



CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2013 FRANK L SCICLUNA - LINKING MALTA AND AUSTRALIA

EMAIL: honconsul@live.com.au Website: www.ozmalta.page4.me



APPLYING FOR A MALTESE PASSPORT IN AUSTRALIA

Inadvertently the posting that was in Newsletter 22 regarding the application for a new passport was outdated. We apologise for any inconvenience. Please, refer to the information below.



All Maltese citizens residing in Australia (including those from South Australia, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and Northern Territory and those living in New Zealand may apply for or renew their Maltese passport through the Malta High Commission in Canberra or Maltese Consuls General in Sydney or Melbourne which have a Biometric Capture Workstation (BCW).

Below are the contact details;

Malta High Commission in Canberra

38 Culgoa Circuit,
O'Malley, ACT 2606 Tel (02) 6290 1724 Email: maltapassports.canberra@gov.mt (Passports)

Consulate-General of Malta in Sydney

Suite 10.04, Level 10 31 Market Street,
Sydney NSW 2000 Tel: (02) 9262 9500 Email: maltaconsulate.sydney@gov.mt

Consulate-General of Malta in Melbourne

Suite 613, 6th Floor 343 Little Collins Street
Melbourne, VIC 3000 Tel: (03) 9670 8427 Email: maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt



Between 2014 and 2018 Australia will commemorate the Anzac Centenary, marking 100 years since our nation's involvement in the First World War.

The Anzac Centenary is a milestone of special significance to all Australians. The First World War helped define us as a people and as a nation.

During the Anzac Centenary we will remember not only the original Anzacs who served at Gallipoli and the Western Front, but commemorate more

than a century of service by Australian servicemen and women.

The Anzac Centenary Program encompasses all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations in which Australians have been involved.

The Program aims to give all Australians the opportunity to honour the service and sacrifice of all those who have worn our nation's uniform, including the more than 102,000 who have made the supreme sacrifice.

It also aims to encourage all Australians to reflect upon and learn more about Australia's military history, its costs and its impacts on our nation. We will also remember Malta's contribution in World War 1 and its assistance to Australian and New Zealand soldiers. Thousands of soldiers who fought at Gallipoli were sent to Malta to be hospitalized and hundreds of them died on the island and are buried in Malta. That is the reason why the Malta ANZAC War Memorial Committee erected an ANZAC monument at Floriana, which is the first ANZAC monument outside Australia and New Zealand.

We will keep you informed of any future activities.

CHRISTMAS NEW YEAR 2014 MESSAGES



MESSAGE FROM THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF SA HIEU VAN LEE AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MULTICULTURAL AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Very Best wishes for the Festive Season and a New Year filled with peace, harmony and prosperity to all the members of the Maltese community of South Australia



MESSAGE FROM THE HON DR GEORGE VELLA – MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS – MALTA

Heartily reciprocate sincere and best wishes to you and all at home. Please convey same sentiments to the Maltese Community. Il-Milied it-tajeb u Sena Gdida mimlija Hena Risq u Sahha.



JAY WEATHERILL
PREMIER



One of the real joys of the holiday season is reflecting on the past year and offering thanks to the many people who helped our community.

In wishing you peace, hope and happiness, I ask you to remember those who face uncertainty. Take every opportunity to stand together and support each other in the year ahead.

In lieu of a card, I am supporting the Big Issue magazine that provides jobs for disadvantaged and marginalised members of our community.

Jay Weatherill

Jay Weatherill
Premier of South Australia



Christmas Message by His Excellency Mr Charles Muscat High Commissioner for the Republic of Malta



December 2013

Another year has gone by and we will soon be celebrating the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the little Jesus born in a manger. We ought to look at this great event with a sense of humility. We need to learn that He was born in a cave without all the comforts that we have today. This was the man sent by God to be born and die for all of us. In this sense, when at times we forget our origins, and where we all started in life, it will be helpful to come back to our senses so we can respect and be more tolerant with each other.

In this, my first message as Malta's High Commissioner to Australia, I would like to appeal to all Maltese and Gozitans scattered all over this continent to remember the true meaning of Christmas and what it teaches us: we are all brethren!

We all know that Australia is known for its multiculturalism. We live among people with different cultures, religions, customs and race, who have learned to live together. The fact that we live peacefully together, sets a great example to the whole world. It is pertinent therefore, that during this festive season we ought to think of the less fortunate. With some extra effort we can help those who badly need our support. The Maltese and Gozitans are known for being generous, and it follows, that during these days we further give evidence of the roots we have inherited from our dear ancestors. On behalf of myself, my wife Victoria, and all staff at the High Commission, I extend best wishes for Christmas that gives us real joy in sharing with our neighbour! Let us hope that we will have a better and more positive new year, and enjoy more peace within our families and all around us!

MESSAGE FROM MR GEORGE PORTELLI – REPRESENTATIVE OF BANK OF VALLETTA IN AUSTRALIA

Dear Frank, I was very pleased to receive your newsletter. It is very well and attractively laid out. Congratulations. It is good to know what other Maltese Communities outside Victoria are up to. Please pass on my good wishes for a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to our fellow citizens.

BOV George Portelli, Chief Representative, Bank of Valletta p.l.c 16 Watt Street, Sunshine Victoria 3020.
Bank of Valletta The Representative Office last day of operation, due to the annual end of the year break, will be 19 December, 2013 and reopen on 28 January, 2014.

MESSAGE FROM GODFREY AND MIRIAM MAGRI – MALTA

Thanks for your warm greetings and we reciprocate to you, your family and all Maltese living so far away but so close to our hearts. Best wishes and warm regards, Godfrey & Miriam Magri (Malta)

MESSAGE FROM MARTHESI CARUANA - - AUSTRALIA

I thank you and congratulate you on an outstanding edition of the E-newsletter attached.

Season's greetings to you and all your loved ones. Warm Regards

MESSAGE FROM ANDREW BORG MANAGER BORG'S CLEANING SERVICES – SA AUSTRALIA

Thank you for all the great work you have been doing, I have forwarding all the newsletters to my brothers and sisters and all said how much work you put in them and all the research involved. Keep up the good work and kind regards.

MESSAGE FROM MIRIAM AND GARRY JACKSON – ADELAIDE AUSTRALIA

Many thanks for the up date of the news letter, particularly the Special Christmas Edition. I really enjoy reading anything about our little but big at heart our dear Island MALTA . Thank you kindly for keeping me to your list.

MESSAGE FROM MARCIA SCIBERRAS – ADELAIDE – AUSTRALIA

Especially loved the Christmas edition of the Consular E-Newsletter. Thanks Frank! Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all and all the best for 2014

MESSAGE FROM EMANUEL P Adelaide Australia

To all our friends we wish a very happy and holy Christmas, Many are asked what they wish for Christmas Our answer should be allow Him back in our schools, keep Him in assembles

Weather it be government or civil, use His teachings to heal the wrongs of this earth and last but not least have faith in Him, He who has abundant love for all *EGP*

MESSAGE FROM PAUL VELLA – MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful new year



PROMINENT MALTESE-AUSTRALIAN HONOURED IN MALTA

Prominent Maltese-Australian Lawrence Dimech was made a Member of the Order of Merit (MOM) by the Malta Government as one of the recipients honoured on Republic Day.

The President of Malta Dr George Abela presented the honour to Mr Dimech during the Republic Day Honours ceremony held at the President's Palace in Valletta last Thursday. The honour was bestowed on Mr Dimech in recognition of his exceptional contribution towards the welfare of the people of Malta, and in particular, Maltese migrants in Australia. We congratulate Mr Dimech!!



USS Monterey reciprocates Maltese hospitality

Maltastar.com 19 December 2013

The USS Monterey (CG 61) returned to Malta's historic Grand Harbour on Dec. 16 to allow the crew to experience the rich culture and history of Malta.

In keeping with the U.S. Navy's approach to being ambassadors in all areas of the world, 23 volunteers from the Monterey lent a helping hand at Dar tal-Providenza in Siggiewi, a home for the disabled.

The volunteers and ship's chaplain met with Rev. Fr. Martin Micallef, Director of the Home, and residents and then conducted a number of activities there to benefit Dar tal-Providenza in Siggiewi.

The crew members carried out general maintenance and cleaning in the laundry, kitchen, the seamstress' premises and the chapel

area.

One of the residents of the Home expressed his delight and appreciation for the volunteers' service with hugs for volunteers.

Monterey is deployed in support of maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations.

Christmas Tree with a difference in Ghajnsielem – GOZO, MALTA



Over 3,000 used water bottles have been reused to form a big Christmas tree in Ghajnsielem square.

The residents collected the bottles over the past year. The 'tree' has been decorated with illuminated lights.

The initiative was sparked by a volunteer in the village with the encouragement of Archpriest Frankie Bajada. The work started in the last week of November.

Picture - Frank Buttigieg – TIMES – December 19, 2013

NEW YEAR'S EVE IN MALTA

The southern European nation of Malta, which is officially referred as The Republic of Malta, celebrates its New Year on the date of January 1, following the Georgian calendar system. A day before, i.e. on December 31, which is popularly called as New Years Eve all over the world, is the day of major celebrations all over Malta. New Years Eve is an important time in the lives of the natives of Malta, as it brings in enormous amount of happiness and celebration time. The celebrations in Malta are high on spirit and energy, which justify the title of the 'the wildest party destination in the entire European continent' as conferred to Malta.

On New Years Eve in Malta, people in huge numbers make a visit to city restaurants, clubs, and pubs to be a part of the community celebrations. Most of these restaurants and party clubs start aggressively promoting and advertising their places and the parties scheduled to happen on New Years Eve, well before the arrival of New Years Eve. Also, they ensure to pull as much crowd as possible to cash in the celebration time, by offering luring packages, and by putting special arrangements of celebrations in place.



Malta joins the rest of the world in ushering in the New Year with national celebrations in Floriana and Valletta. Thousands of people opt for the free open air parties and many others take part in private functions or spent quality time with family and friends. As the countdown starts, friends and strangers clapp, kissed and danced to usher in the new and bury the old. As the clock strikes midnight, fireworks colour the dark sky and balloons are let off signalling the end of a year and the beginning of a new one. Happy New Year to all our readers.

NEW YEAR'S EVE IN AUSTRALIA



New Year's Day marks the start of a new year according to the Gregorian calendar, which was introduced to Australia by European settlers. It replaced the Julian calendar, which used a year that was slightly shorter than the solar year. Over time, the seasons moved out of line with their positions on the calendar. The Gregorian calendar was introduced by Pope Gregory XIII on February 24, 1582. It was adopted immediately in some areas of Europe, such as Spain, Portugal and parts of Italy, but it took hundreds of years before it was used throughout Europe. In Great Britain, it was introduced in 1752.

The start of the year according to the Gregorian calendar is not the only New Year observed in Australia. For instance, Australia's tax year begins on July 1 and the Asian lunar year starts on the second or third new moon after the December solstice, sometime between January 21 and February 20. The Hindu, Coptic, Jalali, Jewish and Islamic New Years are also celebrated in some communities.

New Year is a grand event in Australia that takes place on the first of January every year. As per the Gregorian calendar, the day is observed on the same date in the country as the rest of the world. January 6th though marks the end of the celebrations. New Years Eve in Australia is all about fireworks, loud music, parties and other fun filled activities. People from all over the world enjoy the glitz and glamour of celebrations in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Perth, Adelaide, Hobart and New Year's Day is a public holiday. If January 1 is a Saturday or Sunday, the public holiday moves to Monday, January 2 or 3. Schools and other educational establishments are closed, as New Year's Day falls in the summer holiday.

Stores may be open or closed according to state laws and local custom. In the states of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria, there are trading restrictions on New Year's Day. In these states, many stores do not open on New Year's Day or the first Monday in January if January 1 is a Saturday or Sunday. In some areas, public transport is limited. In other areas, there are no services. There may be some congestion on roads and at airports, as people return from holidays or from relatives' homes. Before the European settlers arrived in Australia, Indigenous Aboriginal Australians used a variety of methods to track the passing of the seasons. Some reflected patterns of weather conditions and the life cycle of different plants. For instance, the people of the Crocodile Islands of Arnhem Land recognize six seasons that are important in their ritual life, movements around the land and how they hunt. Since the timing of this type of event can vary from year to year, the relationship between these and the Gregorian calendar changes.

However, this type of calendar was important in maintaining the connection between Indigenous Australians and their land. The movement patterns of the stars were also important to many Indigenous Australians. They used this method to predict when certain plants were ready for harvesting or when they could supplement their diet with migratory birds.



Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna, the Malta Heritage Trust

is a voluntary non-governmental organisation active in the field of heritage preservation. One of its principal objectives is to create awareness to encourage the better understanding and preservation of the cultural heritage of the Maltese islands. For this reason, over the years, FWA undertook the rehabilitation and restoration of various cultural properties.

Today FWA looks after several historic buildings and sites in Malta. These properties span 7,000 years of Maltese history, from pre-history to the 20th century. These range from a megalithic temple at Kordin to a great baroque gate once serving as the main entrance into the imposing 7km long Cottonera bastioned

ramparts; and from a Victorian fort armed with the world's largest cannon to 20th century concrete defences.

Most of the cultural properties which FWA holds in trust, are made accessible to the public. In line with its objectives, FWA seeks to provide the visiting public with the highest form of interpretation that will enable a better understanding and appreciation of our cultural heritage. For this reason FWA also undertakes to build and maintain cultural collections with which to establish museums.

Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna is governed by a board of trustees, whose role is to formulate the general policy, and to safeguard the aims of FWA as spelled out in the organisation's statute.



Historic Musketry Parts donated to FWA

William Phelps of Welsh Arms Auctions has very kindly donated to FWA a quantity of original Snider-Enfield parts to FWA. The Snider-Enfield is one of the many examples of historic weaponry used by our interpreters in their displays at Fort Rinella. The British .577 Snider-Enfield was a breech loading rifle. The firearm action was invented by the American Jacob Snider, and the Snider-Enfield was one of the

most widely used of the Snider varieties. It was adopted by the British Army as a conversion system for its ubiquitous Pattern 1853 Enfield muzzle-loading rifles. It was introduced in 1866, and was used by the British Army until it was superseded by the Martini-Henry rifle in 1871. The Snider-Enfield was used by the British Indian Army almost to the end of the 19th century.



FWA welcomes the temporary return of the De Valette Sword and Dagger to Malta

Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna welcomes Government's success in securing the temporary return to Malta from France of the De Valette sword and dagger. These two historic artefacts carry a deep and great significance in the collective memory of the Maltese nation. They were presented to Grand Master Jean De Valette, the hero of the Great Siege of 1565, by King Philip II of Spain as a sign of gratitude for the Order's role in stemming the Ottoman domination of Europe. Ever since their removal as prize of war from the island by the French in 1798, successive generations of Maltese have

ceaselessly longed for their return. It is therefore with great satisfaction to note that after two centuries this long-standing wish is to become reality, even if for a definite period.

Replica Rediffusion cable radio set

A replica wartime Rediffusion cable radio set has been made in house by FWA staff for display in the new Refuge Room at the Malta at War museum in Vittoriosa. The copy is based on a period original kept in the museum.

Radio broadcasting was started in Malta in 1935 by British company Rediffusion. This was started on the instigation of the colonial authorities to help them counter the daily onslaught of radio propaganda broadcasts from Fascist Italy. By the start of the war, the radio service only had 3,500 subscribers and its reach just covered Valletta and the nearby towns. To make up for this handicap, public loudspeakers were installed in all public spaces around Malta.

Rediffusion offered English and Maltese programmes. It transmitted the BBC news at midday and in the evening, light entertainment, news bulletins and government broadcasts including special talks and the signalling of air-raid warnings to listeners.



Napoleonic French military button found near Fort Rinella

A curious bronze French military button was accidentally found in the open grounds around Fort Rinella in Kalkara. The button measures 1.5cm in diameter and features an embossed '51' numerical positioned in a decorative horseshoe enclosure. It is cast in bronze and shows no maker marks. The button has been cleaned and conserved while historical research is going on to establish its origins and why it was located where it was found. So far it has been established that the button is French dating to the first two decades of the 19th century. It belonged to a regiment of the line who fought in Alexandria, Egypt and had surrendered to the British. The button may have been picked by a British soldier as a souvenir and brought to Malta. The open ground around Fort Rinella is known to have served from time to time as encampment space for the military over the years.

Renaissance Guard

For the last few years FWA's name was synonymous with 19th and 20th century British military heritage and history in Malta. Through the hard travails of one of its most dedicated young senior staff members, FWA has now a fully equipped late-Renaissance equip that represents faithful and historically correct representations of mounted and foot elements of the best elements of the Order's army in Malta in the early 1600s. Fully functional working examples of plated armour have been especially commissioned in the continent for this project. Examples from the world famous armour collection kept at the Palace Armour in Valletta have been recreated. Support for this work was graciously obtained from government through the Malta Tourism Authority. When fully complete and trained, this new unit will start gracing the old streets of Valletta with its colourful and evocative representations. More regular displays will be taking place at the St. Peter and St. Paul's



counter-guard in Valletta which in 2014 will be opened to the public as part of the new multi-period military history park that will encompass nothing less than 500 years of continued Maltese military history. Other commitments are planned to take place at St. Thomas Tower in M'Scala.



**HAPPY NEW YEAR
2014 FROM THE
AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE
TO ALL THE MALTESE
AROUND THE WORLD**

World Cup 2014: Socceroos handed horror draw, with Spain, Chile and Netherlands in Group B



Australia's worst nightmares have been confirmed, with the team drawn to play reigning world champions Spain and 2010 runners-up The Netherlands, plus highly-ranked South American side Chile in Group B at next year's World Cup in Brazil.

We know that, but we should not panic. For one, the Socceroos play Chile, Netherlands and Spain in that order, and it is the correct one. Every team will be raring to go for their opening match, and playing Chile first up is a perfect start.

Yes, they are a team from the region but a win is not beyond Australia.



It will be a test for Ange Postecoglou, with just one friendly in March, to get the team together in a way that they can shut down star players and counter from the back to hold possession in the way he wants it to be held. There's a lot of quality in the list of opponents, including Chile's Barcelona forward Alexis Sanchez, Spain's entire squad and most of the Netherlands' team too.

The Socceroos coach said ahead of the draw that the March friendly would likely be in Europe against a team with a similar style to one of our opponents. There is no benefit to playing a team influenced by the Dutch, because we have seen plenty of that in Australian football over the last few years.

Postecoglou could convince Josep Gombau to bring Adelaide United to Europe for a friendly,

because it is all about Spain's tiki-taka performance-based play under the former Barca youth coach. In reality, a match against another World Cup opponent from the Americas will be the best option.

~~~~~

### **Between 1950 and 1965 310 Maltese child migrants were sent to Australia**



*Maltese children at Bindoon Boys' Town 1952. Reproduced courtesy State Library of Western Australia, The Battye Library 005086D.*

In 1928 Perth-based Maltese priest Father Raphael Pace urged the Christian Brothers to include Maltese children in its emerging migration scheme. Negotiations between the Maltese and Western Australian Governments continued through the 1930s but the first Maltese child migrants did not arrive in Australia until after World War II.

Between 1950 and 1965, 259 boys and 51 girls were sent to Catholic institutions in Western Australia and South Australia. Most parents believed their children would receive a better education in Australia. Instead many were put to work on the

Christian Brothers' building projects and left to endure the same punishments and abuses as their British counterparts. Some were forced to stop using their Maltese language and never learned to read or write English.



## Reflection, remembering and reunion

**"For all the noble endeavour of institutions, one vital ingredient is always missing. There is, and never will be, a substitute for love."**

**John Lane**

**"We didn't have any knowledge of the outside world." Gwen Cole**

*<- Child migrant memorial at Fremantle, Western Australia. Reproduced courtesy Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.*

The last official child migrant party travelled to Australia by air in 1967. With changes to child welfare practice in the UK and Malta and improvements in living standards, fewer children were available for migration.

The schemes to Australia ended and the institutions began to close from the 1970s.

For former child migrants the legacy of their experience remains. Many have struggled, not only due to the hardships and abuse they endured, but also because they were torn from their homeland and lost their identities. Others were lucky enough to find fulfillment in their lives.

Regardless of their experiences many former child migrants and their descendants value their history and work hard to preserve it.

## Malta Bound - A Journey of Remembrance

*A Personal Story From One of the Old Boys – John Grima*

**Almost a third of the more than 1100 youngsters sent out to institutions run by the Christian Brothers in W.A. came from Malta. This is an account of the experiences of one of the Maltese child migrants - John ("Johnie") Grima. (Johnie is pleased that something of his life story will be the first account of a Maltese experience to be published in our Newsletter).**

Johnie Grima has a recollection from early childhood of Malta at War, pounded by German bombs. He tells of his father wrapping him in a blanket and carrying him down to a candle-lit air-raid shelter "filled with old ladies praying" -- and for good reason!

### **In Search of a Better Life**

Times were very hard in Malta in the years immediately after the War. Hearing from afar of Australia's prosperity, Johnie's parents resolved to emigrate with their seven children. The two oldest, Johnie and his older brother Carmelo ("Charlie") were sent to W.A. in advance of the rest of the family in the hopes that they might get the groundings of a good education. In 1952 Johnie, aged 9 years, arrived with Charlie, aged 11 years, on the *Asturias*.

### **A Rude Awakening**

Johnie talks of the "shock" of the initial journey by truck to Bindoon; their first experience of an unfamiliar landscape of gravel tracks and endless bush, quite empty of people and without sight or sound of the sea of his Maltese homeland.

He recalls that he was "terribly upset and lonely" for most of his time at Bindoon, missing his parents and his home so much that was quick to burst into tears. At the institution, Johnie's special morning job was cleaning the area around the water tank. He recalls one day when leaves were being blown everywhere and however hard he tried it seemed that he can never sweep the ground clear of them!

In the meantime Johnie's parents were struggling to arrange to follow their two eldest sons out to Australia along with their other children, three younger boys and two younger girls. But a sponsor could only be found in Adelaide. At least it was in

Australia but it was still an eternity away from Perth.

Johnie remembers a wonderful sad/happy day when, with Charlie, he was taken by the Brothers for a brief meeting with his mother and father whilst they stopped off at Fremantle en route to Adelaide.

*The rest of the Grima family pass through Fremantle en route to Adelaide. Johnie (left) pictured with his mother, and brother Charlie.*



### **Reunited at Last**

A few months later Brother Keaney invited Johnie's father over to Bindoon to labour on building projects at the site. When Johnie's father took up on the offer, the whole Grima family was finally reunited at the end of 1953.

The "homestead", which is no longer standing, was a mud-brick, tin-roofed construction located some two miles from the institution at Bindoon. Johnie says his father was unhappy that he received very little payment for his hard work. His mother was even less happy. Johnie says she wept every day in the isolated bushland homestead away from her wave-lapped island home, and from the relatives and neighbours she had left behind.

### **Not Country Folk**

Johnie's father scrimped and saved until, in 1956, the family had enough money to move to East Fremantle - an urban world of buildings and bitumen, far more comfortable and familiar for the Grimmas than the harshly beautiful "empty" landscape of the Australian bush. Here, life began to improve for them. But Johnie's father, and more so his mother, still pined for Malta.

So much so his mother wrung a promise from his father that, if she died before him he was to ensure she was buried in Malta. Over the years, Johnie's father regularly promised to take his entire family back to Malta for a visit -- but there just never seemed to be enough money!

### **Johnie Goes Home**

Finally in 1965, Johnie determined to make the journey by himself. Working as a car spray painter, he stayed for two years. It was during this time that he met and married his wife, Mary. Similarly determined by this stage, his father had finally managed to save enough money for the family to make their long-promised visit home to join Johnie in Malta.

### **A Cruel Twist of Fate**

Just days before they were due to leave, Johnie's mother died of a heart attack. No longer the joyous trip they had planned, instead Johnie's father was now called upon to honour his promise, escorting his wife's body back to her cherished homeland. Johnie recalls with much sadness greeting his grieving father at the dockside in Malta. Shortly afterwards his father returned to WA where he died of cancer a few years later. Johnie also returned to WA to begin a more settled life with his wife in their adopted country.

### **Settling Down**

For a number of years Johnie worked for a wool store company, and then for 20 years as a bus driver. A serious accident a few years ago, which was caused by the seat collapsing the bus he was driving, left him with a severely damaged spine and forced him into early retirement.



At this stage in his life, Johnie says he is very settled and content with his life in Australia. He and his wife Mary have achieved a successful family life. They are proud of their three grown sons - Geoff, Simon, and David - and of their two grandchildren.

All but one of Johnie's six brothers and sisters still live in Perth, so he has quite a family of nieces and nephews living nearby.

*Johnie (right) shows brother Charlie the place they set out from so many years ago.*

The call of his birthplace is nevertheless very real to him and he is

greatly looking forward to a five months visit at the end of March. Once again, he will have an opportunity to renew his relationship with the place of his birth and early childhood, and the extended family his father and mother left behind so sadly all those years ago. This visit will also bring some sadness for Johnie with the opportunity it presents to spend some special time at the side of his mother's grave.



## MALTA LINKING EUROPE, NORTH AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST



Located in the heart of the Mediterranean and known for its stable economy and pro-business government, Malta is the ideal setting for companies looking to serve the Europe and North Africa region.

For the past four decades, foreign investors have been

making the most of a supportive business environment combined with qualified, motivated and cost-effective knowledge workers to make the island a centre of excellence.

In 2007, the World Economic Forum ranked the Government of Malta as the second most successful in the world in terms of promoting ICT. The native workforce is English speaking and the country offers a Mediterranean lifestyle and cultural heritage that makes Malta a preferred location for business and holiday.

Malta is easily accessible to Europe, North Africa and the Middle East through a modern and efficient international airport, and also possesses state-of-the-art trans-shipment and logistic facilities.



## MALTA TEACHING CONTINUES THE PUSH TO IMPROVE STANDARDS

*We would like to bring about a mindshift for the language industry in Malta... to encourage schools and teachers to position themselves differently, to be inspired by others and to inspire others in turn, to continue to enhance and improve teaching techniques and outcomes."*

- Daniel Xerri, Chairperson of the English as a Foreign Language (EFL) Monitoring Board at the Ministry of Education and Employment in Malta. And so began one of the opening speeches that kicked off the second annual [ELT Conference](#) in St Julian's, Malta last weekend. (Next year's event will take

place in the same location, 24-26 October 2014, and will also include the first ever Inspiring ELT Professional Award.)

### **A good year for Malta**

Nearly 82,000 international students came to Malta to learn English last year, and not only did the numbers increase, but the variety of nationalities did, too.

With 42 language schools on an island that is only about 300 square kilometres, Malta is small but mighty, and packs a punch in terms of quality language education. Making sure it stays that way, and in fact, improves year on year, is a central mission of the ELT Conference.

As Josef Formosa Gauci, CEO of the Maltese Tourism Authority (MTA), declared, “We must maintain and strengthen the professionalism of the English language sector.”

Xerri further stated:

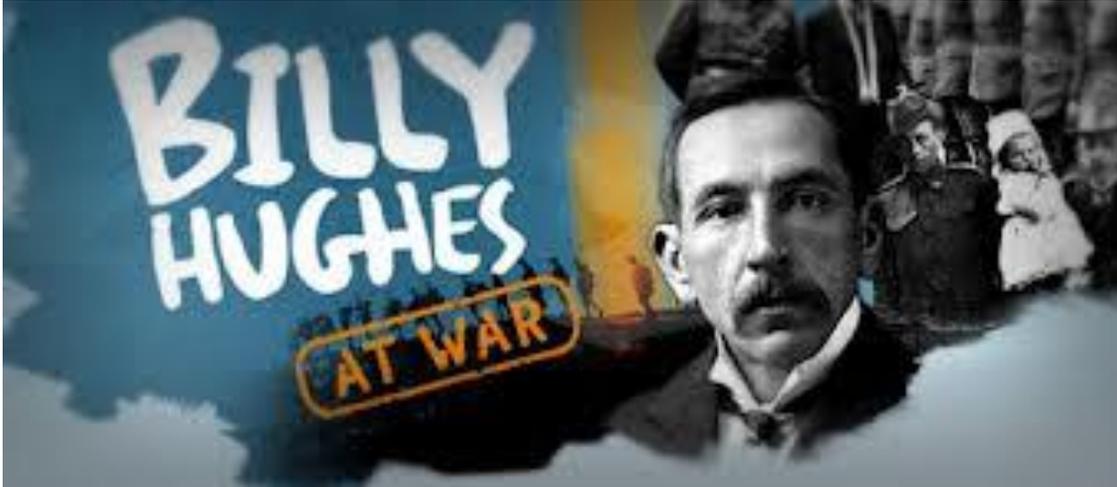
*“We believe that these schools need to be provided with more support in order for the ELT industry in Malta to continue prospering. If we want this industry to contribute even further to Malta’s economy, then there should be provisions in place that facilitate the process of attracting students from an even wider variety of countries.”*

“It is in recognition of the fact that the quality of our teachers needs to remain our first priority, that last year the EFL Monitoring Board decided to start organising an annual ELT Conference,” Xerri explained. That decision was clearly a wise one, as the results showed. Last year’s event saw 270 people in attendance, and this year, the conference drew in 330 people.

## **WILL THE ROAD BE SMOOTHER OR BUMPIER?**



**IS-SENA T-TAJBA  
LILL-QARREJJA TAGHNA KOLLHA  
U LILL-FAMILJA TAGHHOM**



**Billy Hughes - Prime  
Minister of Australia  
(1916)**

## **HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF – MALTESE REFUGEES IN 1916**

*The Advertiser Saturday 14, 2002*

A little known vignette of Australian history, with some remarkable parallels to recent events, happened way back in 1916. Setting off in that year in a French mail boat, the Gange, were 214 Maltese men would-be migrants to Australia. At the time, as citizens of Malta, they were also British subjects. They had every reason to expect that they would be admitted.

However, on arrival in Australia after a boat journey of five weeks, they found the political climate less than welcoming. The then prime minister, Billy Hughes, was campaigning in favour of the conscription referendum during the first world war. He was worried that the arrival of this boatload of migrants would fuel the fears of anti-conscriptionists, that while fighting a war overseas their jobs would be taken by such migrants. The Australian Workers Union of the time described the Maltese as "the black menace".

Accordingly, the Australian authorities invoked Section 3(a) of the Immigration (Restriction) Act. That section provided that: "Any person who, when asked to do so by an officer, fails to write out at dictation and sign in the presence of the officer a passage of 50 words in length in a European language directed by the officer is a prohibited immigrant.

The Maltese migrants, who were by then detained under armed guard, were promptly, given a test in the Dutch language – and naturally they failed. They were shipped off to the Pacific Island of Noumea and New Caledonia.

The parallel so far with Australia's reaction to the arrival of a fresh wave of immigrants arriving by boat more than 80 years later suggests little has changed. But public outcry even during the turmoil of World War I resulted in the eventual return of the Maltese men to Australia.

One of them, Emmanuel Attard from Adelaide, enlisted in two world wars, and like many migrants before and after him contributed to the development of what has become a successful multicultural community.

The migration test provision replaced laws expressly prohibiting by reference to race, such a migration by refs the Victorian 1855 anti-Chinese laws.

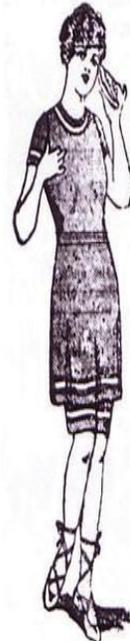
Racism was also entrenched in the Constitution, which once provided that the reckoning of the numbers of the people of the Commonwealth or of a state shouldn't include Aboriginal natives.

**NOSTALGIA**



There are  
a lot more  
good drinks between  
pay parades  
when  
you drink a  
**HOP LEAF**  
*the forces favourite*  
All the best from  
**FARSONS**

*H. McBailey & Co*  
*Specialists in*  
*Men's Wear*



**Bathing Costumes**

Exceedingly popular with Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Costumes are made in the,  
"A.S.A." Style one-piece  
"Canadian" ,, two-pieces  
"Sociable" ,, one-piece with skirt.

**Bathing Slippers**

Loofah—Lds. Gents. and Maids.

**Bathing Wrappers**

Ladies' or Gentlemen's

295 & 296, Str. Reale,  
Valletta.



**A picture is  
worth 1000 words**

## **St. Pauls and St. Agathas Catacombs, Rabat Malta**

Address: St. Agatha Street, Rabat



St. Paul's Catacombs represent the oldest and largest evidence of Christianity on the Maltese islands. This archaeological treasure is a typical complex of adjoined underground Roman cemeteries located outside the old Roman capital at the time called Melite (today Mdina). The catacombs were unearthed in Rabat in 1894, today Mdina's larger neighbouring town.

The site consists of more than thirty hypogea over two large areas. The main one covers an area of more than 2000 square meters of interconnecting passages and tombs. St. Paul's Catacombs were named as such due to the myth that they were also once linked to St. Paul's Grotto. Much larger examples of Roman catacombs may be found in Rome but the uniqueness of these subterranean cemeteries lies in their unique showcase of Maltese underground architecture.

The entrance to the main complex of St Paul's leads to two considerably large halls, adorned with pillars made to resemble Doric columns and painted plasters most of which have now disappeared. On keeping with what seems to have been a norm in most Christian catacombs, these main halls are equipped with two circular tables set in a low platform with sloping sides which resemble the reclining couch (triclinium) present in Roman houses. In all cases present in the main complex and the numerous other Christian Hypogea of the site, both table and couch are hewn out in one piece from the living rock forming a single architectural unit within an apsed recess. Although various interpretations may be found, these triclinia, or Agape tables, were probably used to host commemorative meals during the annual festival of the dead, during which the rites of burials were renewed.



The Saint Paul's Catacombs complex houses a very small collection of artefacts that is directly related to funerary practices of Imperial and Late Roman periods. Unfortunately very little is known about the material found within the tombs of this complex but artefacts found in other burial complexes in Malta show that the material remains buried with the deceased were often of similar types. These artefacts include decorated lamps, unguentarii and balsamarii, copper bracelet and bone pins, figurines and funerary inscriptions. St. Paul's Catacombs