



# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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**Malta is known as one of the ninth smallest countries in the world and it lies on three islands between the two continents (Europe and Africa). Many nations left much of their history here for these last 5000 years. But this small piece of the world offers so many cultural treasures, preserved architectural gems, intact city areas and archives which hold immense value for centuries.**

**Malta is called the Heart of the Mediterranean**



## MALTA BUSINESS CENTRE

Malta is located at the very centre of the Mediterranean Sea, about 90km south of Italy and 290km north of the North African coast. It consists of two main islands, and one is uninhabited smaller island. The total surface area of these islands is 316 square kilometres. Malta became a member of the EU on 1 May 2014. On joining the EU, the country's profile as an international financial services centre was enhanced and given a fresh impetus. Malta formally adopted the Euro as its national currency on 1 January 2008. Malta's climate is strongly influenced by the sea and is typical of the Mediterranean, with sunny and hot summers while winters are mild.

Malta Boasts:

- EU membership and euro currency
- A small and very open economy
- Close links with all neighbouring countries in Europe and North Africa
- An enviable geographic position in the middle of the Mediterranean
- Efficient air links to major airports in Europe, North Africa and the Arabian Gulf
- Offers the third largest trans-shipment port in the Mediterranean.
- Malta Freeport is located at the crossroads of some of the world's greatest shipping routes and in the heart of Europe/Maghreb/Middle East triangle
- Easily accessible regulatory and decision makers
- Easy accessible key locations- all within a short driving distance
- State-of-the-art communications/telecoms network with worldwide links
- A versatile, flexible and trained workforce
- Widespread use of the English language and to a lesser extent other languages
- Hot pleasant summers and mild winters
- A safe and friendly environment with a varied cultural scenario and colorful nightlife
- High ranking in competitiveness and relocation surveys.

Malta has excellent sea and air links with the European continent as well as with North Africa, with flights normally scheduled to facilitate connections to intercontinental flights. Telecommunications are state-of-the-art with high speed broadband facilities and direct dialing to any part of the world.

The island is one hour ahead of Greenwich mean-time and operates a summer time system with clocks being advanced one hour between March and October.

**Economic Outlook** - For the past two decades Malta has embarked on a very ambitious programme to establish itself as an international finance and niche market centre. Its strategic location, membership of the European Union and having the euro as its national currency make the island nation an ideal stepping-stone for anybody wishing to tap the markets of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East.

The **Maltese Banking Sector** has weathered the recent global financial crisis relatively well. The economy has proved to be resilient and GDP growth remains positive. Recent efforts by the authorities to improve expenditure control have been well received, and straightening fiscal institutions, particularly with a strong fiscal rule should improve the long term sustainability of public finances.





## Ghal dawk li joqghodu Malta... KONT JIEN

Din is-sena f'għeluq l-20 sena mit-twaqqif tiegħu, id-"Drama Pageant Group, Hal Qormi San Sebastjan", se jtella' drammi tal-passjoni, originali u b'differenza "Kont Jien" mill-pinna ta' Doris Zammit xandara u awtriċi veterana filwaqt li d-direzzjoni tkun f'idejn Sebastian Aquilina, ċ-Ċerpersin tal-grupp. Dan id-dramm ta' sagħtejn u nofs mimli spettaklu ta' dwal u kostumi se jittella' fuq iz-zuntier tal-knisja parrokkjali San Sebastjan Hal Qormi,

"Kont Jien" qed jipprezentalna l-passjoni ta' Kristu minn fomm diversi karattri, Justus, l-ewwel ċenturjun, Ġuda, Kajfas, Pilatu, li bl-aġir tagħhom jidhru li kienu kompliċi fil-mewt ta' Ġesù ..... inkluż aħna... int u jien!

"Kont Jien" se jkollu żewġ rappreżentazzjonijiet, nhar it-Tlieta u l-Erbgħa, 27 u 28 ta' Marzu rispettivament fuq iz-zuntier tal-knisja parrokkjali ta'

San Sebastjan, Hal Qormi, fit-8.00 ta' filgħaxija.

Prezz: Kbar €5, Tfal €3

Dear Frank,

I get great pleasure from reading your well researched Newsletter, in fact as a Pastoral Carer at a facility that has many Maltese residing in it I print this Newsletter out for them. The residents especially enjoy the photos and articles that take them back to their childhood. This is particularly evident when I organize 'reminiscent groups' with those who have dementia – to see these beautiful people connect with the past and remember, is priceless. Thank you. God bless and thank you *Sr Lorraine Testa (asjm)*

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you must know your past**

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**Frank L Scicluna**  
**Adelaide - South Australia**

Reaching readers from all over the world

**YOU ALWAYS HAVE ENOUGH  
READING TO KEEP YOU GOING  
FOR A WHOLE WEEK**

## Folklore from Malta and Gozo



## Old-Time Trades and Services

Malta and Gozo are rich in Folklore like legends, customs, old time trades, children's games of the 50's and 60's. Gozo is fast emerging as the top venue for settling-in owing to its primeval beauty, long history dating back to prehistoric times and its mild climate. Temperatures in winter rarely fall below the 17-deg. mark. Summer tourism, conference centres, winter tourism, scuba holidays all contribute towards the economy of the island.

Here is a List of the Trades that I remember.

1. The Milkman early in the morning and at about 2.30 in the afternoon together with a dozen or so goats
2. GreenGrocer with Donkey and Cart
3. Fishmonger carrying a large wicker basket of fish
4. Seller of Sea urchins (rizzi) and sea shells/mussels (imhar)
5. Seller of roasted Nuts, broad beans and sweet peas
6. Seller with cart and donkey selling onions and potatoes
7. Seller with cart and donkey selling melons in Summer
8. Cloth Dealer armed with yard-stick and different cloths slung on his shoulder
9. Seller with cart and horse selling live poultry, pigeons and rabbits
10. Seller of kerosene with 44-gallon drum on horse-drawn cart and with measuring cans dangling behind
11. During the festa season in Summer, sellers of home-made pastries and ice-cream would be present in every village selling their wares on handcarts.

Women were really stay-at-home in those days. The hawkers passed regular by their doorstep every day and they had no need to leave the house except to hear mass and to pay an occasional visit to the shop. There were shops or supermarkets like today but they were primitive by today's standards. In the evenings and even late into the night, women and girls indulged in extra curricular work like sewing and embroidery, knitting, yarning and lace-making and often in the dim light of kerosene lamps. It was a hard life in the 50's.

1. Confectionary 2. Bakery 3. Butcher 4. Salad Seller - roasted onions and egg-plant, salted tuna, herrings, olives, peppered and dry local cheeslets, anchovies and dried figs. 5. Miller
6. Tailor for men and boys 7. Seamstress for ladies and girls 8. Shoe shop 9. TinSmith
10. Blacksmith 11. Ironmonger 12. Cobbler 13. Haberdashery 14. Barber for men and boys
15. Grocer who held a ration contract and distributed oil, flour, macaroni(long size), bread and sugar 16. Printer and Book-binder

Some of the above trades are now obsolete, like the miller and the tinsmith. There were others which still exist today, obviously: teachers, priests, farmers and herdsmen, carpenters and cabinet-makers,



National Statistics Office



## 125,000 tourists in January, up 20% from last year

by Massimo Costa [www.maltatoday.com.mt](http://www.maltatoday.com.mt)

Total nights spent in Malta increases by 15% in January this year compared to 2017, total expenditure up by 16%

### Tourism in January was up 20% from last year, NSO statistics show

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The total number of visitors to Malta in January this year has reached 124,769, a 20% increase over the same period last year.

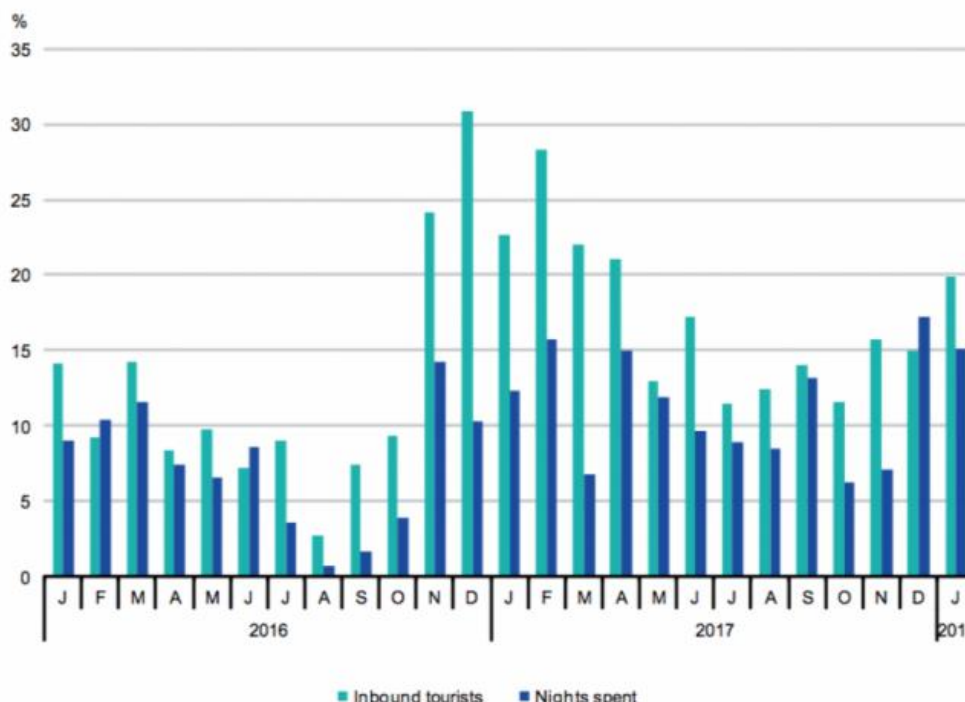
According to figures released by the National Statistics Office, 106,114 of the visits were by tourists holidaying on the island, while 14,889 were for business purposes.

The vast majority of tourists - 106,631 - came from other EU member states, an increase of almost 18% over last year.

#### Tourists stay longer, spend more

Tourists spent a total of 848,314 nights in Malta in January, an increase of 15% over the same month

**Inbound tourism: year-on-year percentage changes**  
(excluding overnight cruise passengers)



last year, and an average of slightly less than 7 nights per visitor. Around 60% of visitors stayed in collective accommodation establishments, such as hotels or guesthouses. Expenditure rose by 16%, with tourists spending more than €82 million in the first month of this year. The majority of inbound tourists, 39%, were aged 25 to 44, followed by those aged 45 to 64, at 34%.

#### More men than women visit Malta

A total of almost 68,000 male tourists came to the island this January, more than 11,000 more than the figure for women, standing at less than 57,000.

Air travel was the preferred means of getting to Malta, while 2,000 tourists travelled by sea. Around 87,000 were first-time visitors, but more than 37,000 had visited before.

UK tourists constituted the highest number of foreigners coming to the island, with more than 27,000 visitors, followed by Italy at close to 23,000, Germany at 14,000 and France at 8,000.





## Poet, Carmelite, Philosopher and Politician Rev. Prof. Anastasio Cuschieri, O.Carm

**LIFE** - Cuschieri was born at Valletta, Malta, on January 27, 1876. He joined the Carmelite Order on April 25, 1891, at 19 years of age. That same year he began pursuing his institutional studies in philosophy and theology at the University of Malta. He made his religious profession on August 28, 1892. On completion of his university courses in 1898, Cuschieri was ordained a priest, and sent to Rome, Italy, to pursue studies in philosophy and theology at the Jesuits' Gregorian University. In 1901 he became a Doctor of Philosophy and a Doctor of Theology.

**CHAIR OF PHILOSOPHY** - On his return to Malta in 1901, Cuschieri was immediately appointed professor of philosophy at the University of Malta. Here just a year later, in 1902, he was elevated to the chair of philosophy, an office he occupied for 30 years. During this time, while busy teaching philosophy at the university, as a gifted orator he was frequently called upon to address various gatherings, and he was particularly popular to deliver religious orations. Twice was he chosen as a provincial superior of the Maltese Carmelites (1906–10; 1913–16).

**Poetry** - Culturally, Cuschieri was utterly in love with the Italian language and the Latin culture. For many years he was one of the examiners of the Italian language and Italian literature. Many of his earliest poems were in Italian, and continued to write refined Italian poems all his life. A collection of these appeared in Oreste Tencajoli's *Poeti Maltesi d'Oggi* (Rome, 1932). Nevertheless, Cuschieri also wrote perceptive poems in the Maltese language, especially from 1909 onwards (after being heartily encouraged by Napoleon Tagliaferro). These he published in various cultural and religious periodicals. Due to his beautiful poems lauding the Maltese language, he became known as *il-poeta tal-kelma Maltija* (the poet of the Maltese idiom). Nonetheless, in religious circles he also became known as *il-poeta tal-Madonna* (the poet of the Blessed Virgin).

**POLITICS** - Cuschieri was also engaged in party politics. His early commitments were characterised by his love of the Latin culture, and, together with others, decided that Malta's own culture should be defined in Latin, rather than in Anglo-Saxon, terms. This pitched him against the Protestant British colonial government of Malta. Nonetheless, his political commitment had a pronounced social edge. In 1921, when his political activity became more manifest, he was encouraged by a visit to Malta made by the Jesuit Charles Plater to accept an invitation by the *Unione Cattolica San Giuseppe* (St. Joseph Catholic Workers' Union) to become the first Director of a Study Club which had the intention of educating workers. This society was domesticated by the Catholic Church to keep workers away from socialist teachings and action. This was in harmony with Cuschieri's conservative politics.

After 1921 Cuschieri's political engagements continued to grow gradually. The rise to power of Benito Mussolini in Italy in 1922 made him, and many others in Malta, look to fascism with increasing fascination and appeal. Like many other Neo-Thomists, Cuschieri saw great congruence between the Scholastics' philosophical position and the Italian philosophy of fascism. By time, Cuschieri became an overt and avowed Fascist, and this was recognised both in Malta and in Italy. In 1932, Cuschieri was elected to parliament on behalf of the Fascist Nationalist Party as a representative of university graduates.

**PHILOSOPHY** - Cuschieri was an accomplished adherent of Scholasticism of the Aristotelico-Thomist type. Throughout his life, by training and by vocation, he was always part of the orthodox branch of this school. Though he was versed in the writings and doctrines of Thomas Aquinas, he never harboured or cultivated a thoroughly speculative mind, even if he seems to have been quite capable of subtleties and abstruse distinctions. Nonetheless, his inclination tended more to the applicability of Thomistic and Scholastic principles, especially to cater for his audiences in the pastoral fields.

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In his own way, even ideologically, Cuschieri was somehow part of the Neo-Thomistic movement that grew after the wake of Pope Leo XIII's pontificate, who gave great impetus, mainly for political reasons, to the movement. All of this, however, ended with World War II, up till which Thomist Scholastics carried on a sort of love-affair with fascism, and this suited Cuschieri very well.

Il-Kelma Maltija tal-Prof. Anastasio Cuschieri O.Carm

Din biss, ħabib ta' qalbi,  
għandi; din Alla tani,  
dil-kelma li bi għmielha  
nitgħaxxaq ser tarani.

Min qal li tqila u timxi  
bħas-sriep tkaxkar fuq żaqqa?  
Ħares kemm hi ħafifa,  
kif titla' u toghla f'daqqa...

Bħalma l-ħaddied fil-forġa  
l-ewwel jikwi l-ħadida,  
imbagħad ftit ftit jaħdimha  
sa tiġi kif iridha...

Hekk jien il-kelma mn'idi  
mhux malli dak nitlaqha,  
bħal min iwaddab ġebela  
ma jafx fejn sejra taqa'

'mma qabel inrattabha  
fi ħsiebi bħal għaġina,  
imbagħad koċċ koċċ bis-sabar  
nagħtiha sura u zina.

U nibqa nħares lejha  
nara jekk qiegħda sewwa,  
jekk riegħda jew mifluġa,  
jekk nieqsa minn xi ħlewwa:

U meta ħajja tferfer  
nilmaħha tgħodd għal ħbiebi  
hemmhekk, għax nistħi ngħidu,  
nitgħaxxaq dlonk bi ħsiebi,

u bil-kelma li titla'  
minn qalbi għal fuq fommi,  
safja, ħelwa, sabiħa,  
kif għallmithieli ommi,

kif dari l-Belt, kif għadek  
fl-irħula llum tismagħha,  
bla xniexel fuq sidirha,  
fqajra, 'mma kollox tagħha.

Din biss, ħabib ta' qalbi,  
għandi; din Alla tani,  
dil-kelma li bi għmielha  
Nitgħaxxaq qed tarani".

### **LAST YEARS AND DEATH** -

After the fall of fascism and the end of the war, Cuschieri proceeded with his pastoral and academic work. Throughout his life he loved sports, especially football. Nevertheless, when he grew older, he preferred to play billiards, especially at the Civil Service Sports Club of which he was a member. Alternatively, he cherished frequenting friends, especially members of the *Akkademja tal-Malti* (Academy of the Maltese Language), and discussing current affairs, literature and philosophy.

On August 15, 1959, Cuschieri suffered a grave setback in his health. He had become bed-bound at the Carmelite convent at Valletta, and gradually grew paralysed. His ailment and sufferings continued for three years. On July 17, 1962, he was administered the last rites, and eight days later, on July 25, 1962,

he died.



Roderick Bovingdon's Article on the Times of Malta *May 2011*

## Maltese language in Australia

**When the late Prof. Joseph (Ġużè) Aquilina visited Sydney, Australia, in July-August 1968 for the 10th Commonwealth Universities Congress, local interest and belief in the formal study of the Maltese language was practically non-existent.**

When Aquilina landed at Kingsford Smith International Airport, the renowned scholar was greeted by just two people: the Maltese consul, Eucharist Barbara, and myself, the only member of the Maltese community who turned up.

The respected don and I spent a most memorable time during his free sessions as I showed him around Sydney, including places of cultural interest.

Before our first face-to-face meeting, Aquilina and I had corresponded with each other, on my initiative, for some three years, a result of my early but ever-growing interest in Maltese.

I had introduced Aquilina to some of my pioneering work in Maltese studies (including the first ever school of Maltese which I founded in May 1968 at St Gertrude's Catholic School, Smithfield, New South Wales, and the spadework I had begun in the compilation and formal analysis of *Maltraljan* (the Maltese spoken in Australia).

Following this memorable encounter, Aquilina, together with fellow professor and author Ġużè Galea, to whom I was also known at the time through correspondence, facilitated my affiliation to the *Akkademja tal-Malti* in recognition of my efforts to promote and cultivate Maltese in Australia.

Prior to these formal classes in Maltese, I had given private lessons to a Benedictine monk, Dom Alberic Jacovone, who ministered to a large Maltese component within his parish.

My other commitments to cultivate and teach Maltese in Australia, before Aquilina's visit in 1968, included a series of Maltese language sessions I recorded for the language laboratories of Sydney University; the founding of a Maltese literary society (*Għaqda Kittieba Maltija*) as an auxiliary to the Fairfield Melita Drama Company (now defunct); giving talks on Maltese language and culture to various schools and academic gatherings such as the Arabic Society and the Dante Alighieri Society, both of Sydney University; introducing Maltese authors to

Australia at public exhibitions of Maltese books, and the publication of the Maltese literary journal *Ix-Xefaq* (The Horizon).

I even managed to bring to Australia a documentary colour film (35 mm) on the classic work by Ninu Cremona *Il-Fidwa tal-Bdiewa*. This was screened at the Sydney University cinema.

This is how the interest in the formal study and promotion of Maltese in Australia began – out of my pioneering efforts from 1968 onwards.

So this significant date must be included in the *Għaqda tal-Malti* (Università's list as defectively published, if this document is to be treated with the respect and credibility it deserves. The much publicised grand and noble notion of Greater Malta must extend to all these aspects of Maltese endeavour internationally. It must not be restricted merely to that which is "politically" expedient to Malta and merely what happens in Malta.

It needs to be officially noted that this teaching of Maltese in Australia was the first time ever that the language had been formally taught (and by implication, recognised) outside the Maltese archipelago.

Furthermore, this historical event in the annals of Maltese was initiated within a culturally alien environment at the time; a most significant factor which adds to its uniqueness.

Before 1968, I had written extensively in the local Maltese and Australian press arguing the case for Maltese. I had been agitating for positive action for several years.

Eventually, the significance of my call very slowly began to sink into the local community's psyche. At first it was solely the late Prof. Colin MacLaurin, former head of the Department of Semitic Studies at Sydney University, who publicly backed up my call.

This background information clearly establishes that the first formal school for the teaching of Maltese in Australia was the result of my pioneering efforts from 1968 onwards.



Present and future writers of and commentators on the history of Maltese matters in Australia, when referring to our language question, need to accord this its due prominence and significance if their labours are to be taken seriously.

Having listed these historical facts, it makes one wonder what the motivation of some public figures might be in consistently projecting the late Joseph Abela as the originator of this uniquely Maltese cause while continuing to negate my sole pioneering efforts. Distorting history in the face of documented proof undermines their credibility. Of course, Abela's achievement of 1981 deserves suitable mention in the Għaqda's list of achievements in Maltese language matters. But it was a whole 13 years after my initial founding that he began lecturing in Maltese at the Phillip Institute of Technology, Melbourne. He and I had been in correspondence with each other for a number of years.

In 1981, when I was in Malta reading for a B.Educ. (Hons) in Maltese, Abela wrote to MacLaurin seeking a lectureship in Maltese within his department. MacLaurin, who wanted me to fill this post after I had obtained my degree in Maltese. He had formally asked then Prime Minister Dom Mintoff to provide a scholarship enabling me to read for a degree in Maltese at the University of Malta, MacLaurin alerted me to Abela's interest and suggested to him that before he could even be considered for the post, he must undergo a thorough course in Arabic. Abela did not want to study Arabic and that put an end to his Sydney ambition. But Maltese, as a language of one of the numerically larger ethnic groups in Australia, has a much longer history than this.

From a journalistic perspective it knows its origins to 1929, when the first Maltese journalist in Australia, Charles George Parnis, initiated the publication of a series of magazine-like journals entitled *Publicazioni Educativa* *Bl'Inglis u Bil Malti*. This effort was later followed up with the first ever Maltese language newspaper in Australia, entitled *Il Vuċi Tal-Malti fl'Australia – Avvocat tal Bidwi Cul Gimgha* in 1931.

What is particularly noteworthy but perhaps not so obvious to the casual reader in Parnis's 1929 contribution is his foresight in formally recording the first instances of *Maltraljan*. In a series of word lists, Parnis recorded the first ever occurrences of this peculiar language development in spoken Maltese in Australia.

During my encounter with Aquilina in 1968, when I first pointed out this language phenomenon, he instantly encouraged me to continue with my work by formalising my studies with a tertiary qualification in Maltese Linguistics.

In February 1999, immediately following my graduation in Maltese, with the full backing of the then Education Minister of New South Wales, John Aquilina, and the solid support of the Maltese Community Council of NSW, the Maltese Cultural Association of NSW and a select number of resourceful individuals from the local Maltese community, the Maltese Language School of NSW was born.

This effort was such an instant success that from one campus we expanded to four to cater for the overwhelming response. As a direct result of the fervour this historic event had generated within the local Maltese community of Sydney, the Catholic primary school at Luddenham, in the southwestern regions of Sydney, opened up six Maltese classes (at different levels) which I taught every Wednesday.

When this exercise became too much for me to handle on my own, no one from our community came forward to help out. The task was too onerous, not least considering the long distances one had to travel from home to the school. This 1999 date too ought to be added to the Għaqda's list. This is essentially the basic history of the teaching and cultivation of Maltese in Australia. Much more can be added but all else is mere detail; a run-off result from these early efforts, achievements, and also sadly too, some failures, owing to lack of support from various quarters.

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## MALTESE FOODS

(Left) Joyce Vanderboot with her Maltese food delivery car.  
(right) Joyce and her husband Alex

Dried broad beans to make bigilla, rice paper to line biskuttini baking trays and orange blossom water to give coffee a Maltese twist are just a few items that Joyce Vanderboot sells Down Under to keep Maltese traditions alive.

She also offers kunserva, ftira, ruġgata and almond syrup to make a refreshing drink “just like in Malta”. Maltese Foods is an outlet in Brisbane, which also trades online at [www.maltesefoods.com.au](http://www.maltesefoods.com.au).

“I decided to open my Maltese Foods store in Brisbane in 2011 because it is very difficult to get Maltese food here in Queensland. Distances in Australia are very large. For instance, Sydney – where I grew up and where Maltese food can be readily found – is about a 12-hour drive away.

“I missed our traditional foods and thought it was ridiculous that you could not find Maltese food here,” Ms Vanderboot, 57, told Times of Malta. Ms Vanderboot, née Scicluna, was the eldest of three children born to Tony and Margaret, from Ħamrun and Marsa, who arrived in Sydney by ship in 1956.

After marrying her Dutch husband, Alex, the couple settled in Brisbane 20 years ago. A member of the Maltese Association of Queensland (Brisbane) and the Maltese Australian Gold Coast Association, she has made it her mission “to help fellow Maltesers in Brisbane achieve their goal of finding Maltese food, so they can enjoy our traditional tastes... and I can feel happy seeing smiles on their faces”. Ms Vanderboot runs the business from home where customers can see the food products on display. They can also order online or get in touch through the Facebook page Maltesefoods. The products are either delivered by mail or personally by Ms Vanderboot.

It was hard to pick a favourite item but everyone loved pastizzi, ravioli, qagħaq tal-ghasel, biskuttini tal-lewż and imqaret.

“My husband enjoys ġbejniet and galletti and my favourite biscuits are the sesame qagħaq and the kannoli shells that I like to try out new fillings for,” she said.

“The ravioli are always a quick and easy meal to prepare for family and friends. It’s not just the Maltese who love our food but there are many who have been to Malta on holiday or have a Maltese relative or friend. They love our pastizzi and Kinnie.”

Customers always tell her “my mother used to make this” or “I remember my nanna making that”.

Ms Vanderboot’s mother also used to make baked rice or pasta, meat stew, stuffed aubergines, minestra and brodu tat-tiġieġa. “I remember our father used to buy pastizzi still hot from the oven from the local pastizzi shop, which is still open today.”

When Ms Vanderboot contacted the Maltese associations in Brisbane, she realised there were many people who could not find traditional food products. Managing freight costs can be challenging due to the distance involved and bulk orders but she tries to keep her prices down.



Canadian and Ukranian Easter Eggs



Easter in London





## 'Nanna Katie' Dishes Out Life Advice To All Her Maltese Fans

**The Australian TV legend still loves her homeland**

**Chucky Bartolo** 1 year ago

Unless you've been living under a rock for the past week, you've seen the hilarious clips of Katie Azzopardi, the Malta-born woman from Australia giving Family Feud host Grant Denyer a run for his money.

With the Maltese portion of the internet collectively hoping for more from Katie, Lovin Malta caught up with her for a quick chat, and a piece of life advice or two.

"Be yourself and be happy. Tell it how it is."

Katie was born in Msida, but grew up in Marsa, where she went to school and spent most of her young life. Her connection to her hometown grew even stronger after she got married in Marsa's parish church back in 1956 - exactly 60 years ago. But proving age is just a number, Katie's quips and jabs about her husband show their love is just as strong as it was the day they tied the knot.

"We've been married 60 years so he must like something!"

Since moving to Australia, Katie hasn't come back to visit Malta as often as she'd like to, but the few times she does, she always prioritizes a trip to Mellieħa's Ghadira bay.

Her memories of Malta are all very fond and Katie speaks openly about how much she misses her relatives back home - but being a self-proclaimed lover of food, she also dreams of the delicious flavours of our island. "I miss the vans bringing us bread, qagħaq and other treats. We don't have the same food here."

"I miss the vans bringing us bread"

Like many Maltese expats, Katie wanted to stay true to her roots, even halfway across the globe. She joined the Maltese-Australian Gold Coast Association to help out by showing other members of the group how to prepare all kinds of tasty Maltese dishes to bring our tiny island a little closer to Australia. But it wasn't her membership to an association that gave her heritage away. On the show, Katie's accent was a dead giveaway of her Maltese side, so it comes as no surprise that it's not just the food that's travelled Down Under with her. Katie still proudly speaks in Maltese with her family and friends in Queensland.

It seems fame hasn't changed Katie - despite her ever-growing popularity on the internet, she herself doesn't switch on to the grid very often. Our questions were answered over the phone, and her daughters respond to all of Katie's fans - with their mother's blessing of course.

There was something heartwarming about watching Katie win over the studio audience at Family Feud with such ease, and it really demonstrated just how much we can learn about enjoying every opportunity to the fullest. So naturally we asked the superstar herself if she had any advice to give all her fans.

"Always be yourself and be happy. Tell it how it is." Simple and effective. And clearly she happily lives by this mantra.

Her time on the show proved to be more than just a barrel of laughs, she also became the first person to drop two swear words on Family Feud, so you can add trendsetter to her CV too.

But it's not just life advice and Maltese delicacies that she's giving out, *Nanna Katie* also has a lot of love to spare. "Please pass on my regards to all readers, I am very happy with the response from everyone. They are all so kind." Thanks for making us laugh so much Katie!



# Haunting Stories of Maltese Murders

**Teodor Reljić**

It may be a statistically safe place to live, but that doesn't mean Malta's history is spotless when it comes to grisly murder. Compiled from the book by Eddie Attard, *Murder in Malta*, we've picked out some Maltese murders from the late 19th and early 18th centuries that scale the social ladder. Prince or pauper – nobody was immune to the evil we sometimes choose to unleash on each other.

## DEATH OF AN ALTAR BOY (1908)

Nearing the end of his life, a man is rotting at a mental hospital. Frangisku Farrugia is well past the 80-year mark, and he's had plenty of time to think on his sins. Or rather, that one sin which must have clouded his personal history for most of his life. Flashback to Palm Sunday, 1908: Frangisku meets his 10-year-old cousin Guzeppi Seguna and suggests that they take a walk from their home in Zabbar to Birgu to gather some blessed olive branches.



Guzeppi is a model child, and the darling of the village. A devout altar-boy, "neat in appearance" and hard-working. But his hard work also lays the groundwork for his downfall: the uncle who he used to help out around the house has promised to leave him his entire property, and this doesn't go down too well with some of his envious relatives.



Frangisku confesses to the murder of his young cousin one year later, leading the police to Fort Ricasoli where he claims to have buried the little boy's fresh corpse. He is reported to have told the police that Guzeppi "looked so beautiful when he was dead".

Farrugia died at the Mount Carmel Mental Hospital in 1980. He was 88 years old. Now known as a filming location, fort ricasoli played an important part in this upsetting murder.

## GAY DOCKYARD DRAMA (1918)



Tuesday, 26 March 1918 looked like an ordinary spring day for two boatmen just going about their business at the Grand Harbour, until a dead body floated its way off the hose-shed of the Royal Dockyard and put a damper on that idea.

It transpired that the body belonged to 17-year-old Guzeppi Campbell, a dockyard worker who had been reported missing the previous day. The ensuing investigation dredged up a sordid story, one which connected the young boy to the 57-year-old Alfred Pizzuto, who worked as a hose-maker in the dockyard and was positioning himself as something of a professional mentor for the young man.

And just in case the creeper vibes haven't crept up on you yet, it turned out that yes, Pizzuto made sexual advances on Campbell, having somehow discovered that the boy was gay. After Campbell threatened to expose Pizzuto -- lest we forget that homosexuality was a crime in those days -- the older man panicked and opted for an extreme solution to the problem.

The evidence was incontestable as it was grisly: a bloodied wooden chopping board, and the remains of Campbell's boots and clothes, uncovered by divers in the vicinity. Pizzuto spent the rest of his life in the mental hospital.

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## VITTORJA THE MONEYLENDER (1910)



While the aristocracy was relaxed about their cashflow, the rest of society was ready to kill for it. And this story proves that death and cash -- a close cousin to the 'death and taxes' adage -- go hand in hand as a constant in our lives.

Upon hearing that his grandmother, the moneylender Vittorja Vella, had not been seen outside the house for some time, her grandson paid a visit to her Kirkop home to investigate.

Knocking at the door didn't work, so he squeezed through an open window on the first floor.

He found his grandmother with her hands tied up in string, and her head jammed inside a flowerpot. A post-mortem procedure would conclude that she was choked to death.

Those responsible are lost to the annals of history. Rumours swirled around Vella's tendency to keep most of her substantial earning at home, so theft is the clear motive here.

But even then, the conclusion of this grisly episode remains unclear. While the house was ransacked, there was still quite a bit of money and other valuables left behind. More curiously still, some money and jewellery was even found in the bin. So what the hell happened here?

## A FAMILY AFFAIR (1935)



A shooting, rat poison and a secluded farm house. This is what horror films – and real-life nightmares – are made of, and it all happened in Fgura in 1935.

A woman is accused of murdering her husband by means of a fatal gunshot wound. But then, the ensuing court case reveals a murky and upsetting story. The dead husband had been trying to poison the woman – Francesca Magro – and her daughter. One night, believing them to be asleep, the husband (and eventual victim) Antonio Magro smeared phosphorous paste all over their mouth and face. Or so Francesca claims, before confessing that she then got up from the bed, found her husband, and promptly shot him to death. However, as we all know, the devil is in the details, and in this case the details prove to be a little bit shifty. Like how, in her initial statement, Francesca claims that she took the gun from the family goat pen; but then changes her story to claim that she got it from the wardrobe of their Fgura farmhouse. For good measure, Francesca also accuses her dead husband of sleeping around.

Neither the rat poison nor the infidelity stands up to investigative scrutiny. However, Francesca's mother intervenes to claim that Antonio was an abusive husband – particularly to his daughter. In the end, the jury decides that Francesca was acting under considerable mental duress, and the final verdict ends up being 'excusable homicide', with Francesca spending just two years in prison.

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Back row: Joe Darmania, F. Micallef, R. Flores, John Mangion and T. Cremona  
Front row: F. Seal, J. Micallef, P. Ranis, R. Buhagiar, Leli Monsigneur and T. Micallef

## NOSTALGIA

This 1970s photo of the Malta United Football team of South Australia was kindly sent to us by Joe Monsigneur from Adelaide. Joe, who was born in Sliema, Malta and migrated to Australia 61 years ago, is a prominent member of the Maltese community of Adelaide and a keen soccer enthusiast.

## L-AĦĦAR SEJĦA

MILL-PETALI  
TA' ĦAJTEK

FESTSCHRIFT f'għieh OLIVER FRIGGIERI

Fis-26 ta' Marzu 2018 l-Uffiċċju tal-Prim Ministru flimkien mal-Klabb Kotba Maltin se jniedu l-ktieb **Mill-Petali ta' Ħajtek**, bil-kitbiet f'għieh Oliver Friggieri. Ħafna ħbieb, awturi u kollegi tiegħu wiegħbu għal din is-sejha tagħna permezz tal-kitbiet u kontribuzzjoni tagħhom. Għax Prof. Oliver Friggieri jixraqqu tassew.

**Mill-Petali ta' Ħajtek** huwa pubblikazzjoni tal-Klabb Kotba Maltin u se jikkumpla l-awtobijografija ta' Oliver Friggieri, *Fjuri li ma Jinxfux – Tifkinet 1955-1990* (2008) u se jinkludi wkoll illustrazzjonijiet u ritratti li se jidhru għall-ewwel darba.

## IL-KONTRIBUTURI JINKLUDU:

Josette Attard, Anthony Aquilina, Ġorġ Borg, Paul. P. Borg, Tonio Borg, Joseph Brincat, Charles Briffa, Arnold Cassola, Charles Coleiro, Charles Dalli, Victor Fenech, Henry Frendo, Philip Farrugia Randon, Joe Friggieri, Sergio Grech, Mons. Victor Grech, Adrian Grima, Godfrey Grima, Ray Mangion, Bernard Micallef, Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, Achille Mizzi, Roger Ellul Micallef, Joseph Muscat, Terence Portelli, Rev. Hector Scerri, Ray Sciberras, Rev. Kalċidon Vassallo, Richard Vella Laurenti, Trevor Żahra, Marcel Zammit Marmarà

BORD EDITORJALI: Joseph P. Borg, Prof. Ray Mangion, Marcel Zammit Marmarà, Joseph Mizzi u Trevor Żahra

**Issieħeb int ukoll fl-awguri lil Oliver Friggieri. Ordna l-kopja tiegħek issa!**

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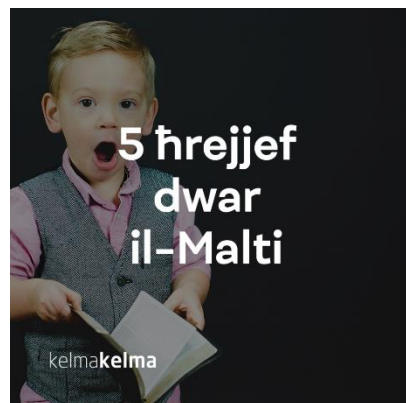
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A VERY WET  
FEBRUARY IN  
MALTA

After three months that were considerably drier than the climate norm, in February the heavens opened and produced 181.4mm of rain, the Meteorological Office at the Malta International Airport said. This total exceeded the 56.9mm quota for February, and spilled over the combined rainfall for the preceding three months by 60mm.

With 117mm of rain measured, the ninth day of the month went down on record as the second wettest day in February since 1923. Stretching into Saturday, this rainfall event coincided with Carnival weekend and watered down celebratory spirits as it led to the cancellation of many outdoor activities and parades.

## KELMA KELMA



**Wasal iż-żmien li xi ħadd ixejjen dawn il-miti komuni dwar il-Malti. Hrafa 1 -Il-Malti lingwa żgħira**

Il-Malti lingwa ta' komunità żgħira. Mhux il-Malti li hu żgħir, imma n-numru ta' kelliema tal-Malti. Biex ngħidu kollox, l-għadd ta' kelliema tal-Malti mhux xi żgħir żgħir. Huwa minnu li l-Malti ma jikkellmuhx il-miljuni, però skont l-[Ethnologue](#), il-Malti jikkellmuh aktar minn nofs miljun ruħ. Ħafna minnhom jgħixu Malta, oħrajn l-Awstralja, il-Kanada, l-Istati Uniti, ir-Renju Unit, il-Belġju, il-Lussemburgu, u l-bqija. Fl-istorja twila tiegħu l-Malti qatt ma kien użat minn daqstant nies f'waqt wieħed. U haġ'ohra. Imbilli l-Malti lsien ta' komunità żgħira ma jfissirx li hu lsien minoritarju (*minority language*). Xejn minn dan. Il-maġġoranza tal-popolazzjoni tal-gżejjer Maltin titkellem bil-Malti. Skont l-



aħħar [ċensiment](#), 93.2% tan-nies (ta' 10 snin jew aktar) jikkellmu bil-Malti. Mhux ta' b'xejn li l-Malti l-ilsien nazzjonali ta' Malta u wieħed mill-ilsna uffiċjali tal-Unjoni Ewropea.

### **Hrafa 2 - Il-Malti x'tambih? Malta biss tużah**

Mela nsejt meta tkun barra u tkun trid li ma jifhmek ħadd? Hemm tużah il-Malti, hux? Apparti l-vantaġġ tal-Malti bħala kodiċi sigriet, hemm ieħor. Li titgħalliem lingwa qatt mhu ħela. Aktar u aktar jekk dik il lingwa tkun l-ilsien nazzjonali tal-pajjiż fejn tgħix u l-aktar lingwa mitkellma fih.

Skont [stħarriġ](#) li sar fl-2013, 76.4% tal-parteciċipanti d-dar jikkellmu bil-Malti, 16.7% jikkellmu bil-Malti u bl-Ingliż, u 5.1% jikkellmu bl-Ingliż. Fi kliem ieħor, għal iktar minn tliet kwarti tal-Maltin, il-Malti hu l-ewwel lingwa, il-lingwa li biha jhossu hom l-aktar komdi jiċċaċċraw ma' sħabhom, jilletikaw ma' tal-familja, jgħidu kelma mal-ġirien, jithaddtu mal-kollegi, jifthu qalbhom ma' tabib, ifissru ruħhom sew mal-perit li jfasslilhom id-dar, mal-avukat li jiddefendihom, mal-bankier li jgħin hom jinvestu flushom, mal-infermier li jdur bihom, u ma' kull min iħabbtu wiċċhom.

### **Hrafa 3 - Imma l-Università kollox bl-Ingliż**

Li l-Ingliż lingwa essenzjali għall-iżvilupp akkademiku ma jiċċdu ħadd. Iżda ma jfissirx li l-Malti mhux importanti. Altru minn hekk. F'bosta korsijiet l-istudenti jkollhom sessjonijiet twal ta' Prattika fil-komunità, u matulhom il-komunikazzjoni ħafna drabi bil-Malti ssir. Barra minn hekk, l-edukazzjoni f'livell universitarju ma tnejx lill-istudenti għat-tliet snin tal-kors u daqshekk. Tippijparahom għal ħajjithom lil hinn minn Tal-Qroqq. Fil-kuntest lokali, importanti li tkun taf tħaddem il-Malti sew meta tindirizza lill-klijenti, lill-pazjenti, lill-istudenti u l-ġenituri tagħhom, u lil daww kollha li tagħmilha magħhom bl-ilsien li jippreferu. Għax l-ilsien jgħaqqadna daqskemm jifridna.

### **Hrafa 4 - It-tfal inkellimhom bl-Ingliż biss. Jekk jitgħallmu l-Malti wkoll jithawdu msieken**

Mhux talli ma jithawdux, talli tfal bilingwi jew multilingwi jkollhom flessibilità konjittiva. Fi kliem ieħor, min jitgħalliem aktar minn lingwa waħda, appart li jkun jista' jikkomunika ma' firxa usa' ta' nies, ikollu ħiliet mentali oħrajn, mhux bilfors marbutin mal-lingwa, bħal li jsolvi l-problemi u jaħseb b'mod kritiku. Fid-dawl tal-ħafna benefiċċji tal-bilingwiżmu, l-Unjoni Ewropea – li hi msejsa fuq il-motto tal-unità fid-diversità – tippromwovi l-politika lingwistika li kull ċittadin Ewropew, barra lsien twelidu, għandu jkun jaf mill-inqas żewġ lingwi oħra.

Il-ħelwa hi li fl-Ewropa min jaf lingwa waħda qed iħeġġuħ jgħalliem tnejn oħra, u hawn Malta xi ġenituri lil uliedhom jagħzlu li jtellgħu hom b'lingwa waħda biss, anki jekk huma jkun u jafu żewġ lingwi, u ġieli aktar minn tnejn. Iċaħħdu hom mill-ġmiel u l-vantaġġi ta' lingwa oħra. Iġibuhom ifqar minnhom. Jien nieqaf hawn, imma araw il-parir ta' din l-omm li lil uliedha kienet tkellimhom bl-Ingliż: Want the best for your kids? Teach them Maltese.

### **Hrafa 5 - Il-Malti daqt jispiċċa**

F'elf sena ta' storja, il-Malti qatt ma tkellmuh u kitbuh nies daqs illum. Kull sena joħorġu xi 600 ktieb bil-Malti. Brussell u l-Lussemburgu hemm madwar 240 ruħ, l-aktar tradutturi u interpreti, li kull sena jaqilbu daqs 200,000 paġna għall-Malti. Bit-traduzzjonijiet tagħhom il-vokabolarju tal-Malti jkompli jikber għax qed iħaddmuh f'oqsma li m'aħniex imdorrijin niħaddtu dwarhom bil-Malti, bħall-kimika, l-astrofiżika u n-nanoteknoloġija.

U l-Malti qatt ma studjawn nies daqs illum, sew Maltin u sew barranin. Biss biss, bħalissa fid-Dipartiment tal-Malti tal-Università ta' Malta hemm kważi 500 ruħ jistudjaw il-Malti. 185 minnhom barranin. U l-Malti jistudjawn lil hinn minn xtutna wkoll. Ngħidu aħna, Londra dawn l-aħħar sentejn studjawn madwar 80 ruħ. Bremen, il-Ġermanja, hemm iċ-Ċentru tal-Isien Malti, li kull sena jagħti korsijiet tal-Malti lil studenti minn madwar id-dinja, u kull sentejn jorganizza konferenza dwar il-lingwistika tal-Malti li fiha jieħdu sehem bosta studjużi Maltin u barranin. Għax l-interess fil-Malti kulma jmur qed jiżdied. <http://kelmakelma.com/> Dr. Michael Spagnol.





## The dry-stone walls – Il-hitan tas-Sejjieh

Malta and Gozo are the proud guardians of a millennia-old craft: the building of drystone walls known as *hitan tas-sejjieh*.

Such walls are built with pieces of stone fitted together without mortar. They are also referred to as rubble walls because the masonry is constructed of rough unfinished stones.

These walls serve several purposes. First and foremost they break down the slopes of hilly the Maltese islands into manageable fields. The walls prevent the soil from being washed away by the rain. A breach in the wall was to be raised by the tenant of the holding if it was smaller than two metres. If it was wider, the burden for its repair fell upon the landlord. Whoever did not respect these regulations risked imprisonment. On flat ground, where they are built very low, these walls mark the boundaries of various holdings. In some areas they also serve to protect vegetables and saplings from the withering north westerly wind. Along lanes and foot paths, they prevent trespassers from stealing or damaging crops. Next to farms they form enclosures to impede farm animals from roaming away.

A small axe called *interqa* and a piece of string to mark the limits of the wall being built were the only tools used in the building of these walls. This tool is similar to a hatchet with a short handle and a heavy metal

head for use with one hand. It has a flat edge on one side and a sharpened edge on the other.

The traditional way of constructing a field consists in first levelling the ground by removing protruding rock and filling in any cavities with stones and then spreading a layer of soil about a metre deep over the evened surface. The terrain is then divided into small parcels by an extensive network of rubble walls.

The mason's task consisted in raising a wall by placing the rough pieces of stone without taking any measurements whatsoever, basing his judgment solely on experience, able hands and eagle eyes.

Every piece of stone is laid with its flat face downwards to create a strong base. The space behind the pieces and between one layer and the next is filled with stone chippings known as *maskan* as this eases the passage of rain water through the wall without damaging the structure. Rubble walls were built caving inwards and resting upon the soil for sturdiness.

Every three and a half metres, or less if the

wall was fairly high, the mason placed a column, with a fairly large stone heading into the soil and the one above stretching upon it along the wall. This column-like chain shored up the wall from collapsing through the movement of soil after heavy rainfall.

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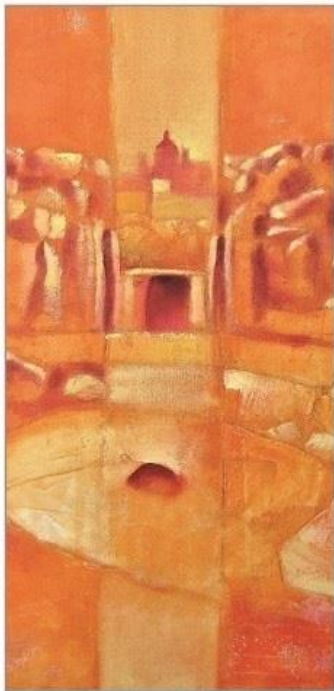
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## NOSTALGIA



## EMBRACING CHANGE IN GOZO



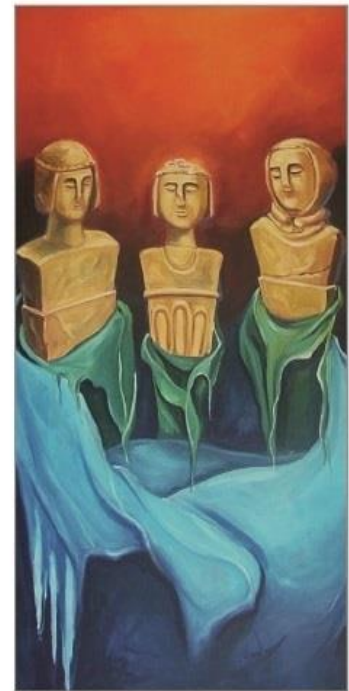
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### THE LAST SUPPER AT VITTORIOSA

A live re-enactment of the Last Supper according to the traditional Jewish rites of the time will be held at the Inquisitor's Palace in Birgu on the 24th and 25th of March 2018. The second event will be an interactive theatre performance of the Passion of Jesus Christ in the landscape of Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Temples on the 31st March and 1st April.

The Last Supper at the Inquisitor's Palace, is a dramatized experience of the events that took place on the eve of the passion of Jesus. Great

attention has been paid to details with regards to the way in which such suppers were held in the time of Christ. Those attending the Last Supper will also be able to visit the palace itself which also houses an exhibition dedicated to Maltese Easter traditions.



Melissa Snell



In the mid-11th century, a Benedictine abbey was established in Jerusalem by merchants from Amalfi. About 30 years later, a hospital was founded next to the abbey to care for sick and poor pilgrims. After the success of the First Crusade in 1099, Brother Gerard (or Gerald), the hospital's superior, expanded the hospital and set up additional hospitals along the route to the Holy Land.

On February 15, 1113, the order was formally named the

Hospitallers of St.

John of Jerusalem and recognized in a papal bull issued by Pope Paschal II.

The Knights Hospitaller were also known as Hospitalers, the Order of Malta, the Knights of Malta. From 1113 to 1309 they were known as the Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem; from 1309 to 1522 they went by the Order of the Knights of Rhodes; from 1530 to 1798 they were the Sovereign and Military Order of the Knights of Malta; from 1834 to 1961 they were the Knights Hospitaller of St. John of Jerusalem; and from 1961 to the present they are formally known as the Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes, and of Malta.

**Hospitaller Knights** - In 1120, Raymond de Puy (a.k.a. Raymond of Provence) succeeded Gerard as leader of the order. He replaced the Benedictine Rule with the Augustinian Rule and actively began to build up the order's power base, helping the organization to acquire lands and wealth. Possibly inspired by the Templars, the Hospitallers began to take up arms in order to protect pilgrims as well as tend their illnesses and injuries. Hospitaller Knights were still monks, and continued to follow their vows of personal poverty, obedience, and celibacy. The order also included chaplains and brothers who did not take up arms.

**Relocations of the Hospitallers** - The shifting fortunes of the western Crusaders would also affect the Hospitallers. In 1187, when Saladin captured Jerusalem, the Hospitaller Knights moved their headquarters to Margat, then to Acre ten years later. With the fall of Acre in 1291 they moved to Limassol in Cyprus.

**The Knights of Rhodes** - In 1309 the Hospitallers acquired the island of Rhodes. The grand master of the order, who was elected for life (if confirmed by the pope), ruled Rhodes as an independent state, minting coins and exercising other rights of sovereignty. When the [Knights of the Temple](#) were dispersed, some surviving Templars joined the ranks at Rhodes. The knights were now more warrior than "hospitaller," though they remained a monastic brotherhood. Their activities included naval warfare; they armed ships and set off after Muslim pirates, and took revenge on Turkish merchants with piracy of their own.

**The Knights of Malta** - In 1522 the Hospitaller control of Rhodes came to an end with a six-month siege by Turkish leader Suleyman the Magnificent. The Knights capitulated on January 1, 1523, and left the island with those citizens who chose to accompany them. The Hospitallers were without a base until 1530, when Holy Roman emperor Charles V arranged for them to occupy the Maltese archipelago.

Their presence was conditional; the most notable agreement was the presentation of a falcon to the emperor's viceroy of Sicily every year.



In 1565, grand master Jean Parisot de la Valette exhibited superb leadership when he stopped Suleyman the Magnificent from dislodging the Knights from their Maltese headquarters. Six years later, in 1571, a combined fleet of the Knights of Malta and several European powers virtually destroyed the Turkish navy at the Battle of Lepanto. The Knights built a new capital of Malta in honor of la Valette, which they named Valetta, where they constructed grand defenses and a hospital that attracted patients from far beyond Malta.



**The Last Relocation of the Knights Hospitaller** - The Hospitallers had returned to their original purpose. Over the centuries they gradually gave up warfare in favor of medical care and territorial administration.

Then, in 1798, they lost Malta when Napoleon occupied the island on the way to Egypt. For a short time they returned under the auspices of the Treaty of Amiens (1802), but when the 1814 Treaty of Paris gave the archipelago to Britain, the Hospitallers left once more. They at last settled permanently in Rome in 1834.

### **Membership of the Knights Hospitaller**

Although nobility was not required to join the monastic order, it was required to be a Hospitaller Knight. As time went on this requirement grew more strict, from proving nobility of both parents to that of all grandparents for four generations. A variety of knightly classifications evolved to accommodate lesser knights and those who gave up their vows to marry, yet remained affiliated with the order. Today, only Roman Catholics may become Hospitallers, and the governing knights must prove the nobility of their four grandparents for two centuries.

### **The Hospitallers Today**

After 1805 the order was led by lieutenants, until the office of Grand Master was restored by Pope Leo XIII in 1879. In 1961 a new constitution was adopted in which the order's religious and the sovereign status was precisely defined. Although the order no longer governs any territory, it does issue passports, and it is recognized as a sovereign nation by the

Vatican and some Catholic European nations.



## **Marianne Saliba - Shellharbour City Mayor for third consecutive year**



**Mayor Marianne Saliba, Shellharbour City Council, New South Wales. Shellharbour City is the third oldest municipality in NSW and the youngest city.**

Spectacularly set on the south coast of NSW, our city is bordered by natural boundaries of mountains to the west, Minnamurra River to the south, Macquarie Rivulet to the northwest and Lake Illawarra to the northeast.

The city is home to more than 67,000 people and growing. We are proud of our history, cultural background and have big ambitions for the future.

We are currently building a boat harbour that you can fit Darling Harbour into and as of recently, have a Qantas 747-400 calling our airport home.

It is hard to say what is my favourite part of the area best because we have so much to choose from, however, Killalea state park is a lovely place to visit with lush green hills and beach (The Farm) sitting side by side.

We have spectacular beaches and a great ocean pool at Shellharbour Village, as well as rainforest at Macquarie Pass. The people who live here make Shellharbour special. Many migrants from all over the world made Shellharbour City their home and we are very proud of our Multicultural community.

### Maintaining

I was working in the disability sector when I was elected to council. In September, I will have been on council for four years. I am currently a full-time Mayor as the role is quite demanding.

I am studying a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Wollongong with a major in Politics, and a minor in Sociology. My studies help me to see things differently.

My view of politics was quite parochial - party politics, state and local.

However my understanding has since been broadened to understand how society functions in politics and all areas of life. Politics is still a male dominated environment and women don't typically enjoy the

cut, thrust and conflict of it. Women often have competing priorities and traditional roles in their families.

I am currently the Country Vice President of ALGWA NSW, an organisation that encourages and supports women in



local government, and would like to see more women become involved in local government, as elected representatives and employees.

Gender has never been an issue for myself while I understand the issues that women face.

I dream that one-day gender will not be an issue for anyone.

The best advice I have received is that you can't please all the people all the time. Always think about the unintended consequences, meaning that it is important to look beyond the immediate impact of a decision.

## Maltese Football's Australian Connection

It may surprise many to know that Maltese football has long had a strong connection to Australia. Stop raising those eye-brows! It's simply matter of history, despite Melbourne (arguably the home of Australia's large Maltese community) being some 9,721 miles (15,644 km) from Valletta.

It is said that as many Maltese live outside of the country as in it. After World War II, many Maltese moved to the UK, Canada and the USA, but a great number moved Down Under to Australia, where they settled and formed a strong community. Much of this community was formed around football clubs which also acted as social clubs for the expanding number of expats and their Australian-born children.

Whilst Melbourne became the centre of the Maltese-Australian community, Sydney was also a popular choice for migrants and, today, one can see established Maltese community-based clubs such as Sydney's Parramatta FC and also Sunshine George Cross and Green Gully Cavaliers in Melbourne.

### The Clubs



Parramatta play at the aptly named Melita Stadium in the western Sydney suburb and also host the national Maltese Rugby League side. The club was formed in 1956 when two local Maltese clubs – Malta Eagles and Melita Soccer Club – merged to form what was known as Melita Eagles. The club was a mainstay in the News South Wales state leagues and even managed promotion to the fledgling National Soccer League (formed in 1977) in 1983. Following relegation in 1984, the club returned to the National Soccer League in 1989 and remained there until 1995 when they were

relegated. The club was also forced to change its name and identity by the old Soccer Australia administration, as ethnic names and badges were banished. The club has since been competing in the



New South Wales state leagues and is now a member of the NSW Super League, the highest level in the state under the nationwide Hyundai A-League.



By contrast, the two Melbourne-based clubs have remained a focus for the Maltese community in their cities. Green Gully Cavaliers were actually formed in 1955 as Ajax Soccer Club by Maltese immigrants. They adopted the green and white stripes of their favoured Floriana club back in Malta and still play in green and white today, although no longer stripes. In 1966, the club was renamed Green Gully to mirror their new home suburb. Ajax was dropped from the name in 1982 and the club competed in the National Soccer League from 1984 to 1986 inclusive. The club has since been competing in the Victoria State League.

In addition to Green Gully, Melbourne also has Sunshine George Cross which is a sister club of Green Gully. The suburb of Sunshine is the hub of Australia's Maltese community and even lays claim to being home of the only Bank of Valletta branch in the Oceania region.

The club was formed in 1947 as George Cross Football Club by Maltese immigrants in the area. It was renamed Sunshine George Cross when it merged with Sunshine City in 1983 and competed in the National Soccer League from 1984 to 1991 inclusive. As of 1992, the club was relegated to the Victoria State League and suffered further relegation to Victoria State League Division One for the 2000 season. The club has since fluctuated between the Premier and First Divisions since then and currently sits in the latter. Despite this, the club is still well-supported and at the centre of Melbourne's Maltese community, producing many players of Maltese descent. Such players to have represented the club include former Socceroo, Crystal Palace and Glasgow Rangers defender, Kevin Muscat, as well as Malta international, Manny Muscat, who grew up in Melbourne and played for both the Georgies and Green Gully.

## Street Vendors

### Bejjiegħa tat-Toroq

Street Vendors ("bejjiegħa tat-toroq"), earned their living by going from one village to another in good or bad weather. They had regular days for each village and housewives eagerly waited to buy or order what they required, as it was a great hassle for them to go on foot or on mules to other villages to purchase.

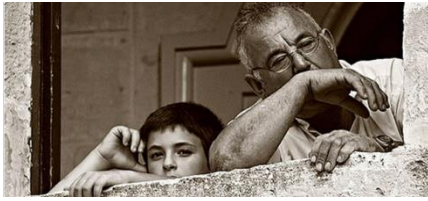


Village morning silences used to be broken by the peddler's own particulate cry out announcing his wide range for sale, earthen-ware cooking pots ("borom ta' Franza"), or enamel ("enemel"), goods for the kitchen, decoration for the house ("fajjenza"), food products and many other household needs.

They had a saying "*calling out is half the sales*", ("l-għajta hija nofs il-bejgħ").

Certain vendors even sold the products at reduced prices ("biegħ taħt il-prezz"), or on credit ("biegħ bil-

krittu"), to help their costumers obtain their goods.



## What's in a Name? A Lot if it's in Malta.

by **Nanette Johnson** In Malta, nicknames live on, down the generations

There's not much diversity in surnames here in Malta and a mere handful go to making up most of island's phone directory. We're asked time and again by foreign visitors about this repetition of Maltese family names. So, at Malta Inside Out, we decided to explain the naming game, thanks to guest blogger, **Nanette Johnson**, aka Ms Gourmet, of [www.gourmetworrier.com](http://www.gourmetworrier.com).

Nanette lives in Melbourne, Australia, but is the daughter of a Gozitan father and a Maltese mother who emigrated in the '60s. She relates a warming tale, told to her on holiday 'back home' in Gozo, of how the Maltese get around the same-name phenomenon by inventing a wonderful system of nicknames! To get the full story, you'll need to know that her blog has a bumblebee and honeycomb symbol on it.

### How it came to Bee

My father is originally from the island of Gozo, Malta's sister island. Gozo is a tiny island and it is predominantly Catholic. Traditionally parents would name their children after Saints – Mary, Marija, Joseph, Josephine, Nazarene, Victoria, Victor, Anthony, Antoinette, Francis, Francesca et al. As you can imagine there are a whole lot of Joe's & Mary's running around on that tiny island.

One of the ways they overcame this name overlap was to give families nicknames. So Joe Bonello would be referred to as Joe tal Korkos (which is in fact my paternal grandfathers family nickname). Don't ask me what 'Korkos' means, or to translate it into English or how it came to be. I have asked my relatives this at least a hundred times and every time I am met with that look that says 'what island are you on?'

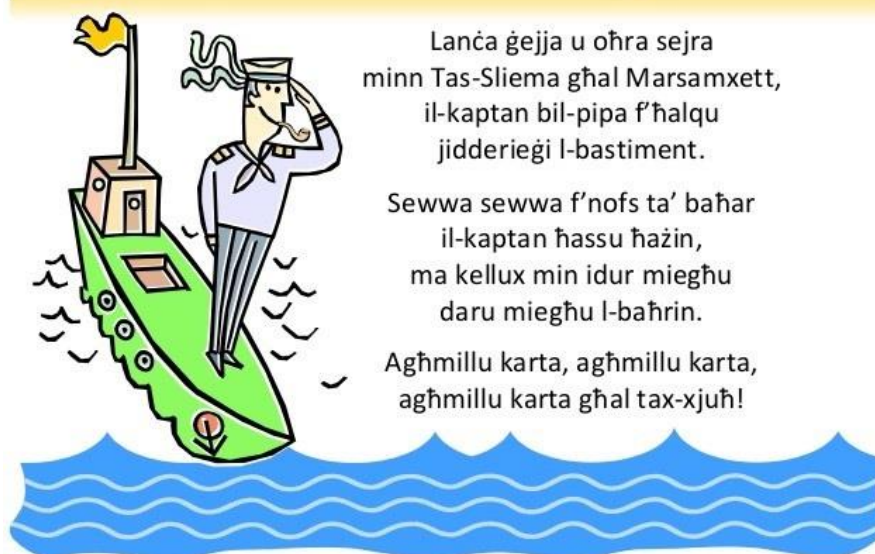


My paternal grandmother's family nickname is 'zunzana' and thankfully this nickname is translatable. Hence, one of its meanings is 'bumblebee'. In Maltese, a bee is also a 'nahla' but 'zunzana' is onomatopoeic in that it refers to insects that make that 'znznzn' noise and that sting. When I was in Gozo recently I asked my aunt if she knew how the 'zunzana' nickname evolved. Was it because the women on my grandmother's side of the family had a sting

to them? Or did they have a sharp, unforgiving edge about them?

Again I got that blank stare that said 'what planet were you raised on child?'

### Ejjew inkantaw flimkien Lanċa Ġejja



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

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

Aghmillu karta, aghmillu karta,  
aghmillu karta għal tax-xjuħ!

And so my aunt then explained that the name 'zunzana' – the 'bumblebee' is symbolic for cleverness, industry and life. My great grandmother, grandmother, great aunts and aunts not only raised huge families and ran households and estates, but they also tended to the fields, were great mothers and homemakers and brilliant cooks. In essence they were immortal.

I knew instantly that I wanted the bumblebee to be a part of my blog, Gourmet Worrier. Thus, the humble little bumblebee is my subtle tribute to all of the wonderful women in my family who were great mothers, creative souls and brilliant cooks! *But, is it*

wise to know whose car it is?

Photo: Walter Lo Cascio





## MALTESE TRADITIONAL COSTUMES



See you next week