



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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We are fortunate to be Maltese and we celebrate what it is to be a citizen of Malta.

ANZAC MONUMENT IN MALTA NEGLECTED



**ANZAC MEMORIAL
AT THE ARGOTTI
BOTANICAL GARDENS
IN FLORIANA, MALTA**

**This monument was
unveiled on the
25 May 2013
to commemorate the
ANZACS who fought at
Gallipoli and died in Malta
during World War 1
1914 - 1918**

Lest we Forget

ANZAC MEMORIAL IN 2016

WHITE DAVID J-1533-10BN INF D. 28-8-1915
WHITE JOHN A-451-10BN INF D. 28-8-1915
WHITEHEAD WILLIAM H-2978-5FLD AMB AAMC D. 28-10-1915
WINTER WILLIAM J-1008-10BN INF D. 03-10-1915
WOODS THOMAS J-43-10BN INF D. 30-3-1915
WOODY RTH J-1008-10BN INF D. 22-8-1915
WRIGHT ENEST J-6-10BN INF D. 28-8-1915
WRIGHT FELIX-727-28BN INF D. 28-11-1915
WRIGHT ROBERT Y-760-19BN INF D. 8-10-1915

ANZAC MEMORIAL IN 2018

ILLEGIBLE NAMES OF ANZACS

On 12th May 2004 the Maltese Australian Association (MAA) Committee approved a motion presented by the President, Nicholas Bonello OAM, to erect a monument to commemorate the servicemen of WWI ANZAC who died while being nursed in Malta and were buried in various local cemeteries.

To give the project a national identity, an ad hoc committee was set up composed of different Associations, individuals of professional status, and with representatives of the Australian High Commission-Malta and the New Zealand High Commission-Rome.

A competition for the memorial design was organised. The design submitted by sculptor Ganni Bonnici was chosen. The project was entrusted to him and to Architect Hermann Bonnici A& CE. The necessary construction permits were secured in late 2009.

The raising of the required funds was organised, with the Maltese Australian Association being the main sponsor. In time, contributions from different associations and organisations of Maltese Australian orientation, both in Malta and in the different states of Australia, and from individual contributors swelled the funds and during 2011 the necessary contracts were made and work on the ANZAC Memorial was started.

The ANZAC Memorial was inaugurated on 25th May 2013 by

**The Honourable Dr George W Vella MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs
and**

**Nicholas Bonello OAM
Chairman ANZAC Memorial Committee-Malta.**

The ANZAC Memorial Committee-Malta show their gratitude and thanks to the persons and organisations who in their own way contributed to the Memorial commemorating the servicemen of ANZAC.

On Saturday 25 May 2013 Malta's the former Foreign Minister, Dr George Vella, and the late chairman of the ANZAC Memorial Committee Malta, Mr Nicholas Bonello OAM, inaugurated the ANZAC Memorial at the Argotti Botanical Gardens in Floriana, Malta before a gathering of over 200 guests. The monument designed and built by sculptor Gianni Bonnici commemorates the thousands of Australian and New Zealander servicemen and women killed during the wars..

UNFORTUNATELY, MOTHER NATURE AND BECAUSE OF LACK OF MAINTENANCE THE INK AND PAINT THAT WAS USED TO HIGHLIGHT THE WORDING AND NAMES OF THE ANZACS AT THE LOWER PART OF THE MEMORIAL ARE DISAPPEARING. SOME DAMAGE IS ALSO OCCURRING TO THE STONE THROUGH THE ELEMENTS. MAY WE BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE OR ANY OTHER HERITAGE ORGANISATION TO FIX THE DAMAGE BEFORE IT BECOMES TOO DIFFICULT TO RECTIFY. TOURISTS, ESPECIALLY FROM AUSTRALIA WHO VISITED THIS MONUMENT, BROUGHT THIS MATTER TO OUR ATTENTION. Lest we forget



The Late Nicholas Bonello OAM

Mr Nicholas Bonello was the chairman of the ANZAC Memorial Committee-Malta. He was also a High Commissioner for Malta to Australia. Nick was the co-founder of the the Maltese Herald of Australia in 1961 and was also the founder of the Maltese Australian Association-Malta 1974. He was honoured by the Government of Australia by awarding him the Order of Australia Medal.

12 May 2011 – Participation of the South Australian/Maltese Community Malta ANZAC War Memorial Committee of South Australia



Tony Zappia - Member of Federal Parliament of Australia, Canberra ACT Speaking in Parliament - Hansard Source

On 2 April 2011 the member for Hindmarsh, Mr Georganas, and I attended the Malta ANZAC War Memorial Committee of South Australia's special fundraising evening. A number of dignitaries, including South Australian Governor His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC and Mrs Scarce; National RSL President Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO and Mrs Doolan; South Australian State RSL President Jock Stratton; the Honorary Consul of Malta, Mr Frank Scicluna OAM and Mrs Josie Scicluna; and others, including several state and federal MPs, attended. Proceeds from the evening are being used to construct an ANZAC war memorial in Malta in recognition of the wounded ANZACs who were evacuated from Gallipoli to Malta during World War I.

It is believed that more than 4,000 wounded Anzac soldiers were evacuated to Malta in World War I, where they were hospitalised and cared for. Many of them died, and their bodies were returned to Australia and New Zealand, but it is estimated that about 200 Australians and 70 New Zealanders are today buried in Malta. Her Excellency the Governor-General of Australia, Quentin Bryce, on her first state visit overseas and on the first visit by an Australian Governor-General to Malta, laid flowers on the graves of Anzacs buried there.

Only this week we acknowledged in this House the passing of Australia's last surviving veteran of World War I, Mr Claude Choules, and I extend my respects to him and my condolences to his family. Mr Choules's death was a reminder that World War I commenced some 97 years ago. It is now a long time. But our recognition, respect and appreciation of the Anzacs who served in World War I has in no way diminished. From the number of Australians who attend the Anzac Day services around the country,

the opposite seems to be occurring. Similarly, the support of Malta and the Maltese people should not be forgotten. I have no doubt it was gratefully appreciated by the soldiers who were sent there and by their families.

The proposed six-metre-high memorial, which will cost about \$200,000, is being designed and sculpted by Gianni Bonnici. It will be created in the Argotti Botanical Gardens, in Floriana, Malta, and is believed to be the first ANZAC memorial to be erected outside of Australia, New Zealand or Gallipoli. The close ties between Malta and Australia continued after World War I, and, following World War II, substantial numbers of Maltese people migrated to Australia, where, like so many other post World War II arrivals, they quickly settled into their new homeland, worked hard and contributed to Australia's growth and prosperity.

Ever since the first Maltese free settler, Antonio Azzopardi, came to Australia in 1838, the number of Maltese people in Australia has steadily increased. According to the 2006 census figures, there were about 154,000 people in Australia who claimed Maltese ancestry. Today, the Maltese migrant community in Australia represents the largest Maltese community outside of Malta. Many of them came to South Australia and settled in Adelaide's northern suburbs. Today they have their own regular radio segment on community radio PBA FM. I grew up with Maltese school mates and work mates and feel proud to refer to so many of them—in fact, too many to individually name—as personal friends. I particularly acknowledge the Maltese contingency who participate in the Salisbury RSL remembrance services each year. They are good people whose warmth and compassion reflects the characteristics that earned Malta the title of 'Nurse of the Mediterranean' in World War I.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of members of the ANZAC War Memorial Committee of South Australia: the Honorary Maltese Consul in South Australia, Mr Frank Scicluna; Mr Charles Figallo, who is the CEO; Edgar Agius OAM JP; Joe Briffa; Carmelo Farrugia OAM JP; John Mangion; Peter Salerno; Julie Simon and Peter Hollams for their huge efforts in support of the establishment of the memorial in Malta. Last week I spoke with Mr Joe Briffa, one of the committee members, who told me that about \$25,000 had been raised on the night, which will go towards the memorial.

For the families of those Australian and New Zealand soldiers who were nursed there and for those still buried in Malta the memorial will be particularly significant. To quote the message Prime Minister Julia Gillard read out during the address by the member of Hindmarsh:

The Anzac War Memorial is a fitting tribute to these bonds of friendship commemorating our shared past and the enduring ties that bind our two countries.



The BuBBle 2018 – A Festival of Life | 17 September
17 September – 24 September
The Bubble NGO - Ghajn Tuffieħa

We are excited to announce The Bubble 2018! This year our week long festival will be celebrating LIFE through a variety of music, art, workshops & abundant magical gatherings.

The 8th edition of this non-profit festival will take place on the majestic Golden Bay Headland in Ghajn Tuffieħa, Malta from 17-23 September.

The intention behind The Bubble experience is to create positive awareness of the environment, the arts and our community in a colourful and fun festive environment. It is in this light that The Bubble NGO donates 100% of the funds raised from the festival to various environmental & humanitarian causes each year.

You impressed us with your support in the past. If you believe in the light of The Bubble, click GOING, get your early bird ticket now or apply to volunteer or participate! <https://thebubble.com.mt>

The beneficiary projects this year include The Youth Hub in St. Lucia Malta, The Jose Depiro Kabataan Orchestra in the Philippines, The Gaia Foundation, Majjistral Park & Get Trashed Malta amongst others.



The Mission of this journal

This Maltese/Global electronic Newsletter is serving as a link of communication between Maltese living in Malta and those who are residing overseas.

We live in a world of instantaneous communication so let's make better use of the internet and broadcasting systems to reach out to one another to interact and to keep ourselves informed of what small and great endeavours Maltese citizens are undertaking in Malta or overseas.

This flow of information will keep the world up to date about our modern country and its people. To a significant degree this does happen already within some communities established overseas.

It should be possible for anyone travelling anywhere in the world to be able to find out if there is a fellow Maltese in a city. We are reaching various regions where many Maltese already live, and their role can include the facility to provide the right connections and make appropriate introductions.

We also see this journal as a vehicle for selling the entrepreneurial drive of Maltese as they build their lives and international businesses.

Why not work with fellow countrymen and women? If you have been blessed with success then sprinkle some of that magic dust on our students at university or give a helping hand to young, budding entrepreneurs should they call out of the blue and ask for advice.

The Government regardless of how far away from Malta one might live is very keen to find out how our communities and individuals are giving a great name to their homeland. We are specifically tasked with making sure opinions are heard on all aspects of new legislation as it may affect members' interests.

But, if you don't talk to us, write or e-mail us then we cannot speak up on your behalf. In due time all these lines of communication will be open. The younger population of Maltese living abroad are the masters and mistresses of new technology, new ways of communicating, new trends and styles.

I would urge them to be the main drivers and helping to set its course and agenda. We can and should celebrate our history, for it is only by understanding the past, and learning from it, that we can forge an even brighter and better future.

In summary, thus journal has been established for all Maltese, to celebrate the lives they are living today, the achievements of the past, and the ambitions for what is yet to come. Because of Malta's geo-strategic location countless visitors, tourists and Europeans are helping Malta to build a better economy.

We have welcomed them, absorbed their influences, adopted some of their ways; they have had an impact on our culture, on our language and over the centuries created a glorious heritage but throughout we have remained Maltese.

I believe Malta is a richer nation because of the wealth of influences and by understanding and rejoicing in our history we can build wider and deeper personal, cultural and commercial relations wherever we find ourselves.

We are proud to be Maltese and we must celebrate what it is to be a citizen of Malta.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO TO MALTA

IT'S CROWDED. Malta is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, with 423,000 souls packed into an area one-tenth the size of Rhode Island and one-fifth the size of Greater London. Most live on the congested island of Malta, with a few more spread onto the calmer Gozo, and the rest — all three of them — on Comino. But there's still space for visitors: Tourism took off in the early 1960s and now accounts for 12% of Malta's GDP. Its photogenic, ancient cities (the capital, Valletta, is a UNESCO Cultural Heritage Site) and turquoise lagoons and beaches keep travellers coming.

THE KNIGHTS PUT MALTA ON THE MAP. Malta is the navel of the Mediterranean, floating in the sea between Sicily and Libya. An ancient temple-building civilization, later Phoenician, Roman, Arab, Norman, and Aragonese occupations all made some mark on Maltese culture and left an impressive collection of UNESCO-anointed sites. Then for a couple of centuries from 1530, the Order of the Knights of St. John—originally hospitallers recruited from Europe's noble families accompanying pilgrims during the Crusades—ruled Malta, pulling it culturally towards Europe and transforming it into a maritime power that gave the Ottomans a run for their money. The noble Knights also, quite literally, furnished Malta with Europe's finest art and architecture. With the Knights' power on the wane a couple of centuries later, Napoleon took the islands with little resistance. After two turbulent years of anti-clerical French rule, the Catholic Maltese asked Britain for help kicking out the French. The Brits, sensing opportunity, obliged, and remained for 164 years until Malta became independent in 1964. Malta joined the European Union in 2004.

PASTIZZI IS KING. Maltese cuisine is Mediterranean-oriented, but the essential Maltese snack is the simple *pastizz*: a lozenge-shaped, greasy, cholesterol-charged pastry filled with ricotta or peas. *Pastizzeriji* are all over, but the *pastizzi* institution is the Crystal Palace Bar in Rabat, a hole-in-the-wall that closes for only two hours each day during the week. A coffee and a couple of *pastizzi* will cost a couple of dollars. (But be warned that "pastizz" is also a derogatory term, and a euphemism for a woman's more intimate parts.) *Pastizzi* might be one reason the Maltese rank high on the obesity scales worldwide; Maltese men rank 16th worldwide, and Maltese women are the most overweight in Europe. Pastizzi are not the only culprit, though. The Maltese are among Europe's most exercise-shy folk.

BUNNIES ARE FOOD, NOT PETS. Malta imports much of its food, so local fare has always been influenced by and adapted from outside cuisines – especially Italian, Sicilian, and North African. There is no official national dish, but a feast of stewed rabbit known as *fenkata* comes close. Some believe the popularity of *fenkata* is rooted in resistance to the hunting restrictions imposed by the Knights of St. John, then honed when the Maltese learned from French knights how to domesticate rabbits. Though there are hunted wild rabbits on the islands, these are usually lean and small. Rabbits for the table are more likely bred for the purpose. Variations include *stuffat tal-fenek* (rabbit stew), *fenek moqli* (fried rabbit), and *spagetti biz-zalza tal-fenek* (spaghetti in rabbit sauce). Restaurants specializing in rabbit are found in Mgarr and Bħrija in the north of Malta, and there is the legendary Charlie's Inn in Salina, more affectionately known as Charlie l-Maħmug ("Unhygienic Charlie").

IT'S BEST NOT TO TALK POLITICS. The Maltese take their politics seriously, and both the Labour and Nationalist parties have a large and loyal following. Election turnouts are super high, and there is a party office-slash-club in every town and village. A lot of Maltese follow their party like a football club, through thick and thin. There were some politico-religious skirmishes in the 1960s and some violent incidents in the 1980s, but while these tensions have subsided, some bitter memories remain. When election time comes, some establishments prohibit all talk of politics, even putting up signs forbidding it.

MALTA HAS A CHURCH FOR EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR. That's what they say, but the number is actually somewhere around 359. Still, it's a big number for such a small country (more than one for each square kilometer.) Malta's language is rooted in its Arab past, but day-to-day culture has a big

Roman Catholic footprint. Luke the Apostle and Paul of Tarsus were shipwrecked off Malta in 60 A.D., and Paul is credited with introducing Christianity to the islands and making Malta one of the earliest outposts of the faith. Catholicism is still serious business in Malta—abortions are illegal—and church attendance is among the highest in Europe. This enthusiasm is reflected both in the outsize number of churches, and their baroque ostentation, mostly funded by parishioners themselves. And they're not just any churches—St. John's Cathedral in Valletta is a wonder to behold, and owns two Caravaggios—including his largest and only signed work, which is proudly displayed in the church's oratory.

PIKA MAKES MALTA GO ROUND. Like the German *schadenfreude*, *pika* doesn't translate well, but the closest word is something like "rivalry". Towns and villages strive hard to outdo each other at their feasts, with fireworks displays, sports, or the height of the village flagpole. This probably explains why a village of 3,000 in Gozo built the world's third-highest unsupported dome, and why the town of Mosta has the world's fourth-largest unsupported dome. Intra-community *pika* can be stronger still: If one town's band club builds new premises, the other is likely to beg, steal, and borrow to build a larger one. For a long time the spire of the Anglican Cathedral was Valletta's highest pinnacle, until the Roman Catholic Carmelites built a huge dome next to it with the lantern stretching a few crucial feet higher than the "heathen" spire.

IN SUMMER, YOU CAN'T AVOID THE FESTA. All Maltese towns and villages celebrate their patron saint in style with weeklong activities leading up to feast day, which climaxes with a procession, music, and fireworks. The most impressive fireworks displays are in the south of the island, where the villages of Żurrieq, Mqabba, Qrendi, Għaxaq, and Gudja compete fiercely. Santa Marija in August brings fireworks geeks from all over, because several feasts are celebrated simultaneously, naturally with fireworks befitting the occasion.

EVERY VILLAGE HAS A BAND. Sometimes two. A relic of British regimental marching bands common during the Empire's heyday in Malta, philharmonic band clubs started up in the 19th century hand-in-hand with village *festas*, and are an integral part of village life, with their bars functioning as popular local hangouts. They are generally a mix of volunteer and semi-professional musicians brandishing woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. But band clubs do far more than perform music: They organise town social events, and are the linchpin of the loud and proud *festas* that dominate Maltese summers. A *pika*-fuelled highlight is the ritual of trash-talk-slash-chanting between rival band clubs. The most boisterous band marches are held in Hamrun and Żabbar.

BREAKING RECORDS IS A NATIONAL PASTIME. Guinness or otherwise, Malta has a fixation for setting (sometimes bizarre) records. Turu Rizzo was the first man to attempt a swim from Sicily to Malta in 1933, but he was thwarted by rough weather three miles from home. Fellow Maltese Nicky Farrugia succeeded in 1985. Albert Rizzo (grandson of Turu) was the first Maltese to get his name in the Guinness Book of Records when in 1980 he established a record for treading water, spending 72 hours and three minutes in the sea. The Lily Fireworks Factory of Mqabba created—and fired up—the world's largest Catherine Wheel in 2011. The town of Qormi went for the world's largest wine glass for their festival in 2012. The Zabbar local council set up the world's largest dining table, measuring 359 meters (just over 1177 feet) along Zabbar's main street in 2013.

MALTA'S BATHING WATERS ARE THE CLEANEST IN EUROPE. This is thanks to sewage treatment plants part-financed by the EU. But the most popular sandy beaches are near large hotels and can get quite crowded in summer; Comino's famed Blue Lagoon is swarmed with day-trippers during weekends. Gozo has just one large sandy beach but is blessed with a good number of secluded rocky coves. Għajn Barrani, also in Gozo, is a good candidate for a secluded beachy getaway: a perfectly flat rock shelf with some huge boulders that provide welcome shade. There are no amenities, and it's a kilometer (just over half a mile) on foot to get there, the last part on clay slopes. Blissfully, it's not signposted either.

LET THERE BE NOISE. Lord Byron is said to have called Malta the island of yells, bells, and smells. Whether he really said this is disputed, but it may have stuck because it's accurate on the bells at least. Deafening petards are let off as early as 8 a.m. on feast days and can go on—in healthy disregard for local laws—past 11 p.m. Church bell-ringing starts as early as 7 a.m. on feast days. Gas delivery trucks honk loudly to announce their presence, and vans selling doughnuts go one worse with a loudhailer playing a pre-recorded sales pitch. Most Maltese seem to naturally talk loudly and like their Italian neighbours, talk with their hands and gesticulate, even while driving. The gesticulating is mostly non-aggressive, even if it does not appear that way.

MALTI IS THE ONLY SEMITIC LANGUAGE WRITTEN IN LATIN SCRIPT. The distinctive Maltese language is also the only Semitic-origin language officially recognized as a European Union tongue, and provides translation work for many Maltese expats in Brussels. It is an ancient language descended from Siculo-Arabic (an Arabic dialect that developed in Sicily, then Malta) with a sprinkling of English, Italian, and French words.

MALTA LOVES CARS. The number of cars in Malta is staggering. At the last count, there were 337,000 motor vehicles, and around 50 new car licences are issued daily. Car maintenance is a refined art and old models such as the Hillman Minx, Volkswagen Beetle, and the Triumph Herald are still around. The original 1970s Escort MK1 is a cult car in Malta, and British Bedford trucks from the 1950s and 1960s still make rounds selling household items or paraffin. Until public transport was overhauled in 2011, some of the buses were over 50 years old, and most of the bus bodies were built locally, with vernacular decoration added in the form of finely painted designs and script called *tberfil*.

YOU CAN BECOME MALTESE AT A PRICE. Malta raised eyebrows in 2013 when it launched its International Investment Program, making it possible for anyone with enough cash to become a Maltese citizen—and therefore snag a European Union passport. The criteria include passing a “Fit and Proper” test, contributing €650,000 into a National Development & Social Fund, making an investment in property of at least €350,000 or investing €150,000 in bonds or shares approved by the Maltese government to be kept for at least five years.

IMMIGRATION IS A SENSITIVE TOPIC. Thanks to its location, over the last decade Malta has been a way station for migrants departing from the North African coast (mostly Libya) on rickety boats, hoping to get to mainland Europe. In 2012, Malta received the highest number of asylum seekers for its population. The Maltese are divided on the issue. Some have dubbed this Malta's ‘third siege’ (the first was when the Knights of St. John withstood the Ottoman forces in 1565, and the second during World War II when Malta was bombarded by the Italians and then the Germans) and some feel that the European Union should have a fairer burden-sharing policy, because Malta is tiny and already crowded. There were some public protests against illegal immigration, but these are now discouraged and condemned by all political parties.

WHERE TO GET AWAY FROM THE CROWD. The Maltese do not generally indulge in leisure walking, so large stretches of the countryside are usually people-free. Majjistral Park in the north is a silent refuge six times the size of Valletta, with a labyrinthine boulder scree. Almost all of the island of Gozo is quieter and greener, and some Maltese now have a second weekend home there just to escape the crowd on the main island.



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BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN COMMUNITIES

A nation's culture resides in the heart, mind and soul of its people

Deal with surname in Malta

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[malta/paperwork/whats-deal-surnames-malta/](https://gethitched.com.mt/weddings-malta/paperwork/whats-deal-surnames-malta/)

Before attending an appointment with the Marriage Registry of Malta, the spouse needs to have decided on the surname they wish to carry over after the ceremony upon the signing of the Marriage Certificate.

Either spouse has 3 different options:

THE TRADITIONAL

The spouse can drop their maiden name and claim their partner's surname.

Catherine Saliba marries Steve Mangion to become Mrs Catherine Mangion.

Herbert Scerri marries Rita Bonello to become Mr Herbert Bonello.

THE DOUBLE

The spouse can choose to double-barrel surnames, and is able to choose the order in which they appear.

Doris Pullicino marries Gorg Baldacchino to become Mrs Doris Pullicino Baldacchino

Nicholas Xuereb marries Jeanice Guillaumier to become Mr Nicholas Guillaumier Xuereb.

THE ORIGINAL

The spouse can opt to not drop their surname and remain the same as before.

Censa Demajo can remain as Censa Demajo. Because Censa is a strong, independent woman who doesn't need a man. (But she does want one. So when she gets one, she'll use Get Hitched to help plan her wedding and sail down the aisle with ease. Be like Censa. Be Original.)

When the couple eventually have children, they will be able to claim their father's surname or double-barrel. They are not able to claim their mother's maiden name as a standalone during marriage.

For some of us, the decision can be understandably difficult. Your surname has been with you all of your life up until now, it's a sense of identity. You might find it uncomfortable to strip yourself of that, but at the end of the day the choice is ultimately up to you.



St George's Square to host Algida Valletta Beach Volley in the City

Stuck in the city but want to feel the sand under your feet? The Algida Valletta Beach Volley in the City will see 50 tonnes of sand and an inflatable pop-up court set up in St George's Square

The launch of the Algida Valletta Beach Volley in the City. (Photo: Valletta 2018)

The iconic St George's Square in Valletta will be celebrating summer by hosting a beach volleyball tournament for the first time ever for Valletta 2018.

The square, surrounded by the Grandmaster's Palace, the Main Guard, and other key landmarks, will be transformed into a virtual beach volleyball court for The Algida Valletta Beach Volley in the City between the 17 and the 22 of July 2018.

An arena filled with a staggering 50 tonnes of sand and an inflatable pop-up court will be set up in the middle of the square for this event, which spans over six days.

This innovative attraction in the heart of the city will see a national beach volleyball tournament featuring top Maltese and international teams.

Volleyball demonstrations and fun games will also take place, with the participation of some of Malta's popular presenters and TV personalities. An event for children will be held during the weekend, where they will be introduced to volleyball by professional coaches.

Although this is the first time that this concept is materialising in Malta, it has worked with spectacular results in major cities all over the world including Rome, Milan, Berlin, and New York.

The Algida Valletta Beach Volley in the City, which forms part of the Valletta 2018 Cultural Programme, aims at promoting volleyball as a sport as well as the importance of an active lifestyle. By promoting physical activity and encouraging people to engage in sports, this event will become another part of Valletta 2018's legacy.

This event is being organized by the Valletta Volleyball Club in collaboration with the Valletta 2018 Foundation, supported by the Malta Tourism Authority, Sportmalta, the Malta Volleyball Assoc

Rita Ora and DJ Martin Garrix are coming to Malta this summer!



Your new favourite (and free) music festival is here, and it's called Summer Daze Malta

Maria Pace -maltatoday.com.mt

Summer Daze Malta is set to hit Maltese shores on the 14 and 15 of August, and will feature Rita Ora and DJ Martin Garrix amongst other artists.

This new brand is happening on the Malta Tourism Authority's initiative, in collaboration with BBC Radio 1 Dance Stage and Creamfields.

No less than 15,000 people are expected to attend the two day event at Ta' Qali's National Park and Cafe del Mar.

The first day of the festival, taking place in Ta' Qali's National Park, will feature Rita Ora, a name that needs no introduction. The British chart-topping singer and winner of various international awards, who will be performing live.

The same day will feature Dutch DJ Martin Garrix, who is also a record producer and musician. He was ranked first on DJ Mag's Top 100 DJs list for 2016 and 2017. Danny Howard, a British dance music DJ, producer, and radio presenter will also be present. Howard is best known for presenting BBC Radio 1's 'Dance Anthems with Danny Howard'. Attendance for this event is free of charge, but one must register on the website.

The second day, will unfold in Cafe Del Mar between 7pm and 2am, and will feature Grammy Award Winner Roger Sanchez; a massive name in house music. Global DJ and producer Kristen Knight, whose sound is rooted in house and Hip Hop, will be delight the crowd, as will Monki, who is an expert in the underground and electronic scenes.

MTA is working in order to secure Malta's place on the music map, which attracts younger tourism to our shores.

The MTA's Executive Chairman, Dr. Gavin Gulia, commended the festival for its strong lineup, besides it showcasing some beautiful venues. Dr. Gulia thanked all the MTA staff that worked incessantly to ensure that this festival is brought over to Malta as well as for all the partners that are making this event happen.

The Minister responsible for Tourism, Dr Konrad Mizzi, is pleased to welcome Summer Daze in partnership with BBCRadio 1 and Creamfields to the Maltese Islands, as it continues to develop a solid reputation in the festival tourism niche. Dr Mizzi continued by saying that this festival will follow other world class events that have been announced for the coming period, which promote and increase Malta's stature as a tourism destination, particularly for music lovers across Europe.



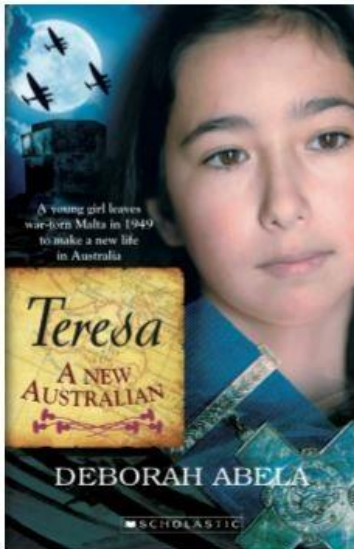
The President of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca
welcomes migrants from Australia
July 2018



Aktar kmieni illum waqt li, mill-Awstralja lqajt lis-Sur Alfred Borg u lis-Sinjura Mary Borg flimkien mas-Sinjura Josephine Bigeni u lis-Sur John Cremona. Minn qalbi nixtieq nirringrazzja lil dawn hutna Maltin u Ghawdxin, għall-vizibilita' li jagħtu lill-gzejjer Maltin. Nirringrazzja wkoll lic-ckejkna Giorgia li qatgħet xagħra u pprezentatu biex isiru parrokki minnu, permezz ta' l-inizjattiva tal-parrokki, fi hdan **The Malta Community Chest Foundation**. Nghatu hajr ukoll lis-sinjura Josephine Bigeni għall-hidma tagħha li tagħmel fl-interess tal-komunita' Maltija ta' New South Wales permezz **tax-Xagħra Association of New South Wales**. **Marie Louise Coleiro Preca** – President (Margaret Mifsud -facebook)

TERESA - A NEW AUSTRALIAN

Deborah Abela



Author Deborah Abela



Teresa



Photos: Deborah Abela

STORY AND BACKGROUND

Deb's dad was born in a cave during one of the heaviest bombing raids of WW2. When she researched more about the war, she discovered the 'cave' was actually an underground shelter built to protect the Maltese during Hitler's bombing raids. The raids lasted 3 years, which made Malta the most heavily bombed place in WW2. Can you imagine that? Having your home bombed for 3 years? Deb's Nanna Teresa had to bring up kids with bombs falling all around, food hard to find and her country being destroyed. After the war, Deb's 7-year-old father and his family made the long journey to Australia, but their new home wasn't always an easy place to be.

Teresa: A New Australian is the story of a young girl and her family who, like Deb's family, survived the war and sailed to Sydney. It is part of a series of books about kids who migrate to Australia. You can see a few more on the right.

MALTA AND RESEARCH

Malta is an ancient and rocky country in the Mediterranean Sea between Africa and Europe. During the war, Hitler attacked Malta

knowing whoever had control of the country, could command the war effort and win, but after 3 years of relentless attacks, the Maltese never surrendered. This was because of their bravery but also a series of shelters carved by hand by Maltese of all ages. During the war, King George VI gave Malta the George Cross, the highest award for civilian bravery. Deb visited Malta to research the story and interviewed many Maltese who made the journey to Australia as children, leaving behind everything they loved and everything they knew.

AUSTRALIA AND MIGRATION

Everyone who lives in Australia is there because they or someone in their family migrated previously. After WW2, much of Europe lay in ruins. It was hard to live and many people searched for a new place to call home. For over one million migrants, Australia became that place.

Post WW2 saw the largest movement of migrants the world had ever seen. Today we are seeing another wave of migrants around the world, fleeing war and starvation, just like Deb's dad and his family. Every migrant story, then and now, resonates with questions of identity, home, determination, hope and fear. Many still arrive with very little except a desperate will to create a new life for themselves and their families. There is the same amount of fear and suspicion towards them but what we have to remember is that Australia is a stronger, richer nation because of migration. Deb lives in Australia today because her family made that journey after the war. The Minister for Immigration, Arthur Calwell, knew Australia needed a bigger population to build the nation and to protect itself if there was another war. With only 7 million people, he declared the country had to 'populate or perish', so he championed migration, but he was also a supporter of the White Australia Policy, which meant Australia wasn't always welcoming of the new arrivals.

Teresa is a young girl who, with her best friend George, survive the war by hiding in shelters during the bombing raids, just like Deb's Nanna and her family. Afterwards, she travels to Australia and is bullied, but she is strong and smart and determined to outwit the bullies and make Australia home.

This book is dedicated to Deb's Nanna Teresa. A brave and courageous woman she never got to meet. It was also launched by the president at her palace in Malta, which was very special! The book was translated into Maltese by two very famous authors in Malta.

DEB IN MALTA

Deb used to watch her dad's old film footage of Malta when she was a kid and promised herself she would travel there one day. When she did, the country was more beautiful than she'd imagined and during her trip in 2016, she made this video about Malta, the tunnels and how this fascinating history led to this novel.

Maltese Houses feature on MaltaPost stamps

BY [GOZO NEWS](#) · JULY 11, 2018



Houses in the Mediterranean is the theme for the EuroMed Postal Union philatelic stamp issue.

MaltaPost has said that it will taking part with a set of two stamps, the photography is by David P. Attard.

A medieval facade typically found in the old capital city of Malta, Mdina, features on the €0.20 stamp. The doors, which were the main security feature of the house,

were extremely strong and robust as during those times invasions by bandits and pirates were frequent. On the €0.90 stamp is a townhouse typically found in local towns and villages, with their origin dating back some 400 years ago.

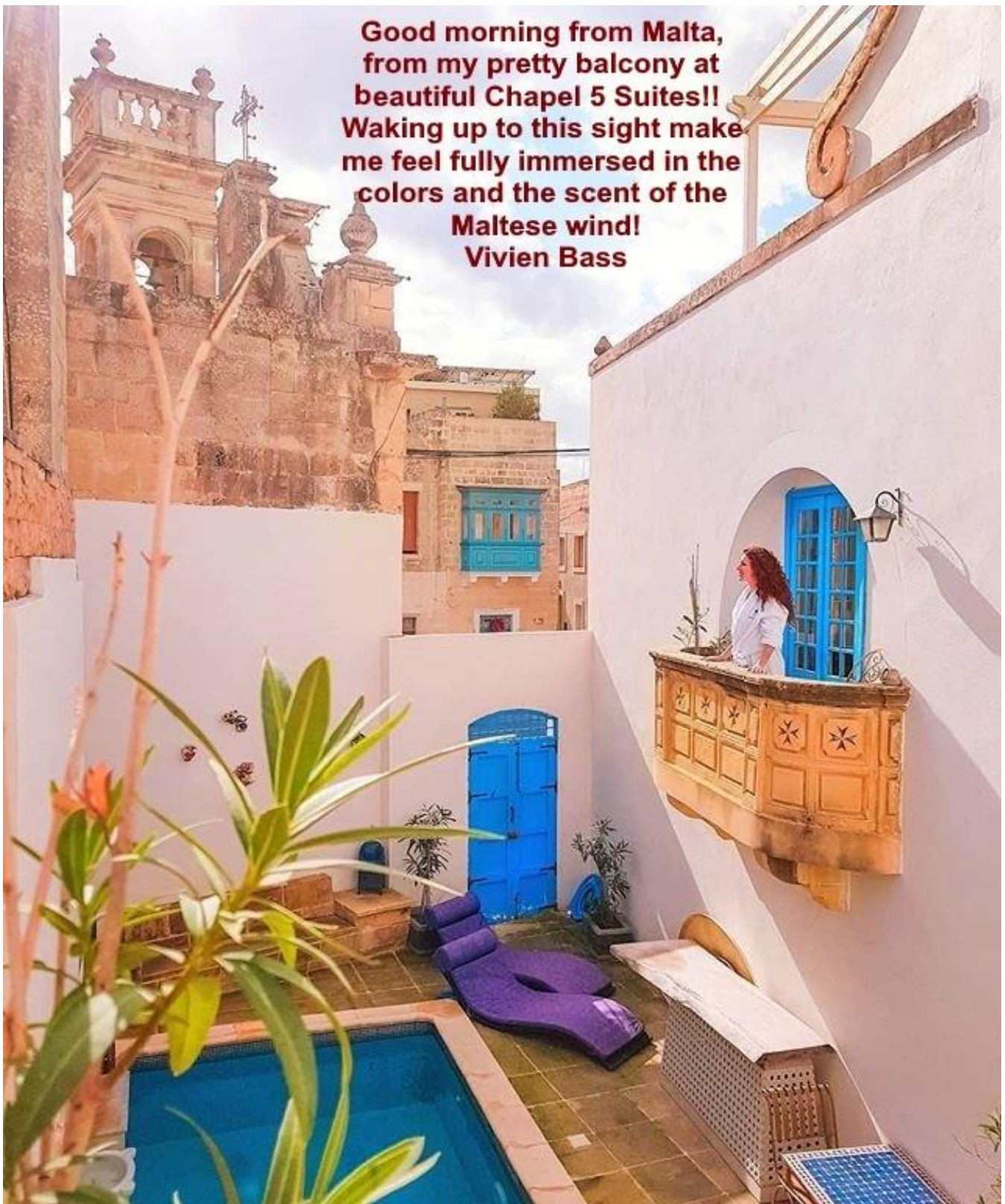
MaltaPost explained that these houses are mainly recognised by their solid wooden front door and louvred wooden front windows. These are individually handcrafted with the addition of two large brass doorknobs – known as 'habbatiet.' The stamps will be issued in sheets of 10 stamps. Each stamp measures 44mm x 31mm, and has a perforation of 13.9x 14.0 (comb) bearing the Maltese Crosses watermark.

They measure 118mm x 185mm. Printex Limited produced the set in offset and the issue consists of 50,000 of the €0.20 stamp and 35,000 of the €0.90 stamp. This philatelic issue is available from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo, online at www.maltaphilately.com or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost.

Dear Frank thanks for yet another great edition (227) How you many such a varied research is beyond my limited internet knowledge. Two people you sent it to, on my request are so thrilled with it. John O'Dea keeps every copy since He came to Malta twice with me. And Peter Jackson spent some years in Malta as a young lad and loves to revisit his memories. God Bless the work you are doing, and, of course, the worker, too.

Fr John Briffa

**Good morning from Malta,
from my pretty balcony at
beautiful Chapel 5 Suites!!
Waking up to this sight make
me feel fully immersed in the
colors and the scent of the
Maltese wind!
Vivien Bass**



**MALTESE
Newsletter**

We thank our readers, supporters and contributors
If you have a story to share send it to us
maltesejournal@gmail.com





Trenches found under historic palazzo as Controversial works start

Superintendence for Cultural Heritage says site being monitored

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage has sent its people to monitor excavations at an 18th-century villa in St Julian's after trenches were found under the garden.

Informed sources said the superintendence had been informed of the find and investigations had begun immediately.

The Planning Authority last March approved the conversion of the iconic Sliema palazzo the Cloisters, in Mrabat Street, into a boutique hotel. Work began in recent weeks and residents informed the Times of Malta of a possible archaeological find.

Read: Historic Sliema home The Cloisters to become boutique hotel

Sources close to the Superintendence for Cultural Heritage had said the site was being monitored. Industry sources said the rock-cut trenches underneath the garden appeared to be water trenches that used to be excavated underneath gardens in times gone by to help keep roots irrigated.

An architect who spoke to Times of Malta said the trenches could possibly be associated with citrus trees and that while these were common and worth recording, they had little archaeological value. The project by Bilom Group will add an additional storey to the facade and obliterate an extensive back garden, making way for an apartment block rising 21 metres above the Grade 2 scheduled building, which is within the Urban Conservation Area.

The development was approved with eight votes in favour and two against.

The Superintendence for Cultural Heritage raised no objections to the application, but the permit was awarded on the condition that it was monitored for any finds.

According to one of the permit conditions – which is standard for such developments – any cultural heritage that is discovered should not be damaged or disturbed and the superintendence is to be immediately informed of such discovery.

The Superintendence can also order that plans be amended if anything of archaeological value is found. The project will see the Grade 2 scheduled building converted into a 29-bedroom hotel, with a stepped block of 27 apartments and maisonettes overshadowing it at the rear.

The development will also entail excavation for basements and 55 car spaces.



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
Journal of the Maltese Living in Malta and Abroad
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News Human Interest



80-Year-old Maltese Nanna Skydives for Charity

Chucky Bartolo

Leaping out of a plane thousands of feet above the ground doesn't usually make the list of 'things *nanniet* enjoy doing' - but one fearless Maltese woman showed

the world that thrill-seeking has no age limit.

Lucia Tanti celebrated her 80th birthday in style, as she went skydiving for a cause. And if you're impressed by her incredible spirit, you can make her birthday even better by donating here.

Most people would be a little nervous before their first skydive, but not Lucia. She tells Lovin Malta that she was so excited to go, she couldn't get a wink of sleep the night before.

When asked what inspired such a crazy venture, her response was simple: "I want to feel as free as a bird. I would also love to take the opportunity to help others feel free as possible - especially those suffering from cancer and other sickness."

If you were considering taking the plunge and, well, plunging, Lucia has some kind, nanna advice for you. "If you want to do it, why not? It is very safe and the instructors know exactly what they're doing."

"Plus," she added, "doing it for a good cause makes me want to do it over and over again." We cannot emphasise just how awesome and inspired we are by Lucia's adventure, and we hope everyone keeps donating to her birthday fundraiser to keep this positive surge going.

The Carob Tree - Il-Harruba



The Carob Tree (il-Harruba) is quite common on the Maltese Islands and could still be found in its natural habitat. The carob is one of the Mediterranean's oldest trees, and grows without care or cultivation, surviving on meagre rainfall. This low-spreading tree with its characteristic canopy effect is part and parcel of the Maltese rural landscape and is protected by law.

The carob is indigenous to the eastern Mediterranean, and the Bible is replete with references to what are likely to be carob-pods, like the pods that the prodigal son fed to pigs when he wasted his father's inheritance and was

forced to become a humble swineherd. The pods are also known as St. John's bread or locust beans because



the pods were once thought to have been the "locusts" that were eaten by John the Baptist in the wilderness. In the past carob seeds were used to weigh gold, hence the word "carat."

During the second World War, carobs fetched the highest price ever at a penny a pod. The seeds were ground along with precious and rare supplies of coffee-beans to make it last, something that the French did at the same time with acorns. In Malta and Sicily up to fairly recent times, carob syrup

was used to soothe sore throats and ease coughs. I remember quite clearly when I developed a whooping

cough and there was this old farmer (whose farm was situated in front of our home) who used to bring mum a lot of carob pods. She used to prepare this brownish mixture which she then made me drink. It didn't look appealing but it really soothed my horrible and intense coughing bouts.

Carob sweets (il-karamelli) are still popular, and often sold at Good Friday processions because they are deemed traditionally to be the only sweets allowed during Lent, having supposedly medicinal properties. These sweets are made from the carob pods. According to an old Sicilian recipe for 'Caramelle Di Carrube' one needs to prepare equal amounts of carob pods and honey and have them boiled together until caramelised. The mixture is then strained and poured onto an oiled surface, marked into little squares and allowed to cool before being cut up into sweets.

Carob-pods, are now making a comeback as a health food in Europe. The carob-flour is made by grinding carob-pods that have been dried and roasted. It has a very strong flavour and must be used with care. The taste is a little like honeyed chocolate, and in fact carob is sometimes used as a substitute for chocolate. The dark-brown carob pods are not only edible but rich in calcium, sucrose and protein. Moreover, the pod has vitamin A, B vitamins, and several important minerals. Although carobs are very sweet, they contain far fewer calories than chocolate!! They are sold at high prices in many European food-markets, but in Malta they are no longer even harvested as food for animals!! Are carobs set for a revival in Malta too?



MIETET IS-SINJURA MARIA TABONE

Il-President ta' Malta, f'isimha u f'isem żewgħa Edgar, u għan-nom tal-poplu Malti u Għawdxi kollu, esprimiet is-soghħa tagħha għall-mewt tas-Sinjura Maria Tabone. Il-President qalet li s-Sinjura Tabone kienet spalla importanti f'kull mument tal-karriera politika tal-eks President Ċensu Tabone, u kienet omm mill-aktar eżemplari kemm għal uliedha kif ukoll għall-Maltin u l-Għawdxin kollha fi żmien li kienet first lady ta' pajjiżna. Il-President estendiet il-kondoljanzi f'isimha u

f'isem il-poplu Malti u Għawdxi f'kuntatt telefoniku mal-familjari tas-Sinjura Tabone.

Maria Tabone, wife of former President Ċensu Tabone, has died at the age of 98. The Nationalist Party said in a statement that the death of Maria Tabone is a loss for Malta, as the country has lost a dignified woman who has given long and unobtrusive service to Malta together with her husband Ċensu Tabone in the country's highest posts.

Married to a doctor at the height of World War II, Maria Tabone supported her husband in his ophthalmic research, in setting up the Doctors' Union, in raising their children, and also in his service to Maltese politics at a very turbulent time, and later in the restoration of political normality. The PN added in the statement that when her husband, after occupying the post of Foreign Minister, was appointed President in 1989, Maria Tabone continued supporting him with dignity and quiet determination.

Meanwhile, in a statement President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca expressed her regret at the demise of Mrs Maria Tabone, and extended her condolences, both personally and on behalf of the Maltese and Gozitans, in a telephone contact with Mrs Tabone's family.

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Oasi Foundation Riflessi Sajfin 2018 At Marsalforn

BY [GOZO NEWS](#)

On Saturday the 4th of August 2018, the OASI Foundation will be presenting its annual open air festival Riflessi

Sajfin 2018 from 8.00pm onward at the main parking area in Marsalforn.

The OASI Foundation said that it would like to invite the public for this 27th edition of Riflessi Sajfin which will be filled with wonderful song and dance performances by many talented local artists. It will also provide a wonderful opportunity to support our talented youngsters and to

acknowledge the great work done by the OASI Foundation helping local youths who are in difficulty due to substance abuse.

This year's festival will be presented by Sandra Grech and will take place thanks to the many sponsors backing the event: Main Sponsors are Malta Tourism Authority & Lombard Bank. Other sponsors are General Soft Drinks, Arkadia & Farsons Foundation.

Riflessi Sajfin 2018 is guaranteed to be great entertainment for the whole family, so please make sure you don't miss it!



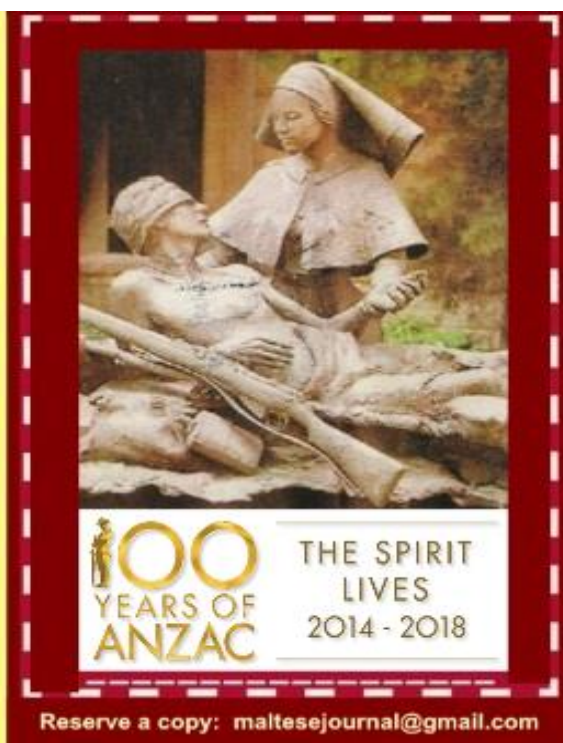
An Australian/Maltese Family Agius from South Australia appeared on Australian Television (Channel 10) in the very popular quiz show FAMILY FEUD.

FEJN WASALNA!

Oh Missier ahfrilna-----Ghax it-trieq tlifna .
 Fil-hajja thabatna-----U mil-girna hrigna.
 Mhux it-tort taghna .-----.Izjed l-ajru u
 gziritna..
 Li tlifna twemminna !-----U f'dezert sibna
 ruhna.
 L-injoranza nehhejna-----U trieq wiesgha
 sibna
 I-ghanqbut naddafna -----u mill-ghollieq
 hlisna.
 Sal-qamar wasalna :-----Kull muntanja
 tlajna .
 Il-kontrolli warrabna-----U l-liberta sibna.
 Tiehux ghalina:-----Mhux tort taghna,
 La ta haddiehor -----u l-anqas taghna.
 Ta haddiehor sar taghna-----U min kien,
 ghadu jistaghna.
 Iggelidna u thabatna-----U fejn konna
 bqajna
 Ha nistaqsik wahda,-----Allura Int hekk
 ghamiltna?
 Le, tidhaxx bina.-----
 Donnok hekk hlaqtna .

Ippjanajna u bnejna-----Bnejna u
 kissirna
 U tlabna u gergirna-----Biex hadd ma
 jindahlilna.
 U mil-muntanja ghajjatna:-----'Min qatt
 jista ghalina!
 Bil-medalji tqalna----- u bl-unuri
 tghawwigna,
 Tant grejna u skoprejna -----Ma baqghax
 ghar ikenninna
 L-anqas xemx u xita ma jdejquna-----
 Ghandna l-umbrel jipproteguna!
 Is-sabieh ilbisna-----U s-sahha benninna
 Bl-ikel thaxxinna-----U biss sess skirna.
 Il-mard fejjaqna ----U l-hajja tawwalna .
 Imma xagharna waqaghlina -----Biz-zjut li
 ivvintajna.
 Lit -twemmin harbatna-----U lil mohh
 nigggizna
 Lil- qalb tertaqna-----U l-ispirtu halliena.
 Issa x'jonqosna -----Hlief zifna mignuna
 U ikla mmeilha -----Bi ftit ironija!

**Poezija gdida ta' Victor V. Vella.
 (NSW)**



KEITH'S PUDINA TAL-HOBZ (MALTESE BREAD PUDDING)

I've yet to meet anyone who doesn't like bread pudding. This is my interpretation of this frugal classic and includes a few tweaks that wouldn't look out of place in a Maltese bakery. Just make sure you use a large loaf of stale bread, a baguette or ciabatta simply wouldn't work. Keep it in a biscuit tin in a cool dry place and it'll keep for 3-4 days.

Ingredients:

450g stale crusty bread, crust included
750ml milk, semi-skimmed or full fat
100g sultanas
3 tbsp Amaretto or orange liqueur (optional)
1 tbsp mixed spice
2 tbsp cocoa powder
1 tspn cornflour
3 tbsp dark brown sugar
1 medium egg
1 egg yolk
50g dark chocolate, broken into small chunks
Finely grated zest of 1 unwaxed orange,
8 glace cherries, halved



Things to prepare in advance:

1. (1 hour – overnight prior) Place sultanas in a bowl, add amaretto or orange liqueur, stir, cover and allow to sit at room temp. This step is optional.
2. 30 mins in advance: Tear up the bread into chunks into a large mixing bowl, pour over the milk and allow to soak at room temp for 30 minutes, stirring halfway through. Preheat oven to 220C, grease a 16*16cm cake tin/baking tray with melted butter (I use a silicone tray).
3. Ensure that the bread is fully soaked in the milk before stirring in sultanas with a wooden spoon. Then add all of the remaining ingredients one at a time (except for the cherries), ensuring that each is well mixed before adding the next. You should be left with a wet, thick mixture. If it's too dry add a little water, if it's too wet add a little cornflour.
4. Pour the mixture into the cake tin/tray, smooth out the top with a wooden spoon and top with the cherries evenly spaced as in the photo. Place cake tin onto a baking tray in the centre of the oven and bake for 40-45 minutes or until it's cooked through. Place a knife into the centre and it should come out dry.
5. Once cooled, slice into 16 squares and enjoy!!

I hope you enjoyed the recipe. Why not have a read of my Foodie Snapshots – Malta article, giving all foodies essential advice for a visit to the island!!

<https://inkeithskitchen.wordpress.com/>



The history of Malta is so fascinating that the whole island was dubbed an open-air museum. Visitors often express their astonishment as to why such an incredible history is not touted worldwide day in day out.

If Malta's history is captivating, the same can be said for its Prehistoric treasures at Tarxien, Hagar Qim, Mnajdra, and Gozo. The **world's oldest free standing structures** were thought to have been constructed during the copper age and it is said that they are 1000 years older than the Pyramids in Giza. Some say that Malta's important geographical position was both its blessing and its curse over the years. This is because this tiny island, situated right at the centre of the Mediterranean, 93km south of Sicily and 288km north of Africa, has seen invader after invader trying to besiege it for 7000 years!

But as you will see, the Maltese people were never ones to surrender all too easily. Often fighting **David-and-Goliath like battles**, the locals were (and still are) simply too stubborn to let anyone get their way. As soon as you start wandering in the narrow streets of some towns and villages, you will immediately sense and become engulfed in the Maltese islands' intriguing history.

The **Phoenicians** were first to conquer these islands, after the Neolithic period. **The ancient Phoenicians were enigmatic people and their influence on Malta is not to be underestimated.** After the Phoenicians, came the **Carthaginians**. It did not take long for the **Romans** to realize that Malta was the perfect naval base.

The Ancient Roman Empire and Dark Ages had an immense effect on the Maltese islands.

In AD60, St Paul was shipwrecked here. During his stay on the Maltese islands he converted the whole population of Malta to the Christian faith. In AD870, Malta was invaded by the **Arabs**. The islands remained under their rule until 1090. Most of the related stories about that period indicate that the **Arab rule was not a very prosperous one in Malta history.**

After the Arab era, came the **Medieval period. During the Medieval time period, the Norman Sicilians took over Malta from the Arabs and remained here until 1282.** The era between 1282 and 1530 is known as the **Spanish Period**. Under the Spanish throne, Malta continued to be given in fief to various noblemen. The only interest in the island, that these people had, was that Malta should be a source of revenue to them.

An important incident that led to one of the most important periods in the history of Malta occurred, when the Order of Knights of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem became "homeless" and subsequently in 1530, Charles V handed over Malta to the Knights. **The Knights of St John (also known as the Knights of Malta) ruled the Maltese Islands for 268 years.**

The Knights of St John played a crucial role during the **Siege of Malta**. It was with their skill and bravery, together with the help of the Maltese people that they won over the ferocious Ottoman force in the Great Siege of Malta.

However, when **Napoleon Bonaparte** attacked, they were taken by surprise and thus he conquered Malta in 1798. Compared to previous invasions, the **French Period** was a short one in the history of Malta. With the assistance of the British Navy, the Maltese forces drove the French out.

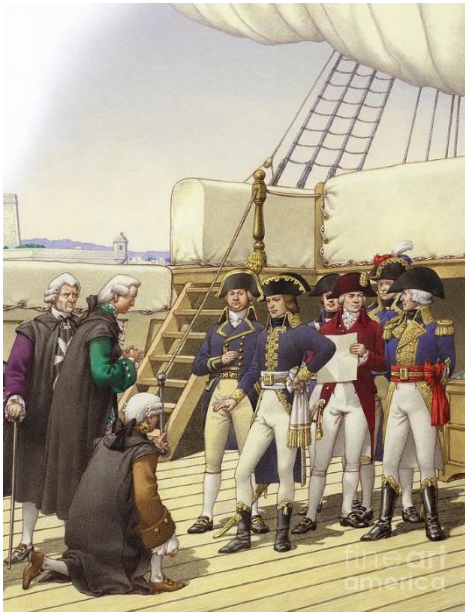
In 1800, the **British** took possession of Malta. **British Rule lasted for 160 years.** In 1964, Malta finally gained its independence, never to be invaded again. It is now a republic and member of the European Union. Of course, that was just a very brief overview of the history of Malta.

DUN MIKIEL XERRI – A MALTESE PATRIOT



Dun Mikiel Xerri (Żebbuġ, Malta, 29 September 1737 – 17 January 1799) was a Maltese patriot. He was baptised Mikael Archangelus Joseph in the parish church of Żebbuġ on 30 September 1737, the son of Bartholomew Xerri and his wife Anne. Xerri studied at different universities in Europe. He lived under both the Knights of St. John during their time in Malta and the French when they took over the Maltese Islands. He was involved in an unsuccessful revolt to overthrow French rule under Napoleon Bonaparte for which he, together with other locals, was executed on 17 January 1799 at the age of 61.

Historical Background and Execution



In June 1798, French forces led by Napoleon Bonaparte took over the islands from the increasingly oppressive rule of the Knights of Malta. Initially, the populace accepted the change, believing in the possibility of having better government. However, in successive months, the French forces removed the rights of the Maltese nobility, and decided to stand against the Maltese church. Outraged by the plundering of their churches and faced by an unprecedented financial crisis that had been



precipitated by the draining of most of the cash, on September 2, 1798 they rose against the French garrison in Notabile (Città Vecchia or Mdina). Soon both islands were in a state of full rebellion, and the Maltese formed a National Assembly. The French forces retreated in the fortified cities around the harbour, while the Maltese petitioned for help from the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies and Great Britain.

During the blockade of the cities, hundreds of people were dying from starvation and deprivation. Elements from within the fortress hence decided to risk their life in order to resolve the situation, and these were led by Xerri. The Maltese planned an attack against the French forces in Valletta and in Cottonera, but the French forces discovered the plot. Amongst the 49 persons captured in the ensuing investigation, there was Dun Mikiel Xerri.

In the morning of January 17, 1799, the archbishop of Malta, Labini, visited Xerri and his companions. The prisoners were taken from Fort Saint Elmo to Palace Square, where a platoon of soldiers were waiting for them. On their way to the square, Dun Mikiel encouraged his companions, and when they arrived in the square, he demanded a few minutes to talk to them. After they fortified themselves with prayers, and asking for remission of their sins, Xerri gave a silver watch to the official on duty and asked him to shoot him in the heart. Then he turned on the crowd in the square, and with the others he shouted; "*May God have pity on us! Long live Malta!*" They were then shot in the square, but they were then taken to the chapel of Saint Rocco, where they were finished off. The large part of these men were buried on the side of the church of Saint Publius in Floriana.