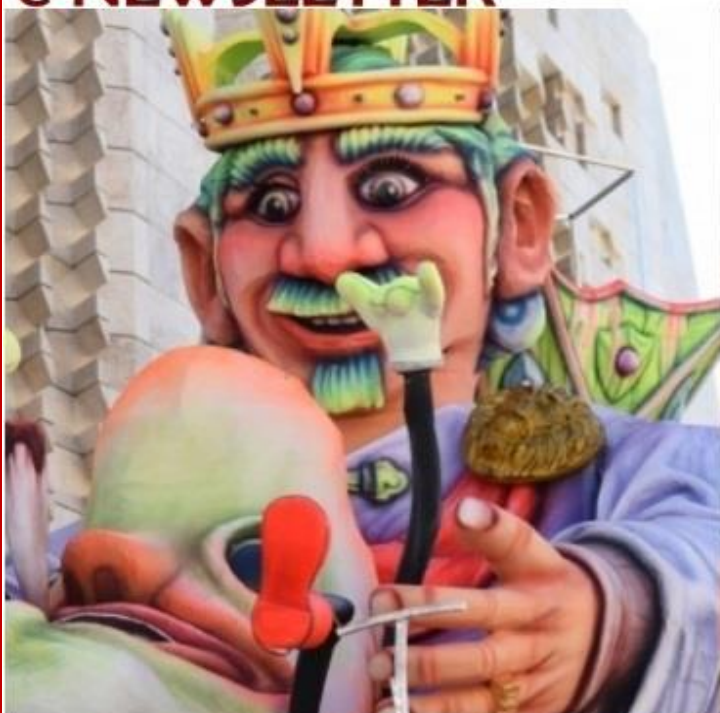


The Journal of the  
MALTESE DIASPORA



## Maltese e NEWSLETTER

### CARNIVAL IN MALTA 9 - 13 FEBRUARY 2018



What do you find inside: Maltese/Australians honoured on Australia Day 2018, Feast of St. Paul and Karnival in Malta, Rev Denis Spiteri O. C. in Queensland 1930 The Maltese Detrouer, Jayne Azzopardi from Australia and Judge Rosemary Aquilina from USA, Malta and Italy, The Macina Building - Valletta and much more

**THE JOURNAL THAT REACHES MALTESE ALL OVER THE WORLD**





## The Feast of St. Paul

On 10 February Malta celebrates the Feast of St. Paul which commemorates the shipwreck of the saint at the island's shores in 60A.D, which led to Malta's conversion to the Roman Catholic religion from paganism. The locality of St. Paul's Bay also takes its name from the event. Saint Paul's Bay is said to be the place where St. Paul and his ship crew crashed when they reached the Maltese lands. This event, recorded in the Bible's New Testament in the Acts of the Apostles, relates how St. Paul, who was initially travelling to Rome to be trialled for practicing Catholicism, was shipwrecked in Malta following a storm. St. Paul stayed in Malta for three months, during which he managed to convert numerous Maltese to Catholicism and ordered the first Maltese Bishop St. Publius. He then returned to Rome and was executed as a martyr. Even though very short, his stay in Malta had a great impact on the future beliefs of the local islanders. This is evident by the hundreds of churches and chapels highlighting the skyline of Malta and Gozo. For those of you looking for a unique cultural experience, and an opportunity to meet the locals, the

celebrations in Valletta are surely not to be missed! St Paul's Shipwreck Church (St Paul Street, Valletta) celebrations include marching bands, fireworks and a procession which carries the statue of the Saint through the streets.



## FEAST OF ST. PAUL CELEBRATED IN CANADA

**St. Paul the Apostle is a Roman Catholic church in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. It is located at Dundas Street West in The Junction neighbourhood.**

**The church was primarily built in 1930 by the Maltese-Canadian community of Toronto. A larger, new church was built on the ground by the same community in 1956.**

On February 9<sup>th</sup> we are going to have the St. Paul's concert with the presence of the Malta Band and some Maltese singers too. February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.00p.m. we are organizing St. Paul's Dinner dance serving something that is officially Maltese, with wine and other Maltese delicacies. Then on the third day of this Pauline Marathon we will have a bilingual Mass at 10.30p.m. on February 11<sup>th</sup> with the main presider being our Auxiliary Bishop Kasun.

Other Maltese Priest who form part of our Archdiocese will con celebrate too. For this special mass we are going to have the three choirs singing together and a very nice booklet of the mass is already prepared so that all the parishioners will follow with all the readings on the occasion. After the mass we are going to have a nice reception.

A film about Malta and the story of the shipwreck of St. Paul will be shown too.. This is practically the whole program that we have been preparing for this great event of our patron Saint. A week before the feast we will carry the statue to a prominent place in the Church so that we will have a better possibility to have our Novena. If you need more explanations let me know. May God bless you.

**Fr. Manuel Parnis MSSP**

# MALTA CARNIVAL 2018

9th - 13th February 2018



Carnival in Malta is synonymous with 5 days of complete madness, bright colours, competitions, events and fun. Carnival is celebrated right before the start of Lent. It starts off on a Friday and goes on till Tuesday, before Ash Wednesday. This year's Carnival will be celebrated between the 9th and the 13th of February 2018, the festivities always takes place 7 weeks before Easter Sunday and children have a couple of days off from school as most families head for Valletta which bursts with parades, music, floats and people in costumes.

Carnival celebrations in Malta can be tracked back to the 1400s. The Knights of the Order of St. John celebrated Carnival in grand style and introduced strength competitions and carnival balls to Maltese traditions. The tradition of Carnival survived throughout all these centuries. Nowadays, Carnival is marked by a competition of colourful, gigantic floats accompanied by parades of dancers dressed up in grotesque masks and costumes. The main parades are held in Valletta and Floriana.

Carnival balls and parties are organised in various localities around Malta and Gozo. For 5 days in a year, anyone can dress up, cover his face with a mask and fool around the streets.

Many young people gather in Nadur ( a small village in Gozo) during the weekend. Carnival in Nadur takes on a different aspect of merriment from the one celebrated in Valletta. Carnival in Nadur is not televised and religious institutions often protest on the events that take place in this small village. However, Carnival in Nadur is not organised by any committee but is just a spontaneous gathering of people.

The Maltese take up any valid excuse to indulge in food, and associate particular food with yearly traditional events. A visit to Valletta or to any confectionery in Malta during Carnival will introduce you to the traditional 'Prinjolata'. This is a special cake, in the form of a bell made up of sponge, cake, almonds and eggs. This is then coated with meringue and decorated with chocolate and cherries. Prinjolatas are usually very big and are then sold by weight from street vendors, but one can also buy mini sized prinjolatas as a souvenir. All around the Maltese Islands there are various balls and many of the Villages have their own carnival celebrations.

## AUSTRALIANS/MALTESE RECEIVE AN AWARD FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA

**DENISE CAUCHI OAM**

Executive Director, Diaspora Action Australia

Denise Anne CAUCHI from Victoria - For service to the multicultural community, and to human rights.

Denise Cauchi is the Executive Director and founder of Diaspora Action Australia. Since its inception in 2008, Diaspora Action Australia has been pioneering the field of diaspora engagement within the development and

humanitarian sector in Australia, by supporting diaspora-led initiatives and promoting the inclusion of diasporas in policy discussions relating to their countries of origin.

Denise is a human rights and development advocate and practitioner, with a particular focus on armed conflict. She has worked in the protection of human rights defenders in Colombia with Peace Brigades

International, and as a human rights researcher with a Colombian women's NGO. She has also held positions with Oxfam Australia and the Human Rights Alliance of Australia.

Denise is currently a member of the Advisory Group on Africa Australia Relations, which provides advice to the Australian Government. She sits on the board of the Australian Council for International Development and the International Council of Peace Brigades International. Denise has a Master of Development Studies (University of Melbourne).

## **Charles Mifsud - a proud Australian of Maltese heritage - honoured for community work**



Charles Mifsud says the OAM makes him "feel ten feet tall". A man who has given a near lifetime of voluntary service to the Maltese-Australian community in NSW has been honoured in the Australia Day awards.

Charles Mifsud, of Burraneer, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), which is his second national honour.

In December, 2015, Mr Mifsud returned to his birthplace to be presented by the president with the MQR, a medal of the Republic of Malta and the equivalent of the OAM, for

distinguished service to Malta.

"On that day I felt eight feet tall, and on Friday [when the OAM is made public] I will feel 10 feet tall," he said. Mr Mifsud has worked for more than 50 years in various organisations and in other ways to help members of the Maltese-Australian community.

He feels his service has helped people to be "excellent Australian citizens", who embrace Australian culture while treasuring their Maltese heritage.

Mr Mifsud was a foundation member of the Maltese Cultural Association of NSW in 1988 and has been the president since 1996.

He has been president of the Maltese Sub-branch of the RSL since 2006, having served for five years in National Service and the CFM (Citizen Military Forces).

Mr Mifsud was president of the Maltese Community Council of NSW for 12 years, involved for 40 years with Melita Eagles Soccer Club and for many years did weekly broadcasts of Maltese radio programs.

"I came here with my parents as a boy – I wasn't quite 15 – in 1950," he said.

"I have been here 67 years.

"I have been involved with the Maltese Australian community, basically to help people when they need help. "We do welfare work, we do things that help people who need help.

"For instance, I started Sutherland and St George Maltese Social Group. We meet in Miranda once a month and we have outings.

"The aim is to get people together and help them enjoy life during the twilight years."

Mr Mifsud is proud that, during his time as president of the Maltese Community Council of NSW, it successfully made representations to the Howard government for the introduction of dual citizenship for people who come from all parts of the world to make Australia their home.

"Maltese migration is almost non-existent now but we came here for a better life after WW11, people like my parents who wanted to provide better opportunities for their children," he said.

"I am proud of the fact most of us have done all right – we have done our bit for Australia, we have helped with the multicultural process.

"Coming from a European country, and being Christian, I think we have added values to the Australian way of life.

"We have done well in various fields, and I feel we have become excellent citizens."

Mr Mifsud and his wife Jessie have three sons, one of whom is deceased, four granddaughters and a great grandson. ST GEORGE AND SUTHERLAND LEADER



## MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA IN THE MILITARY DIVISION **Royal Australian Air Force**

**SQUADRON LEADER DAVID EARL BORG, NSW** – Received an award for meritorious performance of duty in air base aviation safety and air traffic control development. Squadron Leader Borg is an exemplary officer whose remarkable innovation and incisive leadership optimised the aviation safety systems at Royal Australian Air Force Bases Richmond and Williamstown, whilst significantly enhancing Number 44 Wing's contribution to Australia's civil-military Air Traffic Management Network. His outstanding contributions ensured that both the civilian and Australian Defence Force airspace users at these major facilities now enjoy safer and more efficient air traffic control services.



### Assistant Commissioner Joe Cassar

*Assistant Commissioner Joe Cassar.*

Former high profile Shoalhaven and Wollongong officer Joe Cassar has been awarded the Police Medal. Now an Assistant Commissioner, he is in charge of the Capability, Performance and Youth Command in Sydney.

"I feel very honoured to be nominated after 31 years of policing in the state," he said.

In 1992 he started criminal investigation duties serving at Port Kembla where in 1994 he was designated as a detective. In 2000 he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant (criminal investigation) at Lake Illawarra, and in 2005 was promoted to the rank of Inspector (Crime Manager) at Eastern Beaches Local Area Command, later serving at Central Metropolitan Region and Homicide.

In 2011 he was promoted to the rank of Superintendent (Commander) at Cabramatta Local Area Command, later serving at Shoalhaven and Wollongong Local Area Commands.

His citation reads Assistant Commissioner Cassar has performed his duties for 30 years with outstanding dedication to service, diligence and integrity. - *By Robert Crawford*



### Mr. George Bartolo OAM

George Bartolo has received an OAM for service to the Maltese and multicultural communities of NSW. Picture: Sylvia Liber.

Helping people comes naturally to OAM recipient George Bartolo.

In fact even before Mr Bartolo set foot on Australian soil he was doing his bit to help his fellow man.

It happened back in 1959 on board a ship when Mr Bartolo was making his

way to Australia from Malta.

"We were coming through Fremantle when a delegation from the Bank of NSW, which is now Westpac, boarded the ship to get people to open an account," he said.

"There was some Maltese people who didn't know that much English so I was translating for them all the way from Fremantle to Sydney.

"So even before I arrived here I was already helping them."

The Farmborough Heights man has been recognised for service to the Maltese and multicultural communities of NSW with an OAM.

The 78-year-old was "ecstatic" at receiving the honour.

"I'm very happy and proud of the fact that after all these years I've been recognised," Mr Bartolo said.

"I mean you don't go out of your way to do things so you will get recognised and get a reward. It's not like that at all. "You do it because you like to do it and you want to work with the community, whether it is the Maltese community or the community in general. You just want to help."

The father of two girls has played an influential role in bettering the services for Illawarra's Maltese community. Mr Bartolo was the inaugural president of the George Cross Falcons Club from 1986 to 2001. He is also a life member and former secretary of the club.

"I was the instigator for getting the money to build the George Cross Falcons Club in Cringila. That's something I'm very proud of," he said.

Mr Bartolo is also a foundation and life member of the Maltese Community Council of NSW, an organisation in which he held roles as president (1994-96), secretary (2003-05) and treasurer (since 2009).

He is also a founding member (1975) of the Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra (MCCI).

Mr Bartolo has served as senior vice-chairman of MCCI since 2004 and was made a life member in 2005.

The longest continuous member of the Illawarra Dog Training (Obedience) Club also has a real fondness for man's best friend.

Mr Bartolo has been a member of the club since 1971 and has over the years served as club president and chief instructor.

The life member has also been a national and state sporting judge since 1985 and even been a competitor in dog training events.

The OAM is the latest award for Mr Bartolo, who has also received a Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal

(1977), a FECCA Medal (Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia), a NSW Seniors Week

Achievement Award (2007) and a United Nations International Day for the Elderly Award from Wollongong City

Council in 2009. - By Agron Latifi

## AGAPE EDITION OF THE RABAT FESTIVAL



*Fondazzjoni Paulus* is once again organising the Rabat *Agape* Festival, a celebration of music and culture in some of Malta's most historical venues. This festival serves to celebrate Malta's Pauline heritage and sacred music in the weeks associated with the feasts of St Paul's conversion and shipwreck.

The festival opens with a solemn Mass at St Paul's collegiate church in Rabat on Thursday 25 January at 6pm. This church is also the venue for this

festival's annual concert on Thursday 1 February at 7.30pm.

During this concert, the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra together with the Jubilate Deo choir of Naxxar will be performing Gustav Holst's *St. Paul's Suite Op. 29* (Jig, Ostinato, Intermezzo and Finale). The concert will also feature Paolino Vassallo's *Salve Regina*, his *Missa in honorem Sancti Paoli* (Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus and Agnus Dei) and a selection from Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio *Paulus*. This concert will be conducted by the renowned Maltese composer Christopher Muscat and will feature soprano Claire Caruana as soloist.

On Saturday 3 February, *Fondazzjoni Paulus* will launch two compact discs of live recordings carried out during the 2016 and 2017 annual concerts. This inauguration is being held at the Verdala Palace under the distinguished patronage of President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca.

The compact discs include works by Maestro Ray Sciberras, music from the archives of the Wignacourt Museum, a sacred cantata by Christopher Muscat and the live recording of Marco Frisina's premiere of his oratorio *Fino ai Confini della Terra*.

This cultural festival continues at St Publius church in Rabat with a public lecture by Dr Doris Cannataci about St Paul and his influence on the writings of St George Preca and Mons. Giuseppe De Piro on Friday 9 February at 7pm.

The final activity takes place at the Wignacourt Museum in Rabat with the inauguration of an art exhibition by Rabat painter Matthew Cassar and his art students on Saturday 10 February at 6pm. This activity is being organised with the help of the management of the Wignacourt Museum.

*Fondazzjoni Paulus* thanks all organisations and individuals who support this festival and encourages the general public to follow the *Fondazzjoni Paulus* Facebook page for the latest news about the Rabat *Agape* Festival. All activities are free of charge and except for the launch of the CDs where an invitation is required, the general public is invited to attend.

## The Rev. Dennis Spiteri, a Carmelite, in Queensland

In his effort to contact as many Maltese as possible, Mr. Corder of the Malta Commission, enlisted the help of a good Maltese priest, Father Dionysius (Dennis) Spiteri, of the Carmelite Order, who was stationed at his Priory, in Middle Park, Melbourne. During the short period Captain Curmi spent in Melbourne, Father Spiteri had embarked on an arduous mission to the Maltese in Queensland with the help and support of Curmi himself. On January 13, 1930, Captain Curmi had written to Sir Augustus Bartolo, who at the time was minister responsible for emigration. Curmi wrote: "By his quiet zeal, his absolute disinterestedness, he has won the hearts of all and his tactful manner has already achieved great results".

The Maltese community in Queensland was the oldest and the largest. Father Spiteri knew this and he felt he could do a lot of good if he went to Queensland to establish some contact with the Maltese. After Curmi's return to Malta, Father Spiteri obtained all the support he needed from Mr. Corder, who also contacted Archbishop Duhig of Brisbane. Duhig promised all support for Spiteri so that the Maltese priest could spend five months visiting Maltese communities throughout Queensland. Apart from the religious and material support which such a mission generated, the historian feels thankful for Spiteri's initiative because it threw a great light on the Maltese in Queensland. . . ,

The Maltese helped Father Spiteri by offering financial help to cover the expenses of travel and organisation of the mission and by providing accommodation for their visiting priest. In Brisbane Father Spiteri stayed with a Mrs. Vella and then with Mr. Vincent Micallef of Glengary Hills. From Brisbane he went to Pawngilly Station where he was met by Mr. Paul Zammit who was then a successful sugar-cane grower in the area. Zammit's property at Bartle Frere was situated seven miles beyond Pawngilly. The Zammit home was considered the focus of extensive Maltese interests in the area.

The Maltese at Bartle Frere had contributed £24 towards Father Spiteri's needs while another sum of £13 had been collected from the Queensland National Bank Estate.

At Innisfail Mr. Lorenzo Grima set up a committee to organise the visit by Father Spiteri. The centres of Maltese settlement there were South Johnstone, Darragee in the Goondi area, Mourilyan and Japoon. Young bachelors like Frank Sant and his friends felt enthusiastic about the sojourn of the Maltese priest among them.

Ingham was another stop on the itinerary. In 1930 Captain Curmi had described the place as a remnant of what was once a considerable Maltese community. Later some Maltese had got themselves into trouble and their conduct had a detrimental effect on the others. Charles Galea and his wife were probably the oldest residents there and were well liked by the rest of the Maltese. Other localities within the Ingham area where some Maltese were to be found were Four Mile, Long Pocket, Gadaleya, Halifax and Herbert River.

Father Spiteri went to Mackay. As late as 1940 it was written that the second largest community in Australia was domiciled in the Mackay district, especially around Farleigh and Habana. In Farleigh there was a school with seventy Maltese children while in the district of Habana Maltese school children numbered over eighty. There were others in Mackay itself.

In Mackay the Busuttin (Busuttill) Family had become something of a legend. Joe and Charles Busuttin had probably been the first Maltese residents in Mackay and they were also prominent citizens, wealthy and much respected by Maltese and Australians alike.

Bundaberg was the last centre visited by Father Spiteri. Most Maltese in the area worked on the Faery Meade plantation and on the Hapsburg plantation as well.

The work done by priests like Angelo Camilleri and Dennis Spiteri was greatly appreciated by the Maltese in Australia and by the authorities in Malta. Their correspondence remains a major source of information. A Maltese living in Melbourne wrote the following comment on the two priests: "I have met Father Spiteri on several occasions and I wish to bring to public



notice the immense good work this Reverend Gentleman is doing for the Maltese all over Australia. We need many more priests of Fr. Spiteri's zeal and self- abnegation. And we need them badly. Fr. Spiteri is at present far away in the country looking after the interests of the Maltese immigrants there. Another zealous priest, Father Angelo Camilleri from Gozo, had our welfare at heart".

Besides the mission in Queensland, Father Spiteri gave another one in Sydney where he preached in St. Mary's Cathedral. He also visited the Maltese living in Prospect, N.S.W., and preached to the Maltese living there. In the early thirties that area had already acquired the name of Little Malta. It was also in the same area of Prospect, close to the church of St. Brigid, that Paul and his son Celest Baiada settled. Eventually they took up farming in Pendle Hill. Although Paul eventually returned home, Celest or Charlie, stayed on and became one of the wealthiest and best known Maltese in Australia.

In 1931 Fr. Spiteri led a mission at Fairfield and this was followed by a reception at the Municipal Chambers. The priest was the guest of the mayor Aid. Burley . The mayor presented Fr. Spiteri with a silver ashtray. The presentation was witnessed by Mr. F. Vella who was the secretary to Mr. Corder. While in Sydney, Fr. Spiteri was compared with the much lamented Fr. W. Bonett.

In 1934 Fr. Spiteri was in Broken Hill. The miners were very pleased with his visit and a picture was taken of the priest surrounded with Maltese miners and their families. The group around the preacher was made up of about a hundred persons. One of them wrote back to Malta to describe the event and he felt that the presence of a Maltese preacher in Broken Hill seemed to be a good omen for the success and per manence of the Maltese immigrants in Australia. The Rev. Dennis Spiteri left Australia on June 19, 1934, after spending five hectic years in that country. Before he left Melbourne, Mr. Corder gave him a dinner at the Wool Exchange Hotel. Among those present were Mr. J.L. Mifsud and Mr. Paul Paris; both were members of the Maltese Social Society. Mr. Mifsud gave Fr. Spiteri a travelling rug of Australian manufacture.

In his obituary it was noted that although he never enjoyed good health, he was always dedicated to his ministry and work. The good priest died in Valletta, Malta, on October 4, 1939.



**They all left Malta at a very tender age – and all wearing hats**



**The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora**

**MALTESE E- NEWSLETTER**

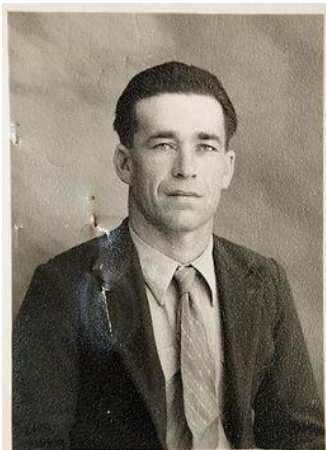
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## The Maltese-Detroiter



My name is Rena (Nazarena) Xuereb, and I am the youngest of seven children. My father, John Xuereb, (Ganni ta Grima) left for the United States in 1950 and quickly secured a job at Ford Motor Co., earning \$2.00 an hour working in the hot coke ovens. My father managed to purchase a car and a home near St. Anne's Catholic Church, all while renting a room from a Maltese lady names Sara in Corktown. (Photo) **John's passport photo in 1950**



Ten months later he sent for us. My mother Josephine (Giuseppa) Gauci Xuereb hesitated because that would mean she would be leaving her oldest child Marija Xuereb Gatt, who was married with two small boys. She resentfully left her island, left her family, left her eldest child not knowing she would ever see her again.



Passports were in order and in June of 1951 we left for the States. Picture thirteen days on a ship with six children from 19 to 4 years of age! Let me point out that none of us spoke English and some were severely seasick the whole trip. We made it to the Port of New York then arrived in Detroit by train, with my father waiting for us.

### **The Xuereb family's first portrait in the United States, taken in 1953.**

We moved to the Holy Redeemer area a year later, and since there was a large concentration of Maltese in Detroit we never felt like immigrants, everyone was like us. Mothers kept cooking Maltese foods, pastizzi were a staple. Men would dress in suits and hang out

on Sundays. The downtown Detroit Maltese Club on Michigan Ave. was the glue that kept everyone together. We had Maltese priests like Fr. Cefai, Fr. Cini, and now Fr. Joe Mallia who were and are a big part of our community. We had social functions at the club, everyone was happy. A second Maltese Club in Dearborn opened its doors in the 1980s to accommodate the families moving out to the suburbs.



**Frank and Victor Xuereb adjusting to American life, adopting "American" clothing in 1955**

We slowly adjusted to our new home and our new surroundings. My brother stated we were in America and had to start speaking in English. I was the youngest and just turned 4 years old, I can't recall anything about Malta or our ship experience. Although I have no past memory of Malta as a child before we left, my heart never left.

.My parents eventually started going to Malta every couple of years, enjoying their time with family and their oldest daughter they hadn't seen for years. I find myself going to Malta several times a year with my husband Fernando Campos who also loves Malta. Maybe I'm trying to make up for those first few years of my life, trying to fill the gap. Each and every time I get my first view of my Malta from the plane my hair stands up and as soon as I'm on land I feel like I've never left.

When in Malta I'm asked where I'm from because of my American accent. I jokingly say St. Paul's Bay knowing damn well they mean where am I living. Then they ask again, Canada? Australia? I say no, America.

I've had my dual citizenship for a number of years now and I find people in Malta say, oh your not Maltese because you left so young. They might as well stab me with a dagger, that hurts terribly. I immediately pull out my Maltese passport and ask them what does that say? I have so much pride in my Maltese heritage that I do a lot of research. My family line goes back 12 and 13 generations to the 1500s, so don't tell me I'm not Maltese.



Then just the opposite, I get Americans who say you were born here right? They are quite shocked when I tell them no, in fact, I was born on the island of Malta. Sometime I get, where is that? Fortunate for me, that's when I can start bragging like a historian about history, temples, beaches, sunshine and on and on.

The Xuereb children, in birth order, returned to Malta in 1998 for their sister's 50th Wedding Anniversary. From left to right is Mary, Grace, Joe, Victor, Frank, Dolores, and Rena.

My family, minus my mother, all became American citizens. In 1967, I was sworn in and felt a great sense of pride. Our recent trip to the State Capitol brought out that pride once again with all the Maltese presence and those in spirit. Seeing all those people there, hearing Lisa Buttigieg LiGreci sing both the American and Maltese national anthems. Watching our first Maltese legislator Darrin Camilleri give a history of Malta and our contributions to Detroit, then introducing a resolution to declare September 21 as Maltese American Heritage Day in the State of Michigan -- the same day we recognize Malta's independence. Once again my hair stood up as if I was flying over Malta and seeing it for the first time.



**Rena Xuereb** lives in The City of Belleville, MI with her husband Fernando Campos. They have six children and four grandchildren. She is a member of the Maltese American Community Club in Dearborn where she is a trustee on the executive board. Rena is currently working on a book, entitled "Courage of a Maltese Immigrant." She wants to share stories her mother passed on to her and her siblings, regarding life in Malta and the courage it took to eventually leave the island.



## INVITATION TO THE ADELAIDE MALTESE COMMUNITY FAMILY REUNION PICNIC

***This is an open invitation to the Maltese Community of all ages their families and friends.***

**DATE: March 4, 2018 TIME: 11.00am onwards**

**PLACE: Bonython Park, Port Road (Opposite Coca Cola)**

**(Area 11, north of the lake) Look for the Maltese Flags!!**

**BYO: Food, Drinks, Chairs and any photos you may want to share**

**Come along and enjoy the fun activities of the day – Games and sharing memories**

For further information, you can contact:

**Lawrie Caruana** on 0407 886 899 or email [lacaruana@bigpond.com](mailto:lacaruana@bigpond.com)

**Catherine Saliba** on 0438 825 174 or email [catherine.saliba@yahoo.com](mailto:catherine.saliba@yahoo.com)

**PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD!!!!**

In the event of inclement weather please contact the organisers for any updates.



# EMIGRATION FROM MALTA



Australia reached its peak during the 1960s. Today the majority of Maltese immigrants reside in Melbourne's western suburbs and in Sydney's western suburbs.

## Maltese in Australia

The first Maltese to come to Australia arrived as convicts around 1810. Group and mass migration gradually picked up, first to Queensland, and after World War I to Sydney, whose automobile industry drew many. Immigration was not without difficulty as Maltese workers tended to be looked down upon and restrictions and quotas were applied. A significant percentage of the Maltese immigrants had intended to stay only temporarily for work but many settled in Australia permanently. Maltese immigration to



## Maltese in Canada

The first Maltese presence in Canada can be traced to as early as the 19th century, when small undocumented groups were working in Winnipeg and Toronto. In 1910, the Malta Emigration Committee tried to encourage workers to settle in British Columbia, but only those who were British in origin; those of Mediterranean origin were considered undesirable. In the first seven months of 1913, however, approximately 500 Maltese emigrated to Canada. By 1914, there were small groups in Toronto,

Windsor, Winnipeg and Vancouver. Many Maltese organised themselves into associations which kept them united and offered friendship to newcomers by means of social functions.



## Maltese in U.S.A.

Before World War I, the Maltese tended to migrate to nearby countries. When so many were out of work after the war, they needed to look further afar. Those who had worked in dockyards had skills which could be used in factories – fitters, engineers, draughtsmen, electricians. Moreover, they had another important skill – they learned English while working with the British on their ships. Skilled Maltese workers saw the US as their new opportunity. At the time, many refugees and emigrants flocked to

what they saw as the "Golden Door" of the United States.

# Jayne Azzopardi's Grandmother

## *Jayne Azzopardi and her grandmother*



"We celebrate some incredible women and their achievements each International Women's Day. World leaders, scientists, performers, journalists, activists — trailblazers and women who've changed the world.

But this year, I'll also be thinking of one woman who did something much simpler, and yet incredibly brave. Her name won't appear in any newspapers or history books because she blazed no trail but her own, and that of her family.

My grandmother died last March 2017. She was three weeks shy of her 96th birthday so her death, while sad, was not tragic or untimely. She wasn't educated - in fact, she never learned to read or write. She didn't lead a revolution, cure cancer or rise to the top of her chosen field.



***Carmela and Carmelo Azzopardi 1939***

But she did make a brave decision more than sixty years ago that ensured her eight children, 22 grandchildren, 37 great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren would have lives she could never have imagined.

My grandmother, Carmela Formosa, was born in Malta in 1921. At the tender age of 18 she met and married my grandfather Carmelo Azzopardi (yes, Carmela and Carmelo - how cute is that?!).

They were married the day World War Two began, and lived in a simple mud brick home on the fairly barren land they farmed. The early years of their marriage must have offered little in

the way of honeymoon period.

Malta is a tiny island in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea and for much of WW2, it was under siege. With British navy troops based there, it was one of the most heavily bombed places during the war. The entire island was awarded the George Cross for its bravery.

**WHO IS JAYNE AZZOPARD?** - If you know about Australian sports and Australian gossips through news then you also know about the news presenter/sportscaster, if you don't know about much more then we discuss it about Australian sportscaster and anchor, she is Jayne Azzopardi. She also calls beautiful anchor of Australian while she was born in Sydney, Australia on 4th November 1983 to her parents and grew up with her siblings and friends in Sydney, so she also holds the Australian nationality. She educated from Sydney University as well.

As a media journalist the lady makes huge name and fame as well in the worldwide, but let's moving on her career and career succession. Jayne entered in the media field since her earlier of University life, but she has a huge passion for the press filed since her childhood age. As a reporter, she also worked the University Magazine as well and also in some local newspapers as well. More recently the lady is working at the Australian popular Channel Nine and 9News Network as well. She also had chosen to cover the Rio Olympics news and some sports matches commentary as well, while she is more famous for her sweet voice as well.



## Ghajnsielem is one of four runners-up as Destination of Excellence

gozonews.com



Five locations in Malta and Gozo have been recognised as Destinations of Excellence, following an initiative launched by the Tourism Ministry.

Qrendi came in first place with the runners-up being Ghajnsielem, Dingli, Mellieha and Ta 'Xbiex.

Qrendi was recognised as winner for the San Mattew tal-Maqluba site, Ghajnsielem for the Bethlehem f'Ghajnsielem Nativity Village, Dingli for

the traditional cultural activities, Mellieha for the Second World War shelters and Ta 'Xbiex as a destination synonymous with embassies, yachting and the recent activities undertaken in the yacht marina.

This project is initiated and co-financed by the European Commission and is aimed at promoting sustainable tourism throughout Europe.

The project is focused on destinations that are little known and contribute to economic growth so as to ensure social, cultural and environmental elements are protected and more visible, while exposing and enhancing typical characteristics.

On behalf of the Ministry for Tourism, the Permanent Secretary Ronald Mizzi, presented the prizes and thanked all the mayors and local councils that participated.

He remarked that he appreciated the love they show to their neighbourhood and stressed that those who manage the Maltese and Gozitan localities are key ambassadors for our country.



## Countess of Wessex to visit Malta in March

Her Royal Highness the Countess of Wessex, Sophie, will be visiting Malta from 7 – 9 March on a working visit as Global Ambassador for 100 Women in Finance's Next Generation Initiative.

During her stay in Malta, the Countess will open the Stock Exchange for International Women's Day, attend the Business Professional Women Careers Day at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, and attend the International Women's Day Lunch.

Her Royal Highness will also visit the University of Malta Valetta Campus, and attend a reception at Casino Maltese as Global Ambassador for 100 Women in Finance's Next Generation Initiative. The Countess last visited Malta in 2012 with her husband, the Earl of Wessex, Prince Edward.

## MALTESE/US JUDGE WHO SENTENCED NASSAR TO 175 YEARS IN JAIL IS DAUGHTER OF QRENDI DOCTOR

Who is the judge with the Maltese surname who sent serial sex abuser Larry Nassar to 175 years in prison? **Matthew Vella**



Judge Rosemarie Aquilina: "I stand up for people and say, 'we're going to do what's right'."

She is the daughter of a Maltese father, a doctor from Qrendi, and German mother, and she came to the United States with her parents as a toddler.

Judge Rosemarie Aquilina, 59, this week sentenced Larry Nassar, a prominent doctor for the USA gymnastics national team, 175 years in prison after pleading guilty to multiple sex crimes. But Aquilina's role in the case is now being given prominence after having allowed nearly 140 girls and women, including several prominent Olympic gymnasts, to give statements against Dr Nassar, leaned forward from the bench. "I just signed your death warrant," Judge Rosemarie Aquilina said as she told him he would serve up to 175 years.

She listened patiently as survivors shared their stories of abuse during the multi-day-long sentencing. As the BBC reported: 'At times acting as more of a therapist than a judge [she] did not hide her empathy for the women. "Leave your pain here," she said. She said she had received media requests from around the world but insisted the story was not about her.' Aquilina joined the military after having two children during law school and working for 10 years. Then she became the first female Judge Advocate General (JAG) in the Michigan Army National Guard where she earned the nickname 'Barracuda Aquilina'. She has been described as "fighter" who



doesn't take no for answer: "I stand up for people and say, 'we're going to do what's right'."

When she sentenced a serial rapist to life in prison he swore he would "send someone to get her". Now a professor of law, Ms Aquilina was elected as a Circuit Court Judge in 2008 November. When she determined that Detroit's bankruptcy filing violated the state constitution, she sent a copy of her ruling to former President Barack Obama.

In her spare time, Judge Aquilina is also writer. She wrote a crime novel called Triple Cross Killer and her next book will be out soon. According to her online biography, she used to host a radio talk show called Ask the Family Lawyer. In the New York Times, Aquilina was described as "an unusually fierce victims' advocate in a sentencing hearing that has drawn national attention for the scope of Dr Nassar's abuse." Her vow to let every victim speak turned the hearing into a cathartic forum that has emboldened dozens of women who had remained silent to come forward with accounts of abuse by Nassar.

She has made no secret that she wants Nassar to spend the rest of his life suffering in prison. Stephen Gillers, a professor of law at New York University, said that although judges are often thought of as unbiased and impartial, it is important to remember that this is a sentencing hearing, not a trial.

Several victims thanked Judge Aquilina, including Doug Powell, whose daughter Kassie spoke out last week as one of Nassar's many accusers. "Judge Aquilina, I applaud you," Mr. Powell said after his daughter addressed the court. "We applaud you. This room applauds you."



## Planning Authority agrees to double the size of new Paceville tower



An artist's impression of the 32-storey tower at the Mercury House site in Paceville

The Planning Authority has given the go-ahead for a 32-storey tower on the Mercury House site in Paceville, nearly doubling the height of plans approved six years ago.

The high-rise, proposed by Gozitan developer Joseph Portelli, will include 48 hotel rooms, 275 serviced apartments and around 3,300 square metres of shops.

Approval was by 10 votes in favour and three

against. The votes against by PA chairman Vince Cassar, NGO representative Ennick Bonello and St Julian's Mayor Guido Dalli.

Developers were told to make a contribution of 60,000 euro towards an artistic fund administered by Arts Council Malta. However a proposal by Mayor Dalli for an additional contribution (planning gain) of 250,000 to cover to address the impact of the development on the locality was rejected by the board. The representatives of the two political parties were among those who had backed the mayor's proposal.

During the hearing, several board members repeatedly highlighted the fact that the application was being considered in the absence of a masterplan for St Julian's.

Designed by the renowned Zaha Hadid architecture firm, it includes two stacked blocks rotated around a 'twist' between floors 10 and 12.

According to the design statement, the tower is intended to create a "vertical, iconic, aesthetic form" and provide a "key gateway to Paceville".

The site around Mercury House, a Grade 2 scheduled monument, has been earmarked for development since a development brief approved in 2005, which originally limited the building height to 15 storeys.

An application approved by the PA in 2012 extended this to two adjacent office towers of 19 and 18 floors.

In addition to the extra 14 storeys, the new application – which has been recommended for approval ahead of a PA board hearing today – foresees four levels of underground parking and a new central plaza between Triq San Ġorġ and Triq Sant Andrija, St Julian's.

Mercury House itself, a late-19th-century building that once served as the main hub of Malta's international cable connections, will be converted into an access point for the residential and hotel lobby areas.

A series of scheduled underground vaults, used to house communications equipment during the Cold War, will be restored and conserved, though their use has yet to be determined.

The project's visual impact is expected to be highly significant, according to environmental studies commissioned by the developers, affecting views from Pembroke, Valletta and as far away as L-Aħrax tal-Mellieħa, apart from Sliema and its surroundings.

The studies conclude that there will be no significant shadowing effects and traffic generation will decrease – compared to the previously approved plans – due to the replacement of office space with residential units and a hotel.

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**Maltese  
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## Vincent (Ċensu) Tabone 1913-2014: Ex-President of Malta

**Vincent "Ċensu" Tabone** (30 March 1913 – 14 March 2012) was the fourth President of Malta and a former Minister and Nationalist MP. Early years Vincent Tabone was the son of Niccolò and Elisa Tabone, the youngest of ten children. His paternal grandmother, Giuseppina De Gaetani, had settled in Valletta in the mid-19th century from Riposto, Sicily. His father, Niccolò, was one of the first Maltese doctors to read pathology and surgery in the United Kingdom, and served as a District Medical Officer in various parts of Gozo. Life on Gozo for the Tabone family was relatively quiet and pastoral. They lived in Victoria and

spent their summers in Marsalforn.

Tabone's childhood was deeply affected by the sudden death of his father in 1922 at the age of 59. Two years later, at the age of 11, he was shipped off to Malta, where he became a boarder at St. Aloysius College, a Jesuit school. He entered the University of Malta in 1930, where he graduated as a pharmacist in 1933 and as a Doctor of Medicine in 1937. Military service and medical career

During World War II, he served as a Regimental Medical Officer and general duty officer with the Royal Malta Artillery, and later as trainee ophthalmic specialist stationed at the Military Hospital, Mtarfa. In the early days of the War, he narrowly escaped with his life when a bomb fell at Fort Saint Elmo, demolishing a substantial part of the army barracks to which he had been posted. In 1946, he obtained a diploma in Ophthalmology from the University of Oxford, followed by a diploma in Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery from the Royal College of Surgeons of England. He was a clinical assistant at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London.<sup>[1]</sup>

In 1948, Tabone was entrusted with the supervision of a campaign to treat trachoma using sulfonamide tablets and drops.<sup>[1]</sup> Through his efforts, the disease was virtually eliminated from the Island of Gozo. He helped launch similar campaigns in Taiwan, Indonesia and Iraq under the auspices of the World Health Organization, and subsequently served as a member and consultant of the WHO's International Panel of Trachoma Experts.

He served on the Council of the University of Malta, and between 1957 and 1960 he was a faculty member of the Board of Medicine, and a lecturer in Clinical Ophthalmology in the Department of Surgery. He helped found the Medical Association of Malta in 1954 and is at present its Honorary President.<sup>[2]</sup> For many years, even as he served as a Member of Parliament, he maintained his medical practice in Sliema. Political career

Tabone was elected to the Executive Committee of the Nationalist Party in 1961. He later served as the party's Secretary General (1962–1972) and as Deputy Leader (1972–1977). Tabone was first elected to Parliament in 1966 and subsequently served as a Member of Parliament for the Sliema, St. Julian's, Msida, and Gzira areas for 23 years. During this time, he also served as the Minister of Labour, Employment and Welfare (1966–1971) and Minister for Foreign Affairs (1987–1989). In 1968, Tabone brought a motion before the United Nations calling for an action plan in regard to the world's aging population. In 1988, he brought another motion before the UN, calling for the world's climate to be declared the common heritage of mankind. Death On 14 March 2012, Tabone died at his home in St. Julian's, Malta at age 98.

### Celebrating Australia day

I would like to celebrate Australia Day and ask with one call of unity and togetherness. As Pope Francis says, 'Humanity still has the ability to work together to build a common home' We embrace and share diversity wherever we experience it. We must keep those traditions and those values that unite us as a nation. The traditions and values that as migrants and refugees we have brought with us to this land enriched this nation. I am proud to be standing here beside you on the day that marks this nations day, Australia Day and proud to be Australian. CARMEL CHARLES GALEA 2018

**Charles Galea, a teacher of Maltese and founder member of Akkademja Maltija and Skola Maltija NSW.**





## GHAQDA GURNALISTI GHAWDXIN

Nhar l-Erbgħa 24 ta' Jannar 2018, Festa ta' San Frangisk de Sales, Patrun tal-Kittieba u l-Gurnalisti, l-Għaqda Gurnalisti Għawdxin organizzat quddiesa għal dawk involuti fil-midja li saret fil-Kunvent tas-Sorijiet Frangiskani tal-Qalb ta' Ġesù, il-Belt Victoria. Fl-assenza ta' Mons. Mario Grech, Isqof ta' Għawdex, mexxa Mons. Salv Grima, li għamel dawn il-ħsibijiet fl-omelija tiegħu:

L-appostolat jista' jsir b'ħafna modi, fosthom permezz tal-kelma. Din tista' tixxandar anki b'mezzi u ċirkustanzi varji bit-tama li tilhaq iktar semmiegħa. Ġesù, permezz tal-parabbola ta' dak li ħareġ jiżra', qed jurina li l-Kelma mhux dejjem ikollha art tajba li tilqagħha. Dan japplika anki fir-rigward tal-kelma stampata. Madankollu l-ħidma gurnalistika fil-kamp tal-appostolat tibqa' meħtieġa, u min ikun involut fiha jrid jammetti li mhux dejjem se tħalli l-frott mixtieq, tant li taħsel taqta' qalb il-bniedem, bħalma ġara miż-żerriegħa li waqgħet fi bnadi differenti.

Huwa u jikkummenta dwar din il-parabbola, il-Papa Benedittu XVI jinsisti li dawk li għandhom iż-żerriegħa tal-kelma xi jwasslu, xorta jridu jibqgħu konsistenti u ma jirtirawx minn din il-missjoni jew jaqtgħu qalbhom. Bħalma jgħidilna San Ġorġ Preca, il-Kelma hija bħal żerriegħa li ladarba tintefa', anki jekk ma tafx fejn waqgħet, tista' tħalli l-frott 'il quddiem. Dan ikompli jinkuraġġixxi t-tixrid tal-kelma anki bil-mezzi tal-komunikazzjoni soċjali, għax xorta għandha l-għan li tilhaq lil dawk li jistgħu jisimgħuha jew jaqrawha u tħalli l-frott fihom. Ritratt: Leo Mike Farrugia w: [www.gozodiocese.org](http://www.gozodiocese.org)

## Redefining the national identity Raphael Vassallo maltatoday.com.mt



**LAW STUDENT SARA EZABE** is one of 30 honorees recognised by Forbes for their role in influencing law and policy in Europe. Her campaign 'Redefining us' was prompted by local reactions to her wearing the 'hijab' (Muslim headscarf) in Malta... and aims to challenge a culture of fear directed at Muslims in general. Before the interview, I read an article you wrote last June about the pre-electoral campus debate. You argued that the presence of a far-right party (Moviment Patrijotti Maltin) "speaks volumes about the failure of all political parties to address the rights of minorities in our country." Yet MPM got only a handful of votes in that election... and it is debatable to what extent it really represents typical Maltese attitudes towards Muslims. In your own experience, how racist is Malta towards its Muslim

population?

The way I see it, even the fact that we use the word 'racism' – as if Islam was 'a race' - is a problem. Islam is not a race. I myself believe there is only one human race: but the real danger is that, if we look upon religion as a 'race' issue, or an ethnicity issue, then it would follow that a Maltese person of a different religion would be regarded as 'not Maltese'. That, to me, is a problem in itself. We talk about 'racism', but 'Islamophobia' is never really spoken about. We speak about discrimination in general, but there are different kinds of discrimination. Hate speech, especially online, is a very big problem.

**SIMILARITIES**

**Both are EU Nations - Former British Colonies**  
**Mediterranean location - Finance Industries**  
**Significant Expat Population - Island Nations**

## Cyprus and Malta set framework for enhanced cooperation

Decisions which set the framework for enhanced cooperation in areas such as maritime cooperation, surveillance in the Mediterranean, research and rescue, counter-terrorism, education and humanitarian operations were taken by the defence ministers of Cyprus and Malta recently.

The topics were discussed during the first official visit of Defence Minister Michael Farrugia to Cyprus and the first by a Maltese defence minister.

Cyprus and Malta as Mediterranean members of the EU face common challenges and threats and bilateral co-operation is necessary to tackle these problems effectively, the two ministers said after their meeting in Nicosia.

“At the same time as Cyprus and Malta, as two Mediterranean countries facing common challenges and threats, we work together to promote our common interests, our core objective of promoting security, stability and peace... and we work together on various EU programmes,” Defence Minister Christoforos Fokaidis said.

According to the minister, he and his Maltese counterpart in particular discussed the prospect of cooperation between Mediterranean EU member states in the framework of the ‘Med 7’ initiative which is currently being held in Rome at the level of heads of state.

“We will develop a framework for cooperation at the level of defence ministers with meetings at the ministerial level in the near future, a common objective to address challenges such as migration, illicit arms trafficking, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, maritime and energy security ” Fokaidis said.

He also referred to the initiatives of Cyprus in the Eastern Mediterranean regional context with the various neighbouring countries, with trilateral and bilateral partnerships forming a grid of common interests, common policies and common mechanisms that promote stability, security and development, also in view of the significant energy prospects for the Eastern Mediterranean. These prospects, he added, are of strategic importance for the energy future of Europe.

Malta’s Foreign Minister said the talks focused on the situation in the Mediterranean, mainly on the challenges posed by the instability of many parts of the region.

“In this context, we have been discussing illegal immigration, and also the various tragic events that have occurred in EU member states. Malta believes that the citizens’ safety should be at the highest level, both at national and EU level and that the EU must be flexible enough to cater for the needs and circumstances of its member states. Europe must focus on the security and quality of lives of its citizens as threats continue to diversify and multiply,” Farrugia said. He added his country would continue to press at all European levels to find ways and means of tackling illegal immigration flows.

Farrugia also referred to the possibility of exploring possible opportunities for bilateral co-operation between the armed forces in the areas of research and rescue, training in military academies and joint development in peace operations approved by the EU and the UN.





## The Macina building transformed

The Macina historic building in Senglea is converted into a hotel after the Planning Authority approved the permit for a 20-room hotel. The applicant, Mario Camilleri, said that the history of Macina and the surrounding area will make the hotel a

unique experience for the Senglea area.



### Kurt Sansone

It was until the mid-1990s the headquarters of the Labour Party but the majestic building on water's edge, known as Il-Macina, is now a luxurious boutique hotel. The only remnant of its recent political past is a stone carving in one of the room terraces of a ship flying the Union Jack accompanied by the date 31 March 1979, Freedom Day.

Originally built by the Knights of Malta in 1554, the Macina was used for the hoisting and lowering of masts onto ships. A few years ago the Macina was in a complete state of ruin. The restoration took one year to complete and builders had to remove 40 tonnes of debris before the works could start.



Macina is derived from macchina, the large crane structure used to hoist and lower the masts and other cargo. It was eventually dismantled in 1864 but the large iron loops on the roof that served as anchors for the steel cables remain there. The iron moorings are now part of a rooftop terrace where the hotel hosts wedding functions, overlooking the Dock 1 creek. Immersed in history, at the heart of the Three Cities, the building is now a Cugo Gran boutique hotel, part of IBB hotels, a subsidiary of the Von der Heyden Group. Thorsten Sander, 45, has been appointed general manager of the hotel. He says the historic building is an attraction in itself but the location is impressive.



Cugo Gran Macina has just 21 rooms, with high vaulted ceilings. The rooms range from 40 square metres to 130 square metres. A rooftop swimming pool on the annex to the main building offers guests impressive views of the marina, Birgu and Bormla. The hotel restaurant and bar are operated by Maltese restaurateur Chris Hammett.

**You make me feel proud I am Maltese - This Journal is of an excellent standard and it is always full of very interesting topics. I share it with all my family members and friends, here in Malta and overseas. What amazes me that you Maltese who live abroad are so attached to the Maltese culture and heritage. I collected all the issues and keep them safe on my computer. Grazzi, Habib. A. Azzopardi, St. Venera, Malta**

## MALTA – JEWEL OF THE MEDITERRANEAN



**COMINO** - There can be few more tranquil settings in the Mediterranean other than the island of Comino which lies neatly nestled between Malta and Gozo. One hotel, three cars and four permanent residents mark Comino out from its larger siblings although, thanks to the island's crystal clear waters and sandy white beaches, snorkellers and divers flock like seagulls, especially during the summer.



**MDINA** - Although Malta does suffer from traffic congestion, the walled city of Mdina, about 12km west of Valletta, most certainly does not. Nicknamed the Silent City, partly due to the lack of cars, Mdina features a fascinating blend of Norman and Baroque, alongside medieval and Roman ruins, to create a more peaceful alternative to Malta's capital, with the interior of St Paul's Cathedral a must for fresco fanciers.



**THE MEGALITHIC TEMPLES** There are six ruined temple sites that have UNESCO status and all but one, the Ggantija temples on Gozo, are on the island of Malta. Excavations have uncovered some of the world's oldest free standing stone works and you'll have to fast forward an extra 1,000 years before you get even close to the creation of Stonehenge. The Gozo temples are probably the most enticing for amateur archaeologists.



**SENGBLEA** - The smallest of the Grand Harbour's Three Cities, Senglea is as firmly entwined within Malta's history as the twisted fig trees to be found arbitrarily growing throughout its streets. Traditional sailing regattas, complete with fireworks, turn Senglea into a lavishly decorated flap of colour from March through to September with links to maritime heritage and the Knights of St John both celebrated with equal zeal.



**VALLETTA** - A visit to Malta's capital feeds cultural history lovers from a banquet of Baroque displayed within many of the city's palaces and churches, including one of Europe's finest, St John's Co-Cathedral. Stroll through the Upper Barrakka Gardens and you'll catch your first glimpse of the fortified bastions guarding the Grand Harbour which is well worth closer inspection, if only for fish & chips at sunset.



**VICTORIA, GOZO** - You can't come to Malta without visiting Gozo, and you can't come to Gozo without museum hopping or strolling through Victoria's celebrated Villa Rundle Gardens. The Cittadella is another must see as it extends through Victoria like an ornate bronzed fist, and creeping around the narrow limestone alleys, that align the hilltop fortifications, reveals as much about Gozo's history as it does its natural beauty.





## The Italian influence on Maltese culture

Written by Sabine

Many tourists plan **holidays in Malta** without knowing quite what to expect, aside from endless sunshine and the captivating blue hue of the sea. As a Mediterranean island that is completely independent from any other country, Malta is a pleasant mix of cultures, drawing strong influences from Italy and Great Britain.

Though Malta was a part of the Kingdom of Sicily for centuries, it seems that the islands truly embraced Italian culture when the Order of the Knights of Saint John settled here in 1530 for just over 250 years. As the Knights were previously stationed in Italy, the Order brought with it an immeasurable wealth of knowledge, influence, and customs. Here are a few ways cultural influences from Italy have become interwoven in modern Maltese culture.



**The food and cuisine** - Whether you're eating out or settling in for a lovely homemade meal, you'll find that **Maltese cuisine** is very similar to what you might find in Sicily, with pasta and pizza being among the locals' favourite dishes. While Maltese cuisine does indeed hold some very unique dishes that seem completely native to the islands, Maltese food lovers are quick to indulge in fresh fish, light fluffy bread and delicious pasta dishes, all topped off with a drizzle of olive oil, of course!

**The language** - Speaking of food, even while reading a menu at a restaurant, you may find yourself wondering why some dishes have Italian names, like linguine mare (flat noodles in a seafood sauce). Up to 1934, Italian was considered as the de facto **language of the Maltese islands**, and nowadays over half the population has good knowledge of the language, by way of speaking, listening reading and/or writing. Italian travellers are likely to find themselves at home straight away thanks to this. The Maltese are also big fans of incorporating Italian phrases into everyday conversation, with some favourites including: 'buon appetito' right before a meal, 'ciao' when saying goodbye, and 'troppo tardi' when someone has simply done too little, too late.



**The way of life** - Some say it's simply the Mediterranean way, while others are adamant that the Maltese have picked up more than a few habits from our Italian neighbours. It's no secret that Maltese people appreciate a laid-back lifestyle, one where shops close for the afternoon just in time for lunch, with a siesta to follow. You'll also find that communication in Malta is not just verbal – it's physical too. Maltese people love to gesticulate as they speak, just don't get on their bad side, you might be on the receiving end of purely physical gestures!

Malta is a rich tapestry of cultural influences that have shaped it into a truly unique place to visit to immerse yourself in its fantastic.

## 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.

[Source: [www.tvm.com.mt](http://www.tvm.com.mt)]



### Mary Galea

*Professor. University of Melbourne, Australia*

Professor Mary Galea is a professional fellow in the Department of Medicine at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, University of Melbourne. She is physiotherapist and neuroscientist whose research program includes both laboratory and clinical projects. The overall theme of her research is the control of voluntary movement in the brain and factors that promote recovery following damage to the nervous system.

Prior to her current role, Mary was foundation professor of clinical physiotherapy at the University of Melbourne and director of the rehabilitation sciences research centre at Austin Health. Her research achievements include original contributions to the understanding of the development and organisation of the motor pathways and their recovery from injury. Mary has played a pioneering role in fostering research in paediatric, neurological, musculoskeletal, women's health and aged care physiotherapy. Most recently, she has been the lead investigator on a large multi-site program of research—spinal cord injury and physical activity (SCPIA)- investigating the effects of exercise after spinal cord injury from acute care to the community. She has received numerous awards, including induction to the Victorian Honour Role of Women in 2014. Professor Galea was elected Dame of the Order of St John.



## Farson's Lacto Milk Stout

Raylan Givens



Beer in Malta? To be honest with you I was not even sure where Malta was or if it was even a country when a beer from there showed up on my "Beer-A-Day" 2010 calendar. The beer was Farson's Lacto. For the record, flipping the page on my Beer-A-Day calendar is the highlight of my morning at work. I read the few paragraphs and went about my business as usual. It just so happened that as I was out beer shopping a few days later I happened to spot a bottle of Farson's sitting right there on the shelf for a measly \$2.00. I scooped it up and it has sat in my fridge for two weeks right next to its dairy inspiration.

Back to Malta. I guess it is a small island country located in the Mediterranean. According to beer-pages.com beer and brewing in Malta dates back to the mid-1800's

when H&G Simonds started importing beer to Malta to supply British troops stationed there. A few mergers later and in 1928 Simonds Farsons began brewing beer. It is now currently known as Simonds Farsons Cisk following another merger. The brew beers such as this Milk Stout, Cisk Lager, and Hopleaf Ale. There's a lot more going on in Malta regarding and if you want to learn more I'll refer you to this excellent article going much more into detail: [The Beers of Malta](#).

This beer is in the style of a Milk or Sweet Stout which are typically brewed with lactose in order to add a touch of extra fermentable sugar and sweetness. The bottle states this is a "Milk stout with caramel color added." According to Ratebeer.com this is one of Michael Jackson's 500 classic brews and the recipe remains unchanged from its creation in 1946. It weighs in at 3.8% ABV and comes in a single 12 oz. bottle with no other descriptive information visible.

**THE BEER** -Lacto Milk Stout is a beer crafted according to the original recipe of 1946. Lacto Milk Stout is a light-bodied, sweet, classic milk stout, creamy and smooth, with rich flavours suggesting dark chocolate and currants notes. Frequently also used as a cooking ingredient, Lacto Milk Stout has been a trusted household name for over 60 years. The beer's unique characteristics make Lacto Milk Stout the perfect match to accompany rich, spicy food like BBQ beef as well as the perfect marinade for stews, chicken and red meats. Due to the beer's creamy and smooth finish, it is also recommended to enjoy Lacto Milk Stout to complement desserts such as chocolate cake and profiteroles. Lacto Milk Stout is traditionally used as an ingredient in Christmas puddings.



**Quoting part of the Australia Day speech by Charles Galea (NSW) 2018**

***I would like to celebrate Australia Day and ask with one call of unity and togetherness. As Pope Francis says, 'Humanity still has the ability to work together to build a common home' We embrace and share diversity wherever we experience it. We must keep those traditions and those values that unite us as a nation. The traditions and values that as migrants and refugees we have brought with us to this land and enriched this nation. I am proud to be standing here beside you on the day that marks this***

**nations day, Australia Day and proud to be Australian. CARMEL CHARLES GALEA 2018**

Charles graduated as teacher from St Michael's Teachers College Malta, 1972, majoring in Music and History. He graduated Bachelor of Arts in history, modern, medieval and economic and Social Science. Graduated from TAFE Sydney Technical College, Ass.Dip. Arts, Library Technician 1991. Graduated in Grad. Dip.Ed.(Teacher-Librarian) Charles Sturt University, NSW, 1994. Education Department NSW Language Methodolgy Course 2002. Appointed teacher-librarian 1988 at Redfield College. appointed Teacher of Maltese at the Saturday School of Community Languages. Founder and President of Akkademja Maltija NSW. Teacher of Maltese. Serving as organist at St Michael's Church, Baulkham Hills, NSW



