



Maltese e-Newsletter



The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

Editor: Frank L Scicluna OAM

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8 SEPTEMBER

Victory Day is one of Malta's National Holidays. The date commemorates the end of the 1565 Great Siege, the end of the French Occupation of Malta in 1800 as well as the armistice and the end of World War II



AUSSIE DIGGERS IN MALTA DURING WORLD WAR 1



ANZAC Centenary 1914-18 2014-18
MALTA AND GALLIPOLI WW1



MALTA
SMALL IN SIZE
GREAT IN HISTORY





President inaugurates meditation garden at Millennium Chapel



President of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca officially inaugurated 'The Word' – the new meditation garden at the Millennium Chapel.

President Coleiro Preca expressed her hope that this garden will be used by many people who are seeking refuge and peace in today's uncertain world, and that they will be transformed by its

atmosphere of contemplation and tranquillity.

"Whilst I would like to commend the Millennium Chapel team for their dedication and hard work, in particular Fr Hilary Tagliaferro and his collaborators on this project, including Richard England, Duncan Polidano, Noel Attard, and Peter Calamatta, I am confident that the Millennium Chapel will continue to provide essential support and care for all the people who walk through its doors", the President said.



The Millennium Chapel

The Millennium Chapel is run by a Foundation of lay volunteers and forms part of the Augustinian Province of Malta. Professional people and volunteers, called "Welcomers" are participating in the operation and day to day running of the Chapel and WoW (Wishing Others Well).

The Chapel is open from 8.00 a.m. to 2.00 a.m. all the year round except Good Friday.

You, too, may offer your time and talent to bring

peace and love in the heart of the entertainment life of Malta, or may send a small contribution so that this mission may continue in the future.

In the heart of the tourist and entertainment centre of Malta's nightlife there stands an oasis of peace :- THE MILLENNIUM CHAPEL and WOW , (Wishing Others Well), These are two pit stops in the hustle and bustle of Paceville – considered the mecca of young people and foreign tourists who visit the Island of Malta.

The Millennium Chapel is a place where all are welcome in the greatest respect of the human person and the beauty of each other. This has been the response of the Maltese Augustinian Province at the start of the new millennium to a fast-changing world.

It is a modern architectural gem of a sacred space created by Richard England to provide a sanctuary where everyone who visits feels that they are not alone, for in spite of the fact that people in the outside world are together, they are still fragmented and dying of loneliness. This prayer space provides a destination beyond space and outside times; a place where one is invited to seek shelter from the strident chaos of today's discordant world and enter into a silent meditative oasis.

Open day and night, with the Blessed Sacrament permanently exposed it provides solace to many a lost soul. But the unique pastoral approach of this project is the fact that it caters not only for the soul but also for the body. The Millennium Chapel/Wow has a twinning agreement with two significant institutions : The St. Clare Cloister Nuns Monastery and The Youth Football Association. The former to join in prayer as no less than three nuns found their vocations by frequenting the Chapel before they entered the Cloister Monastery and the latter, to promote the value of the body and the material world created by God through the sports values.

Fr.Hilary, the Augustinian founder of the Chapel happens to be also the Founder of the Youth Football Association that brings together in the practice of sports thousands of children and young Maltese players . The education of young people through sports values is the prime aim of the YFA.

The Chapel also offers free counseling sessions by professionals to various people afflicted in addictions of drugs, gambling, alcohol, sex and other problems of relationships, solitude and depression. A big number of needy families and single mothers collect food bags regularly from Wow (Wishing Others well)

The project is run by a Foundation of mostly lay people chaired by Dr. John C Grech who meet regularly to coordinate and monitor the work of over one hundred volunteers called "Welcomers" who are in charge of creating a peaceful and welcoming atmosphere.

September - Settembru

Malta International Airshow
Regatta - Traditional Boat Races

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

Independence Day
Victory Day

MALTA FESTIVAL EVENTS:

Malta International Music Bands Festival
L-Ghanja tal-Poplu - Festival tal-Kanzunetta Maltija - **VALL 2018**
- Qala International Folk Festival
Qormi Wine Festival
Zejt Iz-Zejtun
Science in the City - Malta's Science & Arts Festival

COMMEMORATIONS:

Commemoration of the Great Siege
- George Cross Commemoration

CHARITY:

- The 60 Hour Football & Volleyball Marathon in aid of Puttinu Cares



BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN COMMUNITIES
A nation's culture resides in the heart, mind and soul of its people. Mahatma Gandhi



IX-XAHAR TA' SETTEMBRU IX-XAHAR TAL-VITORJA

Greg Caruana

F'Malta x-xahar ta' Settembru huwa maghruf ghal festa tal-Vitorja L-*otto settembre*, li qabel kienet il-gurnata nazzjonali u li tfakkarna fir-rebh tas-zewg ghas-sedji, wiehed dak ta' fuq l-Imperu Ottoman ta' 1565. Fejn propju fill-jum tat 8 ta' Settembru flotta mdaqqa ta' kavallieri u suldati; migburin mill-Ewropa kollha dehret fill-boghod fuq l-orizzont.

Din kienet ghajnuna li kienet ilha mwieghda u issa kienu fi triqithom lejn Malta. Din ma kienet xi armata kbira bhall ma hasbu t-torok; imma dawn kif kienu ghajjenin u mdejjqin mill-glied, meta rawhom huma telqu l-armi minn idejhom u bdew jaharbu. Kien propju l-jum tat-8 ta' Settembru 1565. Il-Maltin assedjati, bill-guh, feruti, ghajjenin mill-glied, ma riedux jemmnu lill-ghajnejhom meta raw il-bibien ta' l-ibliet jinfethu u huma jigru barra hielsa.

Kienet grajja storika ta' ferh ghall din ir-rebha u biki ghall dawk l-imsieken li tilfu hajjithom jew baqu mmankati ghall-fidi u art twelidhom. U bhala tifikira fl-1580 l-inginier Vittorjo Cassar li jigi hu Giormu Cassar ghamel il-pjanta tal-bazilika Parrocchia ta' L-Isla "*civita invicta*" li tfisser *belt mhux mirbuha*.

Dwar il-Bambina tax-Xaghra Ghawdex jinghad li fill-festa tal-Bambina fl-1945, meta il-vara tal-Bambina kienet hierga mill-knisja tax-Xaghra giet l-ahbar li l-Italja cediet. Barra l-Isla u x-Xaghra hemm zewg parrocci ohra li jiccelebraw il-festa tal-Bambina fill-gzejjer Maltin. Dawn huma in-Naxxar li din il-parrocchia hija wahda nill-ewwel ghaxar parrocci ewlenin li kelna f'Malta. U l-parrocchia tal-Mellieha li hija ohra mill-l-antiki li fl-antik kienet maghrufa ghall-Ghana tradizzjonali Malti. Illum il-kunsill jorganizza l-iljeli Mellihin. Fl-isla insibu l-bazilika u s-santwarju ta' Marija Bambina li l-bida taghha fl-1595 kienet giet mkabbra. L-istatwa tal-Bambina hu mifhum li b'mod straordinarju giet mill-bahar, jinghad li zewg bahrin Senglejani kienu qedin kienu fuq il-bahar u lemhu pulena tifflowtja f'wicc l-ilma. Huma talbu lil kaptan biex ihallihom itellahwa u jehduwa magghom u hauha fill-parrocchia taghhom; ghalihom din il-pulena kienet x-xbieha t'Ommna Marija, l-istatwa tal-Bambina.

L-Isla fl-ahhar gwerra flimkien ma Bormla, l-Birgu u l-Kalkara tista tghid il-bini kollu ggarraf anki shansitra il-bazilika ta' l-Isla giet ibbumbjata mill-ghedewwa. Dan gara fl-13 ta' Jannar 1941, meta dahal fill-port HMS Illutrious. Infatti madwar nofs-inhar daqqet is-serena u mewga wara mewga ta' Stukas bdew jiddajvjaw u jifgħu xita ta' bombi li dam sejjer għall siegħat shah, waqt il-kanuni tas-suldai Maltin bdew jippruvaw jagħmlu umbrella ta' l-azzar biex jipprovaw jiddefendu il-vapur 'Illustrious'. B'eroizmu li ma jiwemminx. Dan il-bastiment Illustrious ma gheriqx imma l-kottonera garbet hsarat kbar, ghax skont xiehda ta' anzjan Senglean li għadu mimli bill-ghomor l-Isla kienet qisu għamel terremot, bini u djar kwazi imgarrbin u anki l-knisja u mietu hafna nies fosthom il-kanonku John Thewma li kien għadu ta' eta zghira. Haga tal-meravilja l-Bambina u r-Redentur ma ntlax, tant hu hekk li dawn ittiehdu fil-knisja ta' Birkirkara. U dan ma kienx bizzzejjed ghax fit-19 tlett ijiem wara kompli t-tieni half b'xita ta' ajruplani jattaw lil din l-aircraft carrier li din id-darba ma hellsitex u dak li kien għadu ma tfarrakx issa spicca għall kollox, il-kottoniera kienet herba shiha u kullimkien qisu cimterju. Ma kien għad baqa hadd. Kullhadd dabbar rasu lejn in-naha l-oħra ta' Malta. IMMA MARIJA BAMBINA HELSITNA. Fil-fehma tiegħi dan il-jum tal-Vitorja għandu jerga jkun il-JUM NAZZJONALI MALTI. v



Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul.

Message from the Grand Master



I hope that you are all well and enjoying the warm weather in your summer, as for us down under is winter and its cold.

Here in Melbourne, we keep ourselves busy organizing activities to help the needy and taking part in religious celebrations.

The month of July was full of activities for the Grand Chapter of Melbourne.

On Sunday 8 July, we had a second investiture ceremony for the candidates that couldn't attend the celebration on Sunday the 1st.

Then on Sunday 15 July some of our members represented the Confraternity at the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Swan Hill and Sunday 29 July we organized the Annual Luncheon with all the merriment as if it was held on the feast of St. Peter and Paul in June.

The Annual Luncheon was another success with 140 patrons attending the event. The best news of the day came, when a patron donated \$5000 to local

charities.

I hope that many of you learn from this message and as a knight or dame do your very best to help those in need. God bless you all. God bless the Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul.

Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli

Birthday of Mary



**Statue of a young Mary in
Naxxar parish**

On September 8, the church celebrates the Birthday of the Blessed Mother, and obviously Malta takes the opportunity to celebrate a quadruple celebration in 4 different churches, Naxxar, Senglea, Mellieha, all in Malta, and Xaghra on the sister island of Gozo. The customary procession will take place in the evening, accompanied by marching bands, fireworks, but most impressive of all, a very devotional aspect is highlighted in all 4 parishes, all with their own statue of the young Madonna. Combined with this feast, we also celebrate today the victory of the Maltese against the Turks in 1565, thereby coining the phrase of Our Lady of Victory. The Ottoman Empire was trying to take over all of Europe in the middle of the 16th century, and thanks to the Knights of Malta, the inhabitants were able to join forces and defeat the Turks in what has become known as the Great Siege of Malta which lasted from May 18 till September 11, 1565.

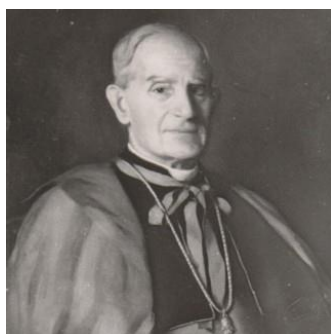


A painting depicting the Great Siege of Malta in 1565

A few years later the Battle of Lepanto took place on October 7, 1571 in which a fleet of the Holy League, a coalition of European Catholic maritime states arranged by Pope Pius V, led by Spanish admiral Don Juan of Austria and mostly financed by the Spanish Empire, decisively defeated the fleet of the Ottoman Empire on the northern edge of the Gulf of Corinth off western Greece. The Ottoman forces sailing westwards from their naval station in Lepanto met the Holy League forces, which came from Messina, Sicily, where they

had previously gathered. The victory of the Holy League prevented the Ottoman Empire from expanding further along the European side of the Mediterranean. Lepanto was the last major naval battle in the Mediterranean fought entirely between galleys and has been assigned great symbolic and historical importance by several historians. In honor of this victory, October 7 has always been celebrated as Our Lady of the Rosary.

Dun Karm (1871–1961)



Dun Karm Psaila born in Żebbuġ, (18 October 1871 — 13 October 1961) was a Maltese writer and poet, sometimes called 'the bard of Malta' [1]

Dun Karm, painted by Caruana Dingli. He was educated at the Seminary between the years 1885 and 1894 and then proceeded to study philosophy in 1888 and theology in 1890 the University of Malta. He was ordained priest in 1894. From 1895 to 1921 he taught various subjects at the Seminary: Italian, Latin, English, arithmetic, geography, cosmography, ecclesiastical history and Christian archaeology. In 1921 he was appointed assistant librarian at the National Library of Malta and in 1923 directory of circulating libraries, a post he held till his retirement in 1936.

In 1921, Albert Laferla, the director of education, asked Dun Karm to compose some verses to a music score by Robert Samut. The *Innu Malti* was sung for the first time in 1923. In 1941 it was officially designated the national anthem, a status confirmed by the Constitution at independence in 1964.

In 1921 Dun Karm was one of the founding members of the *Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti* and on the death of Ġużè Muscat Azzopardi in 1927, he was elected president of the *Għaqda* and later editor of the official organ, *Il-Malti*. He carried out these functions till 1942 when he was nominated honorary president of the *għaqda* for life. In recognition of his contribution to Maltese literature, he was granted a *D. Litt* (*honoris causa*) by the Royal University of Malta in 1945 – the first time the University granted such an honour. A year later he was awarded the Ġużè Muscat Azzopardi gold medal. Queen Elizabeth II decorated him with the Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1956. In 1957 the Maltese government issued him an *ex-gratia* pension in recognition of his services to Maltese literature. During his lifetime he was also honoured as the National Poet of Malta.

Before 1912 Dun Karm wrote only in Italian. His first known published poem is *La Dignità Episcopale* (1889) after which he published *Foglie d'Allora* (1896) and *Versi* (1903) another collection of Italian poems.

Dun Karm wrote *Quddiem Xbieha tal-Madonna* his first poem in Maltese, which appeared in the first issue of the Maltese periodical *Il-Habib*, published by Mgr. Pawl Galea and Ġużè Muscat Azzopardi. His best poems include *Il-Musbieh tal-Mużew* (1920).

Dun Karm often found poetic expression in his solitude, which was eventually accompanied by a high degree of spiritual balance. His poetry reflects a background of village life crowned with an atmosphere of family feelings and it also portrays the Maltese countryside with a perspective imagination. It synthesises the popular culture of the Maltese people, which is quite evident from the rural characteristics that furnish its local identity with the literary culture based largely on Italian romanticism.

His first works in Italian reveal an early life of peace and calm; after the death of his mother, solitude became his companion. When he decided to make Maltese the medium of his creativity he poetically explored the history of Malta to confirm its cultural and national identity. At the same time some of his best poems illustrate an inner journey of sentimental and more experience. His poetry exhibits great subjectivity but it also expresses his country collective aspirations. Both the personal and the national sentiments are treated from a deep religious viewpoint that discusses existentialism. The spiritual crisis in *Il-Jien u lil hinn Minnu* is analyzed in universal human terms that illuminate man's existence and insist on the inexplicability of the relations between God and man, except for the latter's absolute acceptance of the former's hidden power.



MALTESE IN USA

The mission of the Maltese Heritage Association is to recognize and promote the traditions and culture of the Maltese-American community in the San Francisco Bay Area. We

host,

participate and contribute to cultural and community events and charitable organizations in an effort to provide the San Francisco Bay Area community and beyond with a greater understanding of the contributions, history, and values of the Maltese people.

MHA Team

Front Row: Mary Schembri Griggi, Carmen Vella Orton, Debbie Gatt Ghiglieri

2nd Row: Julie Orton, Frank Gonzales, Gina Deguara Gonzales, Theresa Schembri Menjivar, Rose Marie Busuttil Garcia, Louis Vella Missing: Michaela Azzopardi



Board of Directors

Louis Vella Josie Spiteri Ghiglieri Carmen Vella Orton Gina Deguara Gonzales
Debbie Gatt Ghiglieri

Officers

President: Carmen Vella Orton Vice President: Mary Schembri Griggi
Treasurer: Gina Deguara Gonzales Secretary: Debbie Gatt Ghiglieri
Assistant Secretary: Michaela Azzopardi
Social Media and Public Relations: Julie Orton

Members

Frank Gonzales Rose Marie Busuttil Garcia Theresa Schembri Menjivar

We invite you to join us at the upcoming Maltese-American community events.

7TH ANNUAL ITALIAN HERITAGE PARADE JOIN US IN REPRESENTING MALTA!

Anyone is welcome to walk for FREE with the group. Route is 1.5 miles beginning in Fisherman's Wharf area and ending in North Beach's Columbus Square. Please bring individually wrapped candy to hand out to the crowd! Traditional Maltese outfits or patriotic Red & White are highly encouraged! Date: Sunday, October 7, 2018 Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: Fisherman's Wharf - San Francisco (meeting time and place to be announced)

Cost: Free to walk For information contact Julie Orton (415) 269-8428 or Carmen Vella Orton (415) 837-8963



The Leading
Processing
Dairy Plant in
the Maltese
Islands.

Malta Dairy Products Ltd. (M.D.P.) is the leading processing dairy plant on the Maltese islands. M.D.P. processes, packs and distributes fresh liquid milk and milk products originating solely from the Maltese islands. Fresh milk is collected every day from around 63 farms in Malta and another 33 in Gozo. The

milk is not sterilised but simply pasteurised to retain its fresh taste and quality. The brand name "Benna" originates from the Maltese word "bnin", meaning wholesome, and refers to the high nutrient value of fresh milk products. M.D.P.'s principal product is fresh drinking milk with a range of fat contents and flavours. M.D.P. also produces yogurts, cream and a range of cheeses including Mozzarella and the traditional Maltese favourites such as irkotta and cheeselets (ġbejniet). In 2017, M.D.P. launched the much awaited Benna Butter in both salted and unsalted versions.

For consumers who are lactose-intolerant, Benna also launched its Lactose-Free range consisting of fresh milk, yogurt and the recently launched irkotta. Thanks to this range, consumers who are intolerant to lactose can once again enjoy fresh milk as an integral part of their healthy daily lifestyle.

The dairy plant is equipped with the latest state-of-the-art equipment. Product safety and quality are at the heart of the company's culture and relentless pursuit to ensure that all its products are produced in a hygienic and efficient manner. Investment in new equipment and machinery is ongoing as a result of M.D.P.'s commitment towards quality and continuous improvement to meet the everchanging consumer needs

M.D.P. currently employs around 120 full-time employees both in Malta and Gozo. The main operation is in Ħamrun, Malta. A collection centre in Xewkija, Gozo collects milk from Gozitan farmers in the morning and sends the milk to Ħamrun in the afternoon. Benna products are distributed every morning throughout the Islands by 40 self-employed distributors. This system is very efficient and ensures that customers are provided with fresh milk and other dairy products on a daily basis.

Dear Mr. F. Scicluna - We are very pleased to receive your lovely interesting journal in my Email as

Letters To The EDITOR

I always wait for it, love reading all of your stories etc. Its an inspiration for my family to read about the history and stories you write on it. My children love reading it, I always forward it to them. They find it interesting and they even learn about the history of our Island. As a meter of fact my three children been a few times holidaying there. Even my family brothers and sisters and some of their children too. I just want to say

Thank you again.PS (My mother maiden name was Scicluna.) Kind Regards Catherine Vella

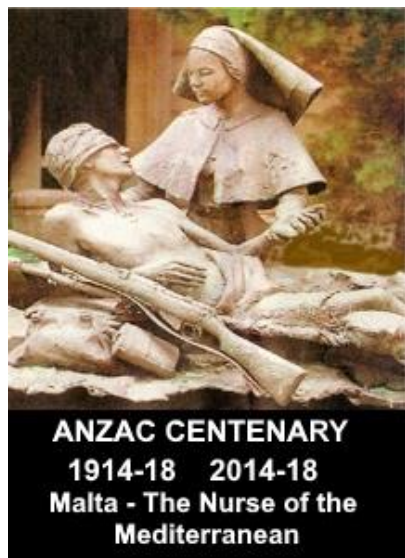
Thanks for yet another great edition (227) How you many such a varied research is beyond my limited internet knowledge. Two people you sent it to, on my request are so thrilled with it. John O'Dea keeps every copy since he came to Malta twice with me. And Peter Jackson spent some years in Malta as a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

I like this journal because it is not biased and deals only with good news about our beloved Malta and Gozo. You never let us down and always praise the Maltese living in Malta and especially those Maltese who made Malta proud overseas. Your newsletter is the pride of our communities. I know for certain that it is read and loved by many young people who are anxious to know more about the culture and heritage of the country their parents and grandparents came from. Simone Vella (Vic)



It is amazing in how many countries this Maltese e-Newsletter is read. I am Maltese living in USA and I met several people who mention this journal to me and tell me how much they enjoy reading about Malta and its rich history and culture. Marie Louise Calleja

ANZAC CENTENARY - GALLIPOLI AND MALTA – WW1



Malta played a significant role in and during the Gallipoli Campaign with many Australians and New Zealand casualties being evacuated to Malta for medical treatment. From the spring of 1915, hospitals and convalescent camps were established on the islands of Malta and Gozo, to deal with the many thousands of sick and wounded from the Gallipoli and Salonika campaigns. Despite the courageous efforts of the doctors and medical staff, some of the casualties could not be saved and they were buried on Malta. Of those buried on Malta there were 202 Australian and 72 New Zealanders.

The Commonwealth war burials in Malta are unlike those found anywhere else. Many joint and collective burials were made as graves had to be cut into the rock underlying the island's shallow earth crust. These graves are usually marked by flat tablets that could take several inscriptions and, for the sake of uniformity; the same type of marker was used for single graves.

CEMETERIES IN MALTA

All of the cemeteries listed below contain graves from world wars one and two: The Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery Imtarfa Military Cemetery Pembroke Military Cemetery, Pieta Military Cemetery Addolorata Cemetery and Turkish Cemetery.

HOSPITALS AND CONVALESCENT CAMPS

To cater for the over 135,000 sick and wounded from the Gallipoli and Salonika campaigns there were numerous hospitals and convalescent Camps throughout Malta and Gozo. The Australian and New Zealanders soldiers were treated in various hospitals and Convalescent Camps. Listed below are but a few of the many Hospitals and Convalescent Camp that were on Malta to treat the sick and wounded.

STATION HOSPITAL is now known as the Mediterranean Conference Centre located at Mediterranean St, Il-Belt Valletta. Tours are conducted through this Centre by the Malta Experience.

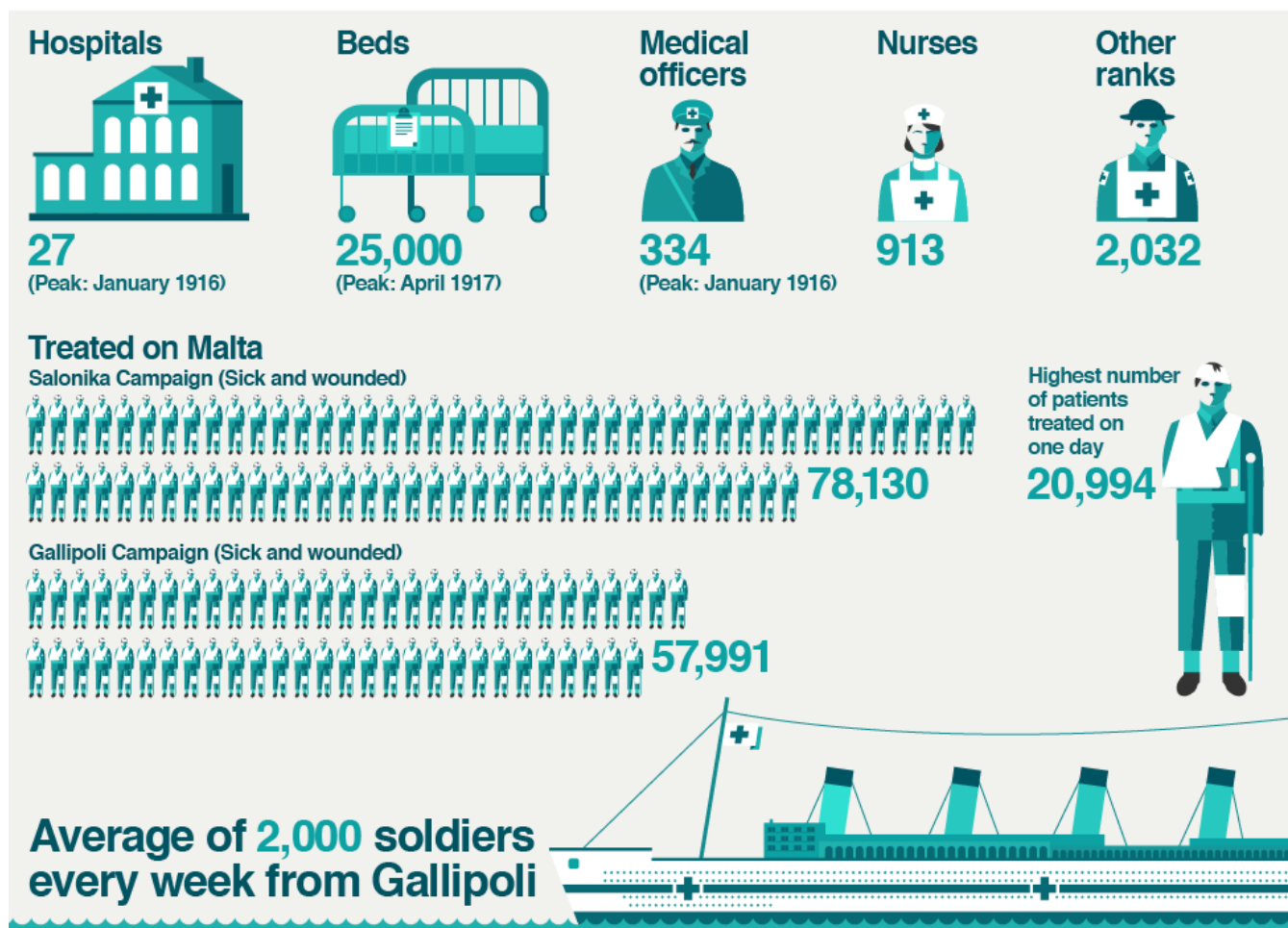
LAZZARETTO HOSPITAL on Manoel Island can still be viewed from any of the tour boats conducting the harbour cruises from Sliema.

BAVIÈRE HOSPITAL was situated in the Auberge de Bavière. The Auberge de Bavière has an ancient and honourable history, having been the headquarters of the Anglo-Bavarian Knights of St. John located at San Bastjan, Valletta. It now houses the main offices of the GPD, including the Director General's Office, the Finance & Administration Directorate, The Estate Management Directorate, the Land Directorate and the Joint Office Directorate.

ST ELMO HOSPITAL was previously a government school that was converted in to a hospital. St. Elmo specialised as a surgical hospital. The hospital was located at Fort St Elmo at the north end of the Grand Harbour. It was well ventilated and overlooked the breakwater.

FORT CHAMBRAY HOSPITAL GOZO served as an excellent Convalescent Depot (camp) during the First World War, relieving the crowded camps on Malta.

MTARFA HOSPITAL was commissioned in 1912. It was used during World War I to hold many of injured Australian and New Zealand troops from the Gallipoli landings. It was expanded enormously during the Second World War. In the 1950s it was renamed the David Bruce Royal Naval Hospital, after the doctor who discovered the root cause of Malta fever or Brucellosis. It has since been converted to a state secondary school, named after Sir Temi Zammit, part of St Nicholas College.



COTTONERA HOSPITAL is now St Edward's College providing an excellent all round education, including an IB 6th Form, to its students and also very proud of its heritage as the Cottonera Hospital. Visit the beautiful grounds of St Edward's College and get a feel of what it may have been like as an Australian or New Zealand soldier to have been a patient at the World War I, Cottonera Hospital. St Edward's College have also set up a permanent display of the history of the College when it was known as the Cottonera Hospital.

GĦAJN TUFFIEĦA CAMP HOSPITAL Għajn Tuffieħa, situated 10 miles directly west of Valletta in a charming valley near the sea, with hills on either side. Għajn Tuffieħa had already been used as a camp in peace time, partly by the army and partly by the navy, being in great request as a summer holiday resort both by officers and men. Australia Hall . The area around Pembroke had a number of convalescent camps such as All Saints, St Pauls, and Spinola Camp. Australia Hall was built after the sum of £2,000 (pounds) was raised through donations by the Australian Branch of the Red Cross, at the time, to provide a place of amusement and social activities. Australia Hall was used for shows for the Forces between the wars and also during the Second World War.



Embassies and Consulates in Australia

HIGH COMMISSION OF MALTA CHANCERY ACT

38 Culgoa Circuit , O'Malley, ACT 2606 **Email Address** highcommission.canberra@gov.mt **Web Site Url** www.foreign.gov.mt **Phone** +61 02 6290 1724 **Fax** +61 02 6290 2453

Hours of Business Monday - Friday: 9.00 am - 5.00 pm

His Excellency Mr **Charles MUSCAT** High Commissioner for Malta (25 September 2013) Ms

Denise DEMICOLI Deputy High Commissioner

NEW SOUTH WALES

Consulate-General of Malta Suite 10.04, Level 10 31 Market Street, Sydney, NSW 2000

Email Address maltaconsulate.sydney@gov.mt **Phone** +61 02 9262 9500 **Fax** +61 02 9264 4722

Hours of Business Monday - Friday: 9.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. 2 .00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Jurisdiction New South Wales Mr **Lawrence BUHAGIAR** Consul-General for Malta

VICTORIA

Consulate-General of Malta Suite 613, Level 6 343 Little Collins Street , Melbourne, VIC 3000

Email Address Details maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt

Phone +61 03 9670 8427 **Phone** +61 03 9600 3953 **Fax** +61 03 9670 9451

Hours of Business Monday - Friday: 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Jurisdiction Victoria Ms **Joanna PISANI** Consul-General for Malta (16 August 2017)

Consulate of Malta Jurisdiction Victoria Consulate Details 16 Evans Street , Morwell, VIC 3840

Email Address Details maltavclv@aussiebb.com.au

Phone +61 03 5134 8963 **Fax** +61 03 5134 8963 **Mobile** +61 0412 411 719

Hours of Business by appointment

Jurisdiction Latrobe Valley Mr **Mario SAMMUT** Honorary Vice-Consul for Malta (02 May 1989)

QUEENSLAND

Consulate of Malta - Brisbane, Bundaberg, the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Roma

Consulate 137 Bambrook Street , TAIGUM, QLD 4018

Email Address maltaconsul.brisbane@gov.mt

Phone +61 07 3865 1783 **Mobile** +61 0416 331 101

Hours of Business by appointment **Jurisdiction** Brisbane, Bundaberg, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Roma. Mrs **Sandra MICALLEF** Honorary Consul for Malta (11 February 2016)

Consulate of Malta - Cairns, Mackay, Central Coast, excluding Bundaberg

Consulate 108 Mulgrave Road , Cairns, QLD 4870

Email Address joe@jvib.com.au **Phone** 07 4040 4444

Fax 07 4040 4400 **Mobile** +61 0418 883 668 **Hours of Business** Monday - Friday: 8.45 a.m. -

5.00 p.m. **Jurisdiction** Cairns and Far North Qld including Mt Isa, Cloncurry, Julia Creek, Hughenden, Charters Town, Bowen, Townsville and Ayr. Also Mackay and the central coast region and west to the Northern Territory border. Mr **Joseph VELLA** Honorary Consul for Malta (18 July 2008)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Consulate of Malta 11 Anne Street, Royal Park, SA 5014

Email Address Details honconsul@live.com.au

Mobile +61 0422 438 288 **Hours of Business** by appointment

Jurisdiction South Australia Mr **Frank L SCICLUNA** Honorary Consul for Malta (09 May 2003)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA **Consulate of Malta** Consulate POSTAL ADDRESS: 81 Drummond St, BEDFORD WA 6052), BASSENDEAN, WA 6054 **Web Site Url** Details www.malteseassociationwa.org.au

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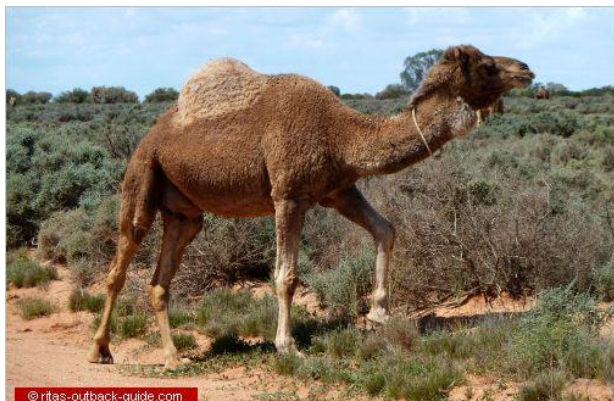
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Jurisdiction Western Australia Mr **Paul Peter CALLEJA** Honorary Consul for Malta (11 October 2016)

CAMELS - A story of success in the Australian Outback

Australia is famous for its wildlife - kangaroos, koalas and numerous species of snakes and spiders - but it is also home to the world's largest herd of camels. There are over a 1 000 000 roaming wild in the outback and they cause a host of problems.



Australian camels? You are surprised? Yes, there is a camel history in Australia. The camel story began in the early 1800s. Explorers of Australia's vast inland recognized that horses are not very suitable to explore the harsh unknown inland.

In 1840 "Harry", the first camel arrived in Australia. He was the only survivor of a small group of camels imported from the Canary Islands. Harry's life in Australia didn't last too long. During an expedition to the northern parts of the Flinders Ranges

Harry accidentally bumped his owner just in the moment as he was loading a gun. The owner died a month later, and Harry was executed afterwards. Despite Harry's bad luck, introduced camels made their way into the Australian Outback.

Several types and breeds of camels from different countries were imported to Australia, most of them were one-humped dromedaries. Two-humped Bactrian camels from China were the minority. In 1866 Thomas Elder established the first camel stud in Beltana, SA, with camels mainly from Karachi and India, other studs followed mainly in Western & South Australia. Soon, the Australian-bred camels turned out to be of better quality than imported ones. Feral camels really worked hard and successful under the harsh conditions in the Outback. Additionally to breeding, import continued until 1907. An estimated number of 10,000 camels were imported during that period.

Camels were imported to Australia in the 19th century from Arabia, India and Afghanistan for transport and heavy work in the outback. They took part in expeditions, worked on the **Great Northern Railway Line**, and helped to open Australia's inland. The railway line from Port Augusta to Alice Springs soon became known as the **Ghan Line**. Many Outback towns, like Marree, had their own "ghan towns" on the outskirts. From these ghan towns the cameleers operated as far as into the Northern Territory to bring supply to isolated stations, bush towns and telegraph stations. At the turn of the century camels were used all over the inland of Australia.

In the 1920s motor vehicles kicked the camels in Australia out of their jobs. Some animals were killed, but most were just abandoned. The camels survived in Australia's vast unsettled inland. It is estimated that between 500,000 and 1 million camels roam freely in the Outback today. The biggest numbers in Western Australia, but also in the Northern Territory, and in South Australia.

Although camels were introduced to Australia, the **feral camels** don't have such an destroying impact to the environment like other feral animals in Australia. However, as the numbers of Australian camels increase some people also consider them as a pest. Especially during draughts, camels "run over" small towns and Aboriginal communities in search for water. These conflicts increase as their numbers grow.



We sincerely thank all our friends, readers and contributors who are always supporting this journal. Send us your story, articles, poems, news etc. Link with other Maltese all over the world



**Miktuba għall-dan il-gurnal tal-Maltin
LILL-ISQOF IL-ĠDID TA' DARWIN
I-E.T. Charles Victor Gauci**

L-istedina lqajt mill-ewwel
Illi nikteb poezija;
Isqof Malti ġewwa Darwin –
Ġrajja sbejha w mistennija.

Kellu biss tlettax-il sena
Meta rikeb il-vapur
Lejn l-Awstralja huwa salpa
Biex hemm jibni l-futur

Fil-Furjana huwa twieled
Fis-sena tnejn u ħamsin
U fl-Imsida ħasel rasu
F'dak it-tempju Guzeppin.

Għalkemm issa ġo l-Awstralja
Ilu hemm għal bosta snin
Jaf jitkellem, jikteb sewwa
Bl-ilsien tagħna l-Maltin.

Għal qalbu għandu ż-żgħażaġh
Fosthom jaħdem bla waqfien
Għaliex bi sħiħ huwa jemmen
Tal-futur dawn is-sisien.

Sacerdot ġie ordnat f'Adelaide
Fis-sena sebgha w sebghin
Ma' ġnus differenti ltaqa'
Bi skop wiehed: lilhom jgħin

Issa l-Providenza riedet
Li taħtru tal-merħla Ragħaj
Sabiex lilha jmexxi, jgħallem
U jeħlisha minn kull gwaj!

F'isem il-qarrejja kollha
Ta' dal-Gurnal popolari
Nawguralek dehen u għaqal,
Nies fl-Awstralja, bħalek rari!

Ara illi qatt ma tinsa
L-għeruq tiegħek il-Maltin
Għax minn hawn beda jissawwar
Żgur ta' ħajtek id-destin

Ejja żurna, toqgħodx lura
Meta jkollok ftit tal-ħin
Tkun milqugħ u maħbub sewwa
Minn ħutek kollha Maltin.

Minn qiegħ qalbi nawguralek
Hena w saħħa daqs ta' plier -
Dax-xewqat nitolbok tilqa'
Minn tal-Għawdx i-Kavallier!

**Kav Joe M Attard
Victoria Għawdex
15-VIII-2018**



FAITH-FILLED CHILDHOOD: A young Charles Gauci after his first Communion in Malta and with his family after settling in Adelaide (Charles is back left).



MYSTERIOUS SECRET TUNNELS COULD BE SITE 'WHERE JESUS TURNED WATER INTO WINE

Michael Havis

The tunnels could mark the spot where Christians believe Jesus turned water into wine

Archaeologists think they have found the site where Christians believe Jesus turned water into wine - thanks to new clues. Mysterious secret tunnels in

Israel are now believed to be where Christ is said to have carried out his first miracle.

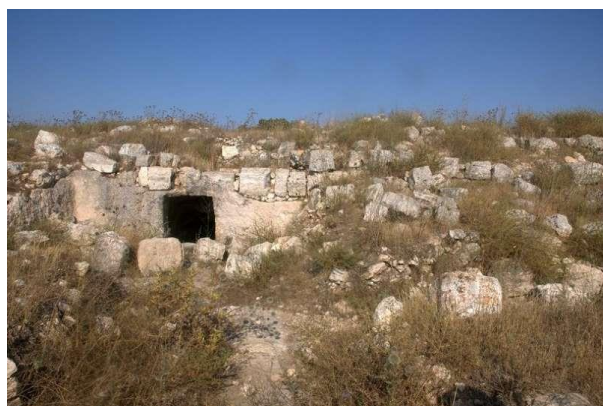
And the new discovery could finally put an end to centuries of debate over where the act was performed. According to the Gospel of John, Jesus changed water into wine during the Wedding at Cana.

For hundreds of years, pilgrims have been flocking to Kafr Kanna, a town in northern Israel, where they visit the 20th-century 'Wedding Church'.

But the true location has long been debated - and now archaeologists believe the Cana of biblical times may be a dusty hillside five miles further north.

It's the former site of Khirbet Qana, a Jewish village between the years of 323 BC and AD 324, where archaeologists have discovered a number of compelling clues.

Excavations there have revealed a network of tunnels used for Christian worship, marked with crosses and references to Kyrie Iesou, a Greek phrase meaning Lord Jesus. There was also an altar and a shelf with the remains of a stone vessel, plus room for five more.



Six stone jars like this held the wine in the biblical account of the miracle.

Dr Tom McCollough, who directs excavations at the site, said there were three other sites with a credible claim to being the Cana of scripture.

"But none has the ensemble of evidence that makes such a persuasive case for Khirbet Qana," he said.

"We have uncovered a large Christian veneration cave complex that was used by Christian pilgrims who came to venerate the water-to-wine miracle.

"This complex was used beginning in the late fifth or early sixth century and continued to be used by pilgrims into the 12th-century Crusader period.

"The pilgrim texts we have from this period that describe what pilgrims did and saw when they came to Cana of Galilee match very closely what we have exposed as the veneration complex."

As part of his evidence, Dr McCollough points to the work of first-century Jewish historian Flavius Josephus. He said: "His references to Cana align geographically with the location of Khirbet Qana and align logically with his movements. "The reference to Cana in Josephus, the New Testament and in the rabbinic texts would argue the village was a Jewish village, near the Sea of Galilee and in the region of lower Galilee."Khirbet Qana fulfills all of these criteria." As for the better-known site at Kafr Kanna, Dr McCollough is sceptical.

"When tourists visiting Israel today are taken to Cana, they are taken to Kafr Kanna," he said.

"However, this site was not recognized as a pilgrimage site for those seeking Cana until the 1700s.

"At this point the Franciscans were managing Christian pilgrimage and facilitating easy passage rather than historical accuracy. "Dr McCollough believes the discoveries at Khirbet Qana could even bolster the case for the historicity of the Gospel of John. He said: "Our excavations have shown that this was in fact a thriving Jewish village located in the heart of much of Jesus' life and ministry.

"For the Gospel of John, Cana is in some ways, Jesus' safe place or operational centre. It is a place he and his disciples return to when they encounter resistance in Judea.

"I would argue our excavations warrant at least a reconsideration of the historical value of John's references to Cana and Jesus."



Legends & Myths in Malta

Malta, a small country full of mysterious temples, ancient buildings, a rich history and beautiful natural sites.

Taking into account the people of Malta and Gozo's romantic, emotional and frequently quirky temperament, it's no wonder that Malta is also a treasure trove full of **legends, myths, and folk tales**.

The inspiring atmosphere of our beautiful country serves as the perfect muse for these stories.

Malta is surrounded with legends and myths. Religious stories and ghostly tales have been told on the island for centuries. Some of these stories are truly fascinating and eerie, others slightly farfetched, each as interesting as the last.

Saint Paul and the Venomous Viper

Perhaps the best known legend on the island is that of Saint Paul and the Venomous Viper. This legend can be found in the Bible. Legend has it that when St Paul was gathering wood to make a fire for himself and some other shipwrecked people, a venomous viper sprang out of the sticks and bit him. The Maltese, who were very superstitious at the time, expected St Paul to die of poisoning, however no harm came to him. It is said that from that day all snakes and scorpions in Malta became harmless and non-poisonous.

The Legend of tal-Maqluba



Another interesting legend in Malta which I was recently told is that of tal-Maqluba. The legend states that once the area of tal-Maqluba, just south of the Maltese village of Qrendi, there once was an evil village. The people were so bad that God punished them by opening the ground and the whole village was swallowed by the Earth. The opening in the ground stopped exactly in front of a chapel, which is still present just by the edge of this enormous hole. The crater is 50 meters in circumference and around 40 meters deep.

Lost City of Atlantis

However my favourite legend is the one that states how Malta may just be the true location for Atlantis. Malta has incredible ancient structures that are now dated as over 5000 years old and are said by orthodox archaeologists to potentially be the oldest stone ruins in the world.

Malta once had huge animals like elephants. This shows evidence of having been destroyed in a huge cataclysmic wave. Author Joseph Ellul and others have proposed that Malta was part of a great civilization of the past, possibly Atlantis. Malta was probably connected to other parts of the Mediterranean when a huge wave from the Atlantic filled the Mediterranean. The island is far too small now to have been Atlantis, but it shows that the Mediterranean was a very different place 12,000 years ago.



Calypso Cave in Gozo

In a medium-sized open cave hidden inside the high cliffs overlooking Ramla Bay on the Western side lies what is known as the Cave of Calypso. According to Homer's *Odyssey*, Calypso was a water nymph who could not leave her abode – the island of Ogygia. After losing his ship and his comrades, the King of Ithaca and great hero Ulysses was blown on the shores of the island and found by Calypso, who fell in love with him. Ulysses remained in Calypso's cave for seven years, before being allowed to

sail back home to his wife.

However, Calypso was still in love with him, and legend says that she's still waiting for him on her island. The way Homer describes the location of Ogygia within the Mediterranean Sea – as well as a number of other ancient writings on the subject – have led popular theory to state that Gozo is Ogygia, and that the cave was the one in Ramla Bay. If you want to take a look at it, all you have to do is visit this amazing beach, set between the villages of Xagħra and Nadur. Who knows, maybe you'll even hear the sound of Calypso, moaning and crying for her Ulysses, in the sound of the crashing of the waves below.

Legends & Myths in Malta

GAĦAN AND THE DOOR

One day, Gaħan was still asleep when his mother was going out to church. She woke him up and told him: "Gaħan, I'm going to church, if you go out remember to pull the door behind you." Gaħan went back to sleep.

Later, he woke up and decided to go out. Just before leaving, he remembered his mother's words to "pull the door behind" him. He quickly unhinged the door from its place, tied a rope around it, and carried it all the way to church. When his mother saw him and her door in the middle of the street, her shouts could be heard from kilometres away.



Here are some of the 234 journals we have published for thousands of Maltese living in Malta and abroad. If you are not a reader yet you may subscribe now
Don't hold back. Drop us a line: maltesejournal@gmail.com



Mons. José Agius (missjunarju u emigrant fil-Brazil sa mill-1961)

Ghaziz Frank,

Grazzi u Prosit tal-gurnal tal-maltin imsiefrin li kull gimgha jasalli "online" u jgibli tant ahbarijiet sbieh ta' Malta u tal-Awstralja fejn jghixu niesi. Qed nibghatlek poezija ohra li kont ktibt is-sena l-ohra waqt ir-riflessjonijiet tal-irtir. Grazzi!

MAHFRA

Din qalbi minsusa:
Bil-ghagla tal-hajja
It-tajjeb u l-hazen
Madwari jittlajja.

Taqbida qalila
Titqanqal go fija
Nissielet bejn l-"iva"
U "le" bi stmerrija.

Quddiem Gesù msallab
Li henn ghal min cahdu,
Li lil halliel hafer
Wil-min hallieh wahdu.



Jien bhalhom, Mulejja
Il-hila naqsitli,
Quddiem l-ghadu kiefer
Il-grazzja biss swietli.

U mlietni bil-hegga
Ghax naf li int taghder,
Il-kobor ta' dnuhi
Int biss aktar tahfer.

U qalbi tikkwieta
Ghax daqet il-mahfra
Li hi frott l-imhabba
U ccarrat daqs xafra.



EDGAR AGIUS - COUNCILLOR FOR BEVERLEY WARD

CITY OF CHARLES STURT - SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Mr. Edgar Agius has been the Beverley Ward Councillor for the last 17 years and thoroughly enjoy working alongside residents to tackle and resolve issues that come up from time to time in his ward. Edgar regularly attends street corner meetings to hear from members of his constituency what issues and concerns they have. He works hard to be

their voice in council. "I do not just contact you once every four years for your vote", Edgar said

Edgar lives in the Beverley Ward at 17 Amanda Ave Findon with his wife Anna and have lived there for the last 44 years since they migrated from Malta.

His four adult children were born here and attended the local schools. "I am grateful for the opportunities Australia has given me" he said.

When interviewed by this journal Mr Agius said "My passion is giving back to the community and have been involved with volunteer community work for over 40 years including, committee member and then President of the Maltese Guild of South Australia, coordinator of the Maltese Language and Folk Dancing Group and currently the President of the Maltese Community Council of South Australia".

Edgar received the following awards which recognise his contributions to the community.

2001 Premier Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding Volunteer Community Service.

2003 Centenary of Federation Medal from the Commonwealth of Australia for Community Service.

2006 Medal of the Order of Australia OAM for service to Local Government and the Maltese Community.

2009 Governor's Multicultural Awards Certificate for Outstanding Service by an Individual.

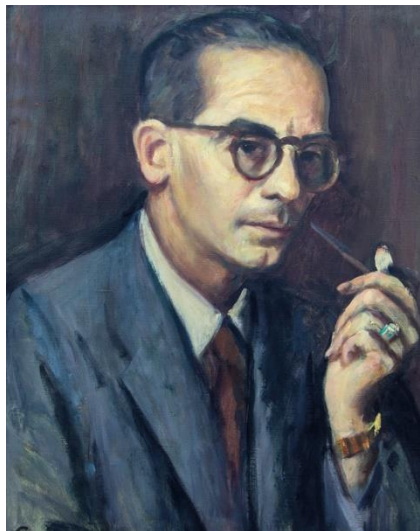
2010 Australian of the Year (Finalist) South Australian Local Hero category.

2010 Appointed Australia Day Council Ambassador.

Between 22 and 26 October ballot papers to elect the Council of the City of Sturt in South Australia shall arrive in your letterbox. **VOTE 1 – EDGAR AGIUS if you live in Beverley, Welland, Flinders Park, Part of Hindmarsh, Findon and Allenby Gardens. SUPPORT A PROVEN ACHIEVER.**

PALAZZO PARISIO - SCICLUNA PALACE NAXXAR

Palazzo Parisio, formerly known as Scicluna Palace, Palazzo Scicluna, and officially Palazzo Parisio and Gardens, is a 19th-century palace at 29, Victory Square, Naxxar, Malta



Marquis J. Scicluna

The Marquis Giuseppe Scicluna bought Palazzo Parisio in 1898 and it is through him that the property received its greatest renovation, which fortunately still survives till today largely in its original form. The Marquis Scicluna, a wealthy Maltese banker and merchant; created a showcase for Maltese art which closes the eclectic style of the 19th century propagated by Italian artists on the island.

The property dates further back in history and its legacy of owners add to its prestige. The first reference of the site dates to the time of the Order of the Knights of St John, when it was used by Grand Master Don Antonio Manoel de Vilhena who ruled the Order between 1722 and 1736. The Grand Master used his property in Naxxar as his hunting lodge; where he would take a break from the bustling life in Valletta. The Marquis Scicluna retained some elements which date to the time of the Grand Master Vilhena such as the Orangerie and some architectural elements found in the garden.



After the death of the Grand Master the property was taken under the wing of the Order of St. John and it is probably through this that it was passed down to the next owners; the Parisio family. The Cavalier Don Domenico Parisio, a nobleman from Reggio Calabria, married Anna Moscati from a Maltese Aristocratic family. The Parisio's owned a number of properties such as a Palazzo Parisio in Valletta, which Domenico's son Paolo loaned to Napoleon during his stay on the island. The Naxxar property became the summer residence to the Parisio's and eventually served as Paolo's permanent residence.

Paolo married but died without issue and the Palace was lived in till 1856 where it was used by the Micallef family who claimed themselves as owners. The Micallefs began to rent it out to the Jesuit community in 1880, which used the Palazzo Parisio as a 'university'; authorised to confer degrees! The first descriptions of the Palace come from this time and the students describe how they slept on the second floor and could reach the ceiling by standing on their beds.



The garden is also mentioned and described close to as it is today: being divided into three sections. Students remarked on how large the grounds were; so much so that they could recite the entire rosary before reaching the other side.

The Jesuits planned on purchasing the Palace but could not reach an agreement with the 32 caretakers who had declared themselves heirs. It was the Marquis Scicluna who, driven by his vision, took the matter to court and the entire land was released to the Marquis on 12th June 1898 for the sum of £1500.

The marquis put together a team of architects, sculptors and artists in order to implement his vision for Palazzo Parisio. The team was headed by the renowned Italian architect Carlo Sada and consisted largely of Italian painters and sculptors having ties with Malta. Sada is responsible for designing rooms such as the Ballroom and is well-known in Italy for his designs such as the Teatro Massimo Bellini in Catania. Also in charge was the Maltese Annibale Lupi who acted as personal architetto to the Marquis. The team of painters included the two Romans Giacomo Olzai and Filippo Venuti. Their works in Palazzo Parisio are important in both the artists' oeuvre; the works are Olzai's only examples in Malta whilst Venuti created what can be considered to be his best private works on the island. Giuseppe Valenti took care of the sculptural architectural work such as the paving and the Grand Staircase. The team of stuccoists was headed by Vincenzo Cardona and he was helped by his students from the Malta School of Arts. Giulio Moschetti also worked on the project and took care of the large figural work whilst Cardona and his students focused on the decorative elements.

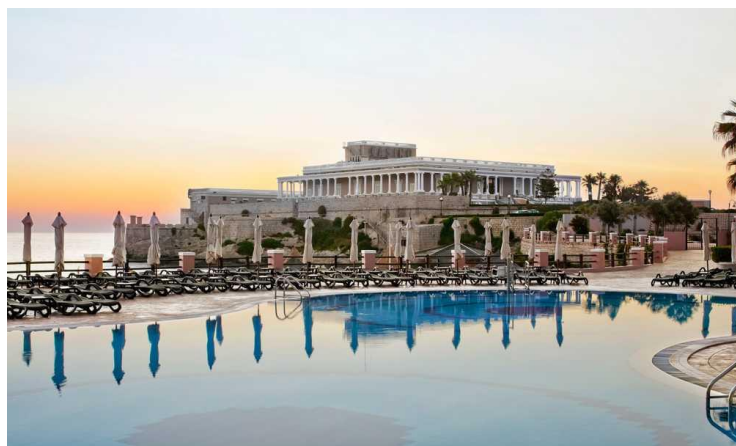


The Palace's Garden

The project began in the first months of 1900 and the majority of the work was finished in 1906 when the Marquis Scicluna, his wife and their four year old son John moved in. The main decoration had been completed but some finishing touches still had to be made to the place, such as the curtains, which were never hung up and discovered whilst restoring Palazzo Parisio. The palace was never completely finished due to the untimely death of the Marquis Scicluna on the 14th February 1907. The Marchesa and John moved out and back to their house in San

Pawl Tat-Targa. Despite this tragic ending to the story; Palazzo Parisio's original decoration has been preserved and the Marquis Scicluna's vision for his property has been kept as he intended and looked after so that many generations can be inspired by his artistic ideas.

Dragonara Palace St. Julian's - Malta



Dragonara Palace (Maltese: *Il-Palazz tad-Dragnara*), is a palace in St. Julian's, Malta. It was built in 1870 as a summer residence for the Scicluna family, and it is now a casino called **Dragonara Casino**. The palace is named after Dragonara Point, the peninsula on which it was built. According to local legends, a dragon lived in caves near the peninsula, but the roaring which was heard was probably the sound of the waves hitting the rocks or the howling of the wind. It is believed that the rumours of the dragon were spread by smugglers to discourage people from going to the area.

The Dragonara Palace was built in 1870 on Dragonara Point, which had been previously occupied by Ta' Ghemmuna Battery. The palace served as the summer residence of Emanuele Scicluna, a banker who became a marquis in 1875. During World War I, it was temporarily used as an officers' hospital. Later on, the Scicluna family hosted over 100 refugees in the palace during World War II.

The palace opened as a casino on 15 July 1964, at a time when nearby Paceville began its transition from a mainly agricultural area to a tourist hub. The Dragonara Casino was the first casino in Malta, and this was a major step in

establishing Malta as a tourist destination.^[11] In the 1990s, The Westin Dragonara hotel was built on part of the palace's gardens.

The casino was privatized in 1999, and the company Dragonara Casino Ltd was set up to run the business for 10 years. The palace was restored in 2008. Two years later, the casino was taken over by Dragonara Gaming Ltd, who have spent over €15 million in renovating the building.^[11] It receives about 350,000 patrons annually, making it the most popular casino in Malta. The palace is listed on the National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands. One of the arches to the palace, now leads to a car park, with the main arch seen far to the left. Dragonara Palace is built in neoclassical architecture, and its colonnades are inspired by those of Villa Portelli and Palazzo Capua.^[17] The design of the Dragonara Palace later inspired the colonnades of Palazzo Pescatore, which was built in St. Paul's Bay in the late 19th century.

The palace's architect is not known, but it is sometimes attributed to Giuseppe Bonavia. The palace originally consisted of a colonnaded villa with a central courtyard.^[3] The Scicluna family leased the property in 1964 to the Kursaal Company Limited when the courtyard was roofed becoming the casino's gaming rooms and the Slots Palace was built at the back, which were designed by Dom Mintoff, an architect who eventually became Prime Minister of Malta. At this stage the Sheraton Hotel was built on the ground of the palace's gardens that was eventually replaced by The Westin Dragonara.

When the palace was originally built, it was surrounded by extensive gardens. Part of these were destroyed to make way for The Westin Dragonara hotel and the casino's parking lot.^[12] The palace's Sunken Garden, which contains a number of fountains and olive trees, is now located within the grounds of The Westin Dragonara. The main entrance into the palace's gardens consists of an arch with the inscription *Deus Nobis Haec Otia Fecit*, meaning "God made these leasures for us". It is designated as a Grade 1 property by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority.

A fountain containing a statue of Neptune was located at the entrance of the palace, just after the path leading from the gardens. The statue was built in the 19th century, but it is inspired by an earlier statue of Neptune which is now found in the courtyard of the Grandmaster's Palace in Valletta. The fountain and statue are now located inside the palace for their preservation. Since the statue of Neptune was relocated to the palace, a life-sized statue of Marquis Emanuele Scicluna has been located in its place. The statue was designed by the Italian sculptor Giulio Moschetti,^[23] and it was restored in 2014.

Some rooms of the palace contain frescoes painted by Vincenzo Maria Cremona. The fresco in the Yellow Room shows military and floral paraphernalia, as well as a bird holding a garland of roses. The ceiling panels of the Green Room has frescoes showing a personification of industry.

db Group's 38-storey St George's Bay tower recommended for approval

Project on ITS site in line with all planning policies - PA case officer



The 38-storey tower and 18-storey hotel proposed for the Institute of Tourism Studies (ITS) site in St George's Bay have been recommended for approval, with a final decision due on September 20.

In a report published on Monday, the Planning Authority case officer concludes that the controversial project was in line with all relevant policies and would create a "landmark building" in an area designated for high-rise projects due

to the predominance of tourism and leisure activities. The report notes that the development had been “positively reviewed” in its environmental and transport impact assessments.

On the tower’s visual impact, a major factor in the objections to the project, the report states: “Tall buildings are by default and design unequivocally conspicuous. As confirmed by ERA, the impacts on the visual amenity and landscape were a known concern from the outset.”

It goes on to note that from long distance views, particularly from the south and west of the island, the project would either not be visible or would blend in with other tall buildings in the area, limiting its impact.

The case officer recommended a planning gain of nearly €1.5 million to fund environmental projects in the area, and a €50,000 contribution to an Arts Council fund for public art. The PA board is scheduled to vote on the project in a public meeting on September 20. The €300 million City Centre project has been the source of significant controversy over the €60 million valuation of the land given to the developers on a 99-year concession. Calculations based on the government’s Paceville master plan put the actual value at €212 million.

PHOENIX WOMEN WIN TOURNAMENT IN SICILY



Swieqi Phoenix senior women’s handball team won all three games in a friendly round-robin tournament at Mascalucia Sicily last weekend. The fierce team of nine women, who travelled to Sicily on the day specifically, beat current reigning champions and runners-up in Sicilian female handball. “We have been preparing for this tournament for over a month now, and I’m very pleased to see the growing synergy between the girls in our first games together,” says player and coach Andrea Szanto.

Back in Malta, the team will kick off preparations for the Independence Cup games on 22nd September. Final scores: Siracusa Arteusa HC vs Swieqi Yobetit Phoenix 16-19; Siracusa Arteusa HC vs Messina HC 15-27; Messina HC vs Swieqi Yobetit Phoenix 15-20. The tournament was organized by Swieqi Phoenix Handball Club and Mascalucia Handball Club in Catania Sicily on 1st September.

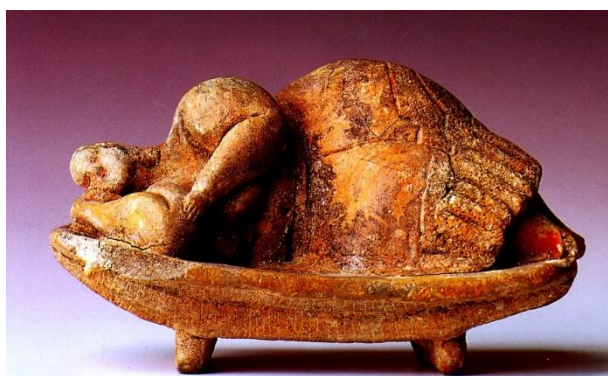
FROM THE UNITES STATE OF AMERICA

THE TEMPLE PEOPLE OF MALTA

Hope all is well with you. Watched a very interesting program tonight titled *Sacred Sights*. It featured the temple people of Malta who disappeared about 2500 BC after about a 1000 years of existence on the islands. Don't know if Australian television has the **Smithsonian Channel** available to its viewers, but if it does, the program is on the Smithsonian Channel this week and will be shown at various times between Wednesday and at least till 9 September. This program is quite educational and informative and features the Hypogeum and the temples of Malta. It needs to be seen by all Maltese who are interested in Malta's history and culture. Below are two links that are previews on that program about Malta I had informed you about. The Smithsonian web site also has ways to watch this program. I hope you and your readers will find this video as informative and interesting as I found it to be. Cleared up questions about the ancient Maltese. Keep up the good work of preserving our Maltese heritage, history, and culture for this and future generation of Maltese. Thanks. **Fred Aquilina**

<https://www.smithsonianchannel.com/shows/sacred-sites/malta/1003827/3462208>

<https://www.smithsonianchannel.com/videos/why-soil-may-have-increased-survival-for-maltese-people/63585?auto=true>



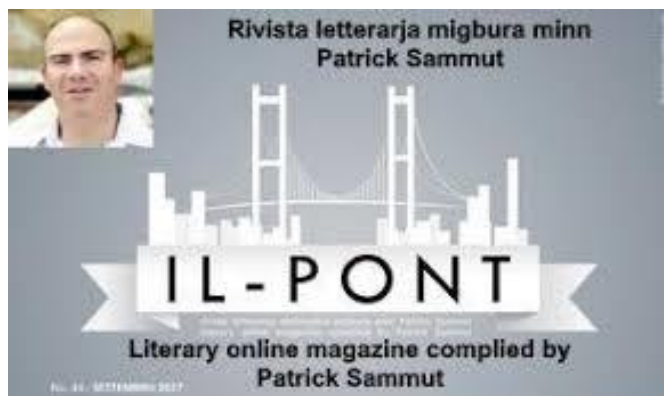
MALTA'S SACRED SIGHTS

When you visit Malta make sure that you explore and experience the powerful transformational energies of the ancient megalithic **Mother Goddess** temples, some of the oldest free-standing structures on Earth - over 7,000 years old. Participate in meditations and ritual to step back in "time" as you connect with the still palpable energies of these amazing sacred sites that were in use when the Mother Goddess was centre

stage in the hearts and minds of the people who built them!



Also explore the mysterious ancient "**cart ruts**" that have been the subject of debate for hundreds of years as to their origin, form and function - one of the most perplexing mysteries of ancient megalithic building technologies of all time! Cart Ruts themselves are sunken grooves, ruts, tracks, rilles found in rock. Usually in pairs of tracks. The ruts themselves vary greatly – they can be very deep and narrow, they can be very shallow and wide and anything in between. They are found in smooth and rough rock (on Malta it is limestone).



MITQLU DEHEB

Nirringrazzjaw lil Patrick Sammut, l-editur ta' "IL_PONT" ghar-rivista nteressanti u mimlija bhal bajda b'xoghlijiet letterarji mhux biss bil-Malti imma wkoll bl-Ingiliz. Fiha 42 pagna u la darba tibda taqrha ma jkollox il-qalb li tieqaf. Patrick ilu johrog din il-popolari rivista minn Otturbu 2012 u din hija it-48 ħarġa.

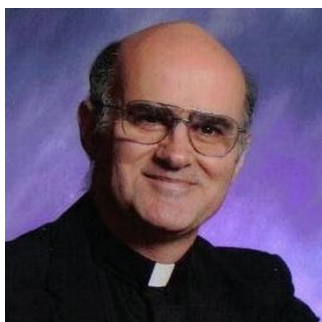
Xlendi Gostra provides plenty of fun and excitement on Sunday



GOZO NEWS

Xlendi celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Mt Carmel over the weekend, with a programme of activities both inside the church and out. A very popular event on the program are the traditional water games, which took place on Sunday afternoon in the picturesque bay of Xlendi. The fine weather ensured that there was a large turn-out to watch the entertaining games and to cheer on the competitors. The events started with the rope competition, when participants have to climb up a rope hanging down to the sea from another rope strewn across the bay. The aim of the game is to grab one of the five flags attached on the horizontal rope.

This was followed by the much anticipated Gostra (slippery pole) competition, which is undoubtedly the highlight of the afternoon's games. The competitors found the going even tougher this year, because as well as the pole being well greased, it was also much longer – 40ft instead of the usual 26ft – however they didn't give up and bit by bit they managed to edge closer to the flag attached at the end of the pole, hoping to reach the ultimate prize. *Photographs by Alain Salva*



Fr. Julian Cassar

Born in St Julian's Malta on August 27, 1952, I grew up within a loving family with two parents John and Mary Cassar, both deceased, and two older sisters Josephine and Rosemarie (husband Carmelo Garzia, deceased,) and two younger brothers, Paul

(deceased,) married to Kay, and Marcel, married to Maria with two sons, Julian Jr and Peter. I was ordained a priest on June 19, 1977 and served for 4 years in my hometown St Julian's. In 1981, I started my pastoral

ministry in New York, both on Long Island and upstate New York. In 2003, I moved to the west coast serving in the Diocese of Baker in John Day, Baker City and Bend. Presently Now, I am living at my home in St. Julian's, serving as chaplain at Hilltop Gardens, a retirement community in Naxxar, Malta. After writing from the USA for 30 years in a Maltese Catholic newspaper 'Lehen is-Sewwa,' in October 2016 I started again as a regular contributor profiling some well-known and lesser known people every two weeks.

Follow Fr. Julian's blog - <http://fatherjulian.blogspot.com/>

