

# Maltese eNewsletter



## Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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Hamalli  
Jew tal-Pepe'

by Wayne Grech  
(Behance.net)



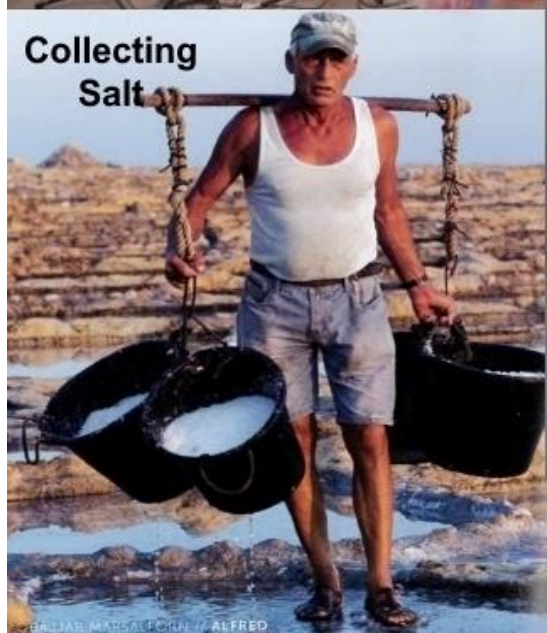
Souvenir: Maltese Boat  
DGHAJSA



# OH MY MALTA!



Collecting  
Salt



Kull wieħed u waħda minnha  
huwa uniku u differenti  
bil-mod tiegħu.  
Irridu nkunu lesti li naċċettaw  
'l kulhadd għaliex mis-sema  
l-isfel, aħna kollha speċjali.  
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## A Journal for the Whole Family







## MALTA'S NEW CONSUL GENERAL OF MALTA TO CANADA

Dr Raymond Xerri, Director, Directorate for Maltese Living Abroad will be concluding his two terms in office as Director on 31 March 2019 and has been appointed Malta's new Consul General of Malta to Canada commencing 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

The Editor, staff and readers of the Maltese Journal wish Dr. Xerri (a regular reader of our journal) all the best in his new challenge amongst the Maltese community in Canada.

Dr Raymond Xerri, Representing the Council for Maltese Living Abroad – MALTA, Ph.D (Australia), M.A.(Dip.St.)(Malta), D.D.S., E.U.Sch.(E.U.Law)(Germany), B.A.(Hons.)(U.S.A.) was born in New York in 1969 and started his primary education at the St Joseph Catholic School in New York City and after moving to Malta in May 1977 continued such education at il-Qala Primary School on the Island of Gozo, Malta.

In October 1981 he commenced his secondary education at the Sacred Heart Seminary School in Victoria, Gozo. In 1986 he emigrated to his birth city and there continued his post-secondary education at the Jesuit Brothers' Manhattan College (1986-1990).

In 1989, Raymond was awarded the European Community Scholarship to study European Community Law at the Institute for European Studies at the Albert-Ludwigs University in Freiburg-im-Breisgau, West Germany, the same year Germany reunited. In 1990 he graduated with honours and was awarded the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Relations.

In 1991 Raymond returned to Malta where he obtained dual citizenship – American and Maltese citizenships. He continued his postgraduate studies at the Mediterranean Academy for Diplomatic Studies (MADS) at the University of Malta and earned a Certificate in Diplomatic Studies in 1991; a Diploma in Diplomatic Studies in 1993 and finally a Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies in 1994.

In March 1994 Raymond was appointed as First Secretary and Commissioner of Oaths in the Diplomatic Corps of Malta and served his country at the Malta High Commission in Canberra, Australia (July 1995-1998). In 1998 he became Gozo's first ever Policy Co-ordinator and E.U. Office Co-ordinator at the Ministry of Gozo serving a three-year term till 2001. Between 2001-2005 he served Malta as Counsellor at the Malta High Commission in London, in the United Kingdom.

In 2002, Raymond Xerri was admitted to the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia becoming the first student from Malta ever to graduate in Diaspora Studies from any university in the world and the first student of Gozitan or Maltese extract to graduate at doctoral level at the same university. In 2015 Dr Xerri was responsible for organising the IV Convention for Maltese Living Abroad.

Between July 2013 and February 2016 he represented the Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) as one of the Vice-Presidents on the Board of *The European Throughout The World* (E.T.T.W.) in Brussels, Belgium and in February 2016 became the eight President of ETTW – Europe's largest non-government organisation represented over 350 million European world-wide.

Dr Raymond Xerri has addressed, chaired and mentored many local, national, continental, regional and international conferences, seminars and gatherings related to politics, diplomacy, international relations, the environment and particularly in the area of Diaspora studies. He is an author, editor and producer of a number of publications, multimedia and multilingual productions.

He is also a founder, co-founder and active member of a number of Gozitan, Maltese and internationally based organisations. Dr Xerri was the main organizer of twenty-eight editions of the Gozo International Celebration



## High Commissioner for Malta visits Victoria

11-15 March 2019.

The High Commissioner visited the Consulate General of Malta in Melbourne and met our new Consul General Mario Farrugia Borg and renewed acquaintances with members of the consular staff in Melbourne.



**1L-R Andrew Gatt, MCCV Secretary, Fr. Edwin Agius MSSP, Antoinette Ciantar MCCV Treasurer, Marlene Ebejer MCCV President, High Commissioner Charles Muscat, Antonia Camilleri MCCV Assistant Secretary, Mario Farrugia Borg, Malta Consul General and Victor B**

The High Commissioner and Consul General Farrugia Borg were also interviewed by Mr. Joe Axiaq, of the SBS Maltese Broadcast in Australia, which was aired nationally on Maltese radio on Tuesday and Friday.

Accompanied by Consul General Farrugia Borg, the High Commissioner visited the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville where he met the new President, Ms. Marlene Ebejer, and the other newly appointed members of the executive committee of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV). Assurances were exchanged of continued cooperation and collaboration between Malta's Mission in Australia and the MCCV.

On his 3<sup>rd</sup> day, the High Commissioner, accompanied by Consul General Farrugia Borg, visited the Maltese Community in La Trobe Valley, Morwell, led by Honorary Consul for Malta, Mr. Mario Sammut. Present at the reception were Mr. Russell North, Local Member of Parliament, Melina Bath, State Member of Parliament, Councillor Dale Herryman, representing the Mayor, Mr. Laurie Patton, representing the La Trobe Valley Authority, and Dr. Christian Lee, Chairperson Gippsland Ethnic Council.

Former Federal Member of Parliament, Mr. Robert Sercombe, introduced the High Commissioner to the Hon. Richard Wynne MP, Minister for Multicultural Affairs. The High Commissioner mentioned and aired his concerns over Census reports that showed a decline in the number of Malta born people living in Australia and the possible adverse effect that this information would have in the allocation of local services to the Maltese as an ethnic group, i.e. Maltese language being taught in public schools to preserve and promote the language in Australia, translation services for non-English speaking Maltese in Australia, access to federal, state and non-government grants awarded to ethnic groups and how it is affecting the Maltese programmes on SBS and other ethnic media. The High Commissioner brought to the attention of the Minister other issues relating to the Maltese diaspora. The Minister and his Secretary have taken note.

The High Commissioner also visited with Consul General Mario Farrugia Borg, the Maltese Cultural Centre of Victoria in Albion, where he was welcomed warmly by the President, Mr. Peter Paul Portelli and other members. The local Ghanejja group performed a number of Ghana (spirtu pront) and the Malta

Own Philharmonic Band performed the Maltese and Australian National Anthem. The lacemakers gave an excellent show of their work on the trajbu and pillows. It was an excellent cultural show and welcoming reception in honor of the High Commissioner and Consul General Mario Farrugia Borg.

This visit demonstrated the High Commissioner's sincere desire to assure the different Maltese Communities in Victoria of his unequivocal support and to encourage them unite as one people with common interests and goals.



Left Right (L-R) High Commissioner Charles Muscat, Consul General Mario Farrugia Borg and Mr. Peter Paul Portelli - Photo Left Mr. Mario Sammut, High Commissioner Muscat & Consul General Mario Farrugia Borg

*The Journal of the  
Maltese Diaspora*



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## THE MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS NEED YOUR HELP PLEASE, SIGN THE FOLLOWING PETITION

**To: Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority; NSW Education Standards Authority; South Australian Certificate of Education, Board of South Australia**

### Petition to save the Maltese language course across Australia for High School students

This petition is a collaborative effort of:



Please sign the petition at: <https://www.communityrun.org/p/maltese-language-australia>  
Petition closes midnight Sunday 31st March 2019

### Petition to defer the loss of the VCE for the Maltese Language (including HSC & SACE)

Campaign created by Charmaine Cassar

The Australian Maltese Community, support the Federation of Maltese Language Schools Inc (Australia) in the following appeal:

1. That the VCAA, NESA and the SACE Board of SA defer the loss of the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) accreditation for the Maltese language by 12 months to allow the Maltese community to rally to increase student enrolments.
2. That because of the low intake of students, the VCAA, NESA and SACE Board of SA allow both high school and adult students from other Australian states and territories to attend classes by correspondence and/or directly in order to sit for

the Maltese VCE, HSC or SACE irrespective of their state or territory residence.

**Why is this important?** The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) has informed the Maltese Australian community that the Collaborative Curriculum and Assessment Framework for Languages (CCAFL) National Reference Group has identified the Year 11 and Year 12 Maltese Continuers Course at risk of suspension due to its very small candidature in 2017. Should the final candidature in Maltese in 2018 and 2019 also fall below 15 students nationally, Maltese will be suspended following the 2021 examination. Therefore, Maltese would not be offered as a language subject in January 2022.

Our Maltese language in Australia is at risk of being suspended from the VCE. Please sign this online petition and share with your friends and families to help us keep the Maltese language course as a Board of Studies recognised course in Australia. If the Maltese VCE falls, so does the Maltese HSC and SACE, affecting NSW and SA.

**How it will be delivered** This online petition is made on behalf of Akkademja Maltija ta' NSW Inc. in collaboration with the Maltese-Australians' Youth Committee NSW (MAYC) in support of the Federation of Maltese Language Schools Inc (Australia). We need as many signatures as we can get by midnight Sunday 31st March 2019. We will then send the signatures off to whom we are petitioning.

**To sign visit website:** <https://www.communityrun.org/petitions/petition-to-defer-the-loss-of-the-vce-for-the-maltese-language-including-hsc-sace>

## Quarterly Catholic Breakfast NSW

"The Quarterly Catholic Breakfast was held on Monday the 25th March 2019 at Parliament House, Sydney commencing at 8:00 am and was well-attended as is usually the case and on this occasion, with Peter Gates attending from the Plenary Council 2020 as the Guest Speaker" said Paul Zammit the Founder and Convenor of the CBG. Paul Zammit added: "The 10 person Executive Steering Committee and I were very pleased to welcome Lawrence Buhagiar, the Consul-General for Malta in NSW as our Guest of Honour and also very pleased to see that a substantial number of Australian-Maltese attending who helped make it a memorable occasion indeed". "Our next Catholic Breakfast is scheduled for the 2nd week of June 2019 and I ask that anyone who might be interested in joining us to please contact me directly on: [paulz@zamsal.com.au](mailto:paulz@zamsal.com.au) or on Office: 02 9223 4300 or on my Mobile on 0419 444 135" said Mr. Zammit.

### Attendees:

Syd Borg FAICD...Chairman of the Australian-Maltese Chamber of Commerce and Managing Director of PCSA Australia.

Paul Micallef...Director of Australis Facility Management.

Nancy Serg-Borg OAM...Executive Steering Committee member.

Rita Zammit...OAM...Executive Steering welcoming Committee.

Paul Zammit FAICD...Convenor of the Executive Steering Committee.

Lawrence Buhagiar...Guest of Honour and Consul General for Malta in NSW.

Peter Gates...Plenary Council 2020.

Lucie Farrugia...The Christian Brothers High School, Lewisham.

Jeremy Sammut...Director Centre for Independent Studies

Tony Di Stefano...Director Australis Facility Management.

Prof Steve Gatt



## Faith leaders and MPs celebrate shared value in annual gathering

*NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian addresses the Parliamentary Interfaith Breakfast (Twitter/ACUMedia)*

Almost 200 guests attended this celebration late last year, including more than 70 faith leaders and 40 parliamentarians. More than 20 faiths were represented, including various Christian groups, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh and other communities – to celebrate shared values.

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Opposition Leader each provided a welcome and the leaders of five different faiths delivered readings on leadership, service and community harmony, and prayed for wise deliberations and good governance.

Ms Berejiklian told the gathering that they were fortunate to be in Australia and that this type of interfaith gathering would not happen in many parts of the world. She praised Australians' shared values of diversity and inclusion. "Religion should always be a legitimate voice as a source of values within public life and within public affairs," Mr Foley said.

"I think of what is so often challenged today in our country and throughout the West is the embodiment in public policy of values that derive from religious teaching and religious authority. It's that that is under constant challenge and attack."



## 'Great sense of pride': Armenian community celebrates Gladys Berejiklian's NSW election win

*Gladys Berejiklian with her parents and two sisters, bottom right, She grew up only speaking Armenian at home. She could not speak a word of English*

SYDNEY: The Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANC-AU) has congratulated Armenian-Australian Gladys Berejiklian on becoming the first elected female Premier of Australia's largest state of New South Wales. While it is yet unclear whether she will win with a majority or minority government, the Leader of the Opposition Michael Daley has conceded defeat, and Berejiklian has accepted victory.

A gracious Berejiklian thanked many in her speech, reserving special praise for the people of New South Wales: "No

matter your background or where you live, you can be the Premier of New South Wales - a state where someone with a long surname and a woman can be the Premier."

Berejiklian's victory has ensured she also makes history as the first leader of the Liberal (LIB) and National (NAT) Coalition to lead her political party to a third consecutive term in office.

"This is a historic day for Armenian-Australians and for the global



NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian with her family after her victory speech

Armenian community, as Ms Berejiklian continues to be the most powerful Armenian woman in world politics; this time being elected in her own right to lead the executive branch of a government that runs a state of 7 million people - the largest state of a G20 nation," said ANC-AU Executive Director, Haig Kayserian. "The Armenian community of New South Wales is filled with joy, as support for Ms Berejiklian extends beyond party politics - the opportunity for an Armenian-Australian, for 'Our Gladys' to be elected was too big not to get completely behind," Kayserian added.

**This journal is archived at the  
Malta Migration Museum Valletta, Maltese-Canadian Archives  
Gozo National Library and website: [www.ozmalta.com](http://www.ozmalta.com)**

**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER - The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora**

**We have readers from Malta, Gozo, United Kingdom,  
Canada, Australia (all States), USA, Italy, Spain,  
Greece, Albania, Kenya, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Israel**





# Frenċ tal-Għarb



Francis Xavier Mercieca ( 3 December 1892 – 19 May 1967), more commonly known as Frenċ tal-Għarb, was a farmer and faith healer from the village of Għarb in Gozo, Malta. He was an apostle of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu.

**Early life** - Frenċ tal-Għarb was born on 3 December 1892. He was one of twelve children born to Salvu Mercieca and Beneditta née Mercieca. Like most other families in Gozo, Mercieca's family had also a nickname; they were known as "Tas-Sajf", literally meaning "Of Summer".

From an early age Frenċ had to work in the fields of his family. His primary education came to a halt at the age of twelve years because, as he stated his father required his services in the fields from dusk till dawn.[2]

In 1917, his father died at the age of 75. Some members of Frenċ's family emigrated, whilst others got married.

Frenċ was influenced by the kind-hearted and pious character of his mother Beneditta. During the years of World War I (1914–1918), she would often share her crops with other villagers, thus alleviating the problems of famine in other families. The kind-heartedness of Frenċ's family is also shown by the fact that they accommodated in their household two priests: Rev. Can Paul Custo`[3] and Rev. Nazju Axiak. The latter lived with the family from 1920 till his death in 1947.

**Adulthood** - One of the fourteen stations of 'The way of the cross' on the Ta' Ghammar hill

Frenċ, who remained a bachelor throughout his life, was an active member of the Catholic Action movement which had a presence in his village. He had a great devotion towards the Blessed Virgin Of Ta' Pinu and towards the Holy Eucharist.

Frenċ used to take part in village theatrical productions, better known as "teatrin". His part, very often, was that of a clown. People used to flock to the village hall to watch Frenċ.

Frenċ spent most of his life working in the fields. When he returned home, he used to find a lot of people, coming all walks of life, waiting for him. They would seek his counsel and were eager to listen to his advice and to elicit from him prayers for their needs.

Frenċ combined his old knowledge in old medicinal herbs, his prayers and his faith in Our Lady for his cures, and his reputation spread rapidly throughout the entire Maltese Islands and even abroad.

Very often he would anticipate the questions that people were going to pose to him. He even disclosed to some of his visitors incidents from their own past, especially their past wrongdoings. A reprimand and a call for repentance would normally follow. In some cases he even is said to have foretold the future.

**Frenċ in Court** - Frenċ, who never studied medicine and never worked in a medical environment, was considered by many inhabitants of the Maltese Islands as a healer of body and soul.[9] On 6 August 1966, Frenċ was interviewed by the late Charles Arrigo on Malta's cable radio system which was then run by Rediffusion. In this interview Frenċ stated, that certain members of the medical profession were skeptical of what he was doing. He was even taken to court where, on 11 June 1938, he was charged with unauthorized medical practice. Although found guilty, he was not fined anything, due to his clean conduct.[10] This incident did not stop the public from continuing to visit Frenċ, who under constant police surveillance refused to accept any visitors.

**A Loophole** - Someone informed Frenċ about a loophole in the law: he could see people who were accompanied by a medical certificate, indicating, amongst other things, what treatment was required from him; e.g. massage of the feet. Eventually the medical profession and the law decided to let Frenċ continue with his practice, even without the need of a medical certificate. He never accepted any money from his visitors; all donations were passed over to **Ta' Pinu Sanctuary**. One of his last wishes was that a small hill in front of the church be adorned with statues denoting the fourteen stations of the cross. The wish came true and now a day both the church and the stations are visited by thousands of pilgrims each year.

Frenċ died on 19 May 1967 in the same house that he was born in.



People today still go to the village of Għarb and visit the house where Frenċ lived. His house has been converted into a historical and folklore Museum.

#### **Monument to Frenċ tal-Għarb**

On August 29 of 2003, the late President Guido de Marco unveiled a monument to Frenċ tal-Għarb. A number of poems were read by Jonathan Mintoff, Noel Fabri and Lorna Cassar, together with musical pieces by the Mosta Scout Group, a talk on Frenċ's life by historian Rev. Dr Joseph Bezzina and some testimonial to a cure through the intercession of Frenċ tal-Għarb. The life-size monument, by the Gozitan sculptor Alfred Camilleri Cauchi, was cast in bronze at the Bonvicini brothers' foundry in Verona, Italy. The monument was blessed by the local archpriest, Mgr Carmelo Gauci. Għarb mayor David Apap, Fr Bezzina and former President de Marco made speeches for the occasion.



#### **Press Release**

### **Call for Actor Unique opportunity to participate in Good Friday re-enactment show **LIVE MA' ĠESU'** – Good Friday 2020**

Louie' Noir has been established for these last past years, and during these years it organized several modelling competitions and drama productions including shows, musicals, comic drama, and also Good Friday pageants.

In all its productions, Louie' Noir always searched for modern innovation so that all families will benefit from such unique talented shows including talents like ballet, hip hop, break dancers, real animals, fire jugglers, stilt walkers and more. Furthermore, Louie' Noir has always given opportunity to new faces and local talents.

This time round, Louie' Noir is giving the opportunity for all those interested to participate in the Good Friday procession in a unique and different way.

This opportunity is being given to all those interested to participate and act in a Good Friday re-enactment show for the coming year 2020 at Montekristo.

For this show, Louie' Noir is looking for a good number of persons interested to participate. Ages should be from sixteen years and over. No acting experience needed.

All those interested kindly contact Louie' Noir on 7946 7258 or email [louienoir@hotmail.com](mailto:louienoir@hotmail.com)

A meeting with further information will be held for all those who will apply for this unique opportunity.



## Hamalli or pepe? Funny Maltese stereotypes

*Meet Malta's favourite stereotypes, at polar opposite ends of each other.*

Melanie Drury 23rd March 2019



**Maltese Hamallu - Maltese Delinquent - by Wayne Grech (Behance.net)**

Believe it or not, within an island of just 316 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of just 460,000 or so, there are still some classic stereotypes. While Britain may have its snobs and its slobs, Malta has its *tal-pepé* and its *hamalli*. Amusingly, both are used as derogatory terms by the other section.

**What defines a *pepé*?** *Tal-pepé* people could have been pulled out of the TV series *Keeping up appearances*, though often somewhat less

refined. Possessing inherited wealth but lacking real class, they tend to have cushy lifestyles, work in a family business and have a strong need to be seen in the 'right' places and demonstrate social status. They will go through a great deal of effort to look good and would go to great lengths to wear only branded clothes.

In a bid to be better than their 'friends', gossiping is a favourite past-time (though that's erm, a generally Maltese trait). They also tend to look down on all things 'typically Maltese', including local traditions, mannerisms and even the language. While regarding themselves as English-speaking, they tend to weave Maltese into the English language as they speak and make wide use of Malteseisms (improper English language structure resembling word-for-word translated Maltese). All rather amusing and quite harmless, really.

**What defines a *hamallu/a*?** On the other hand, the *hamallu* stereotype has its very own, very popular online cartoon character, the well-loved Frans i/-*Hamallu*. This YouTube clip has amassed almost 135,000 views - since it's in Maltese, it's safe to say that's 30 per cent of the Maltese population! Frans appears in many satirical clips, but what's great about him is he really fits the *hamallu* bill: uncouth, to say the least. Good manners, refinement and grace are not *hamallu* traits. Rather, be prepared for swear words decorating every sentence.

He may be unemployed, hanging out with his bird Joey in a cage under his arm. But he's out driving a car with spoilers, wider wheels and a sound system capable of hosting an outdoor event. As a nouveau riche, the *hamallu* will display his wealth in heavy gold on his hands and hairy chest. A *hamalla* - the female version - will match tacky jewellery with revealing clothes when mistaking vulgar for sexy. She will also tend to be very crass. Generally kind at heart, some *hamalli* may demonstrate a my-way-or-no-way intimidating attitude.

*Of course, while some people actually do fit these bills to some degree or another, most Maltese people don't. Most Maltese people would rather not have either of these tags, although some actually take pride in their pepé or hamallu status. And everyone knows at least one hamallu and one pepé person, whom they will equally love. So what do you think, have you met any hamalli or tal-pepé people in Malta?*



*Written by*  
Melanie Drury

Melanie was born and raised in Malta and has spent a large chunk of her life travelling solo around the world. Back on the island with a new outlook, she realised just how much wealth her little island home possesses.

<https://www.guidememalta.com>



## He died, but a miracle saved his life

**FIFTY - EIGHT - YEAR - OLD** "miracle" man Charles Borg lifted himself slowly out of his bed and walked smiling through the ward at South Sydney Hospital — exactly one month after he had died.

Maltese-born Charlie, who is the father of five children, admitted that he felt a bit stiff . . . "but apart from that I'm feeling on top of the world, which isn't bad considering that I returned from the dead."

Charlie made Australian medical history last May when his heart stopped before an emergency operation was about to be performed. Minutes previously he had been taken to South Sydney Hospital suffering from shocking internal injuries after a fork lift had crashed across his stomach in an industrial accident.

The doctors at the hospital hurriedly rushed the unconscious Borg into the operating theatre and prepared for an immediate operation, when suddenly his heart stopped beating. The surgeon in charge of the operation immediately made an incision in Borg's chest and started to massage his heart.

He kept up the massage for 90 seconds. **FOR 30 OF THOSE SECONDS BORG HAD BEEN DEAD.**

But the final miracle was yet to come. Although Borg had "returned" from the dead, his injuries still threatened to kill him within the next few minutes. Only a few seconds after the surgeon had pumped life into Borg he started on a major operation.

Soon five doctors were working desperately against time to pull Borg through the most critical part of the operation. Two hours later the oper-



**CHARLIE BORG . . . "I could feel death all round me," he said.**

## Charlie is back from the dead

ation was a success, and Borg was already on the road to recovery.

**A**LTHOUGH many cases of manual heart pumping have been recorded in Australia it's the first time in the country's history that a major life-saving operation has been performed immediately after life has been restored to the patient.

In fact, leading doctors at South Sydney Hospital say that the case could quite easily have set universal medical history.

But what of the hero himself, Charlie? He astounded doctors at the hospital when he hauled himself out of bed only a month after the operation, and walked freely without help through the ward.

"I could feel death all around me when the fork lift fell on me," said Charlie. "They had to use a crane to pull the lift off me. I was quite conscious, and felt as if I was dying.

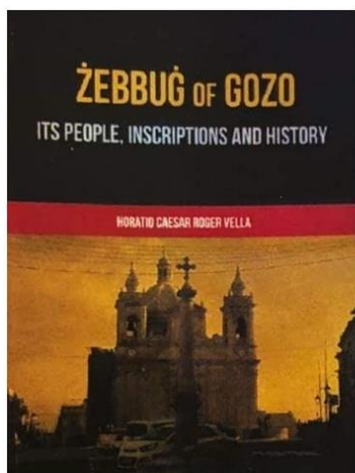
"But when I was being put into the ambulance I knew that I was going to live, no matter what happened."

### NEWS ARTICLE (late 1950s)

Dad made the news after he got crushed under a forklift at work. His heart gave away, he died at South Sydney Hospital. An open heart [surgeon] massaged his heart and Dad sort of came back alive. We were there for hours, me and my brother, not knowing what to tell Mum. Joseph Borg NSW

## Zebbug of Gozo – its people, inscriptions and history – book launch

Zebbug of Gozo – its people, inscriptions and history, is the title of a new book by Prof Horatio Caesar Roger Vella, which was launched yesterday.



The book launch was made during a soiree held at the Ministry for Gozo and organised by the Zebbug Local Council with the participation of Kor Regina Angelorum.

Professor Horatio Caesar Roger Vella is an Associate Professor in Latin and Greek at the University of Malta and was previously Senior Lecturer in Latin and Greek at the University of Zimbabwe. GOZO NEWS



## American artist works on display in Sliema

A solo exhibition by US

realist painter S. J. Fuerst opened yesterday at Lily Agius Gallery in Sliema.

Entitled Forest Fresh, the exhibition comprises 11 variously scaled oil paintings, along with sketches executed in the same medium on floppy discs.

Playing off the exhibition's title, which takes its name from one of the works in the show, the artist created a walk-through installation made up of 16 undecorated, artificial Christmas trees, along with an audio soundtrack of birdsong and pine scented air-fresheners.

*The exhibition runs at Lily Agius Gallery, at 54, Cathedral Street, Sliema, until April 20. Opening hours: Monday to Saturday from 10am to 1pm and from Tuesdays to Fridays between 3 and 6.30pm. For more information, visit [www.lilyagiusgallery.com](http://www.lilyagiusgallery.com).*

## Nostalgia in stamps





## Traditional Maltese Street Games of Old

*How did Maltese children play before the era of technology? Discover the traditional Maltese street games of bygone times.*

Melanie Drury

Today's children are typically an indoor generation that spends hours entertained by television, video games, ipads and other forms of technology at home, but not so long ago, children would come out into the streets and play.

The Maltese lifestyle was very different to what we know today. The community was more familiar, there was less crime and far less traffic, guaranteeing a safer environment for children to mingle and play in the streets. Most mothers didn't go to work, and the Maltese society was more cohesive - neighbours were like uncles and aunties to the neighbourhood children, who played together as brothers and sisters.

Toys were scarce, which only spurred creativity, as children developed games with the minimum means and lots of imagination. Some of these make-shift games grew popular and widespread, and the older generations will certainly remember them as traditional street games. Here are a few of the most popular ones.

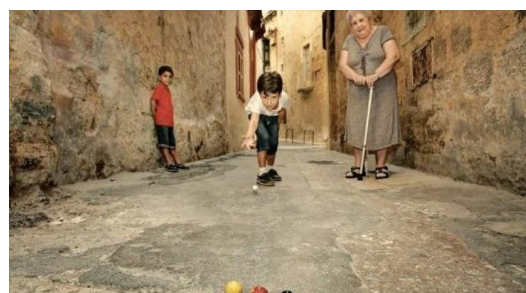


**Marbles (*il-bocci tal-hgieg*)** Various games could be played, where children would compete for beads dealt out by every individual player. The most



common game involves making a shallow depression in the ground (*hofra*) into which beads are flicked using the fingers. In some games the colours of the beads have different values.

**The scooter and cart (*il-karretta u l-iskuter*)** Like most pre-war toys, these were home made. A set of three or four metal ball-bearing wheels were needed for the cart. The rider controlled the steering block with slim ropes. The scooter used two or three wheels, was pushed by one foot which also pressed on a wooden, hinged flap over the hind wheels to act as a brake.



**Marbles (*il-bocci tal-hgieg*)**

Several varieties and forms of games are possible with marbles. Before the advent of glass marbles, children made do with



hazelnuts. Pre-war Codd-Stoppered ginger bottles had a plain glass marble as a stopper and children often broke bottles to get it out.

**The skipping rope (*il-qbiz tal-habel*)** Girls play with skipping ropes individually or in groups. In one popular game a girl calls out a series of possible attributes of an imaginary future husband as she skips and, when the rope hits her legs, she stops on the word assumed to predict the type of husband she would have.

## WISE PEOPLE TRY TO UNITE – COWARD PEOPLE TRY TO DIVIDE - LBJ



**Taz-Żiemel** Two boys play at **horse and rider**, one acting as the horse the other as the rider, exchanging roles at intervals. Children enjoyed making the reins

themselves, weaving odd, discarded coloured cotton-wool using pins on a wooden reel. Horse and rider couples often race each other.



**Hopscotch (il-passju)** The rough diagram with nine, numbered compartments scratched on the ground represents the nine months of pregnancy, with the ninth month section drawn with a bulge. Girls cast a stone from the starting point, hop towards it, totip it on to the next number. Completing the set results in 'having a baby'.



**The circle (ic-cirku)** Any hoop, of any size, free from spokes and **hubs**, used to be seen frequently trundled along the ground with

the help of a piece of wire bent at one end to guide the rim of the hoop. Boys usually played on their own but sometimes hoop races were organised for the extra thrill.



**Bżieżaq tas-Sapun Soap Bubbles** These provided a pastime for all ages. A good mixture of soap in water blown slowly through a short length of cane tube produced beautiful, colourful bubbles. Commoner than the cane is a page from an old exercise book rolled, taped and trimmed into a tube.



**The ragdoll**

**(il-pupa tac-carruta)** Mothers of most pre-war girls could not afford the luxury of buying **dolls** but made rag dolls from odd pieces of cloth and cotton-wool. Girls played 'mother' with rag dolls and

often recruited a boy to join them as the 'father' normally to be ignored, uninvolved or scolded.



**Spinning top (Żugraga)** To spin a wooden top children wound a string several times around it and learned to throw it sharply while holding on to the end of the string. This made the top spin for a short while. Humming tops could be readily bought but others were home-made from wood, hollowed out and started with a string.



## 5 of Malta's unsung heroes of World War II

During the Second World War, the fate of the Mediterranean depended on the beleaguered island of Malta – the most bombed place on earth at the time. To defend the islands and keep things running, an army of people was needed, many of whom went unnoticed. Here are five unsung World War II heroes that Malta is definitely grateful for.



**Peter Rothwell** Peter volunteered to join the Special Duties Flights of Wellington aircraft in Malta, reaching the island in early 1942. He flew Wellington bombers in Malta and took part in 38 sorties, all hazardous and nerve-wracking. One of his units was responsible for attacking an Italian merchant vessel, bombing and sinking it. *Wikipedia*



**Irene Condachi** One of the best kept secrets of World War II is that the island was being run on the work done by women; women just like Dr Irene Condachi. Irene was one of the few WWII female doctors on the island at the time. This incredible woman single-handedly inoculated and examined at least 20,000 schoolchildren under war conditions and without any means of transportation. She walked long distances from one government school to another to examine between 10,000 and 15,000 children a year, as well as prescribing an ointment for children with scabies. In later years, she was credited with eradicating this condition from government schools. *Simon Cusens*



**George Frederick "Buzz" Beurling** George Frederick "Buzz" Beurling was the most successful Canadian fighter pilot of the Second World War and served Malta greatly. Buzz was recognised as "Canada's most famous hero of Second World War", as "The Falcon of Malta" and the "Knight of Malta", having been credited with shooting down 27 axis aircraft in just 14 days over the besieged Mediterranean island. *World War II pictures / Facebook*



**Paul Meilak** In an interview with the U.S. Embassy, war veteran Paul Meilak describes what life was like during the war. He says that the worst three years for our islands were between 1940 and 1942. Around 35 ships were setting sail to Malta from Gibraltar, but only four of them entered Malta, including the Ohio – the ship that essentially saved our islands. Paul was stationed in Valletta at Fort St Elmo when he got the chance to board the ship, describing it as having its upper deck completely blown off. Paul's house was demolished at 4am during an air raid and his family were left with nothing. Fortunately, a priest had an empty house and offered it to them. *U.S. Embassy Valletta, Malta / Facebook*



**Mary Ellul** At least 10,000 women came forward and lent a helping hand as first aiders, air attack and anti-gas instructors, aid-detachment nurses and secretaries, among others. Mary Ellul was one of these women and was popularly known as 'Mary the Man', from Sliema – a true boss lady in the community. She was a woman with phenomenal strength, rescued people from under the rubble and was reputed for dealing with rowdy sailors by chucking them into the Sliema sea when she worked as a bouncer after the war. See? Boss. Lady. You wouldn't want to get on her bad side! *Simon Cusens*

*Written by Jillian Mallia* A book lover, writer and globetrotter who loves exploring new places and the local gems that the Maltese Islands have to offer. An avid foodie and arts fanatic, Jillian searches the island and beyond for the perfect settings to write about.



## Mass in Gozo to thank President at the end of her term

At Ghajnsielem's Dar Arka, a Mass was celebrated by Gozo Bishop Mario Grech as a token of God's thanks to President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca who is approaching the end of her mandate in the Presidency. In the words of the President, the Eucharist is a 'statement' that is strong enough to

reflect her heartfelt thoughts. She said the people of Gozo will remain firmly in her heart and she thanked Bishop Grech for all the help he had provided to her during her Presidency. The Bishop thanked the President because society had always had a great place in her heart and had used her term in office to give hope to many who had given up feeling hopeful.

## Avvizi mill-ghaqda Dilettanti Gimgha l-Kbira



Ghawdex, Ministeru ghal Ghawdex u Visit Gozo

L-Ghaqda Dilettanti Gimgha l-Kbira Ghawdex sejra torganizza ghat-tielet darba manifestazzjoni ta' tfal bl-isem **"HALLU T-TFAL JIGU GHANDI"**.

Din sejra tinzamm fil-11 ta' April 2019 fis-6.00pm. Din l-attivitá tikkonsisti f' manifestazzjoni (purcissjoni) bil-vari tal-Gimgha l-Kbira, liema vari gew mahduma f'minjatura sabiex is-sehem kollu jkun tat-tfal.

Il-manifestazzjoni tibda minn quddiem l-Iskola Primarja Sir Arturo Mercieca tar-Rabat, Ghawdex u tghaddi minn got-toroq tipici u pittoreski tal-parti qadima tar-Rabat, Ghawdex sakemm tispicca fi Pjazza San Gorg.

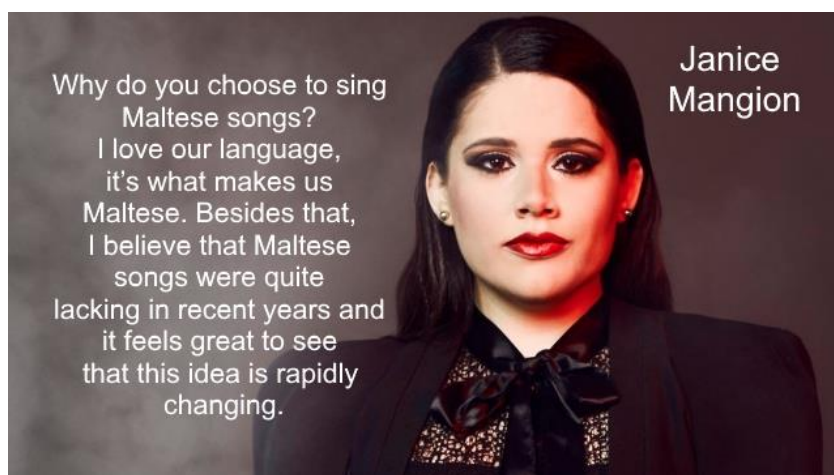
Din l-attivitá qed issir bil-kollaborazzjoni ta' l-Iskola Primarja Sir Arturo Mercieca tar-Rabat

. L-Ghaqda Dilettanti Gimgha l-Kbira Ghawdex sejra torganizza attivita' **INTITOLATA "TENEBRAE- REVIVING EASTER TRADITIONS"**. Din l-attivitá sejra ssir in

kollaborazzjoni mal-Ministeru ghal Ghawdex, Visit Gozo u Chorus Urabnus. L-attivitá tibda bil-Funzjoni ta' Tniebri (Lejla ta' Dlamijiet) li ser issir fil-Knisja ta' Savina, Victoria, Ghawdex fis-17 a' April 2019 fis-7.30p.m. Din tikkonsisti fil-funzjoni tradizzjonali li kienet issir nhar l-Erbgha tal-Gimgha Mqaddsa. Issegwi imbaghad purcissjoni tradizzjonali hekk kif kienet issir fl-antik. Din il-purcissjoni ser tghaddi mit-toroq l-antiki tal-Belt Victoria, Ghawdex u tispicca fi Pjazza Indipendenza.

Fi Pjazza Indipendenza sejra issegwi l-Ikla ta' l-Ghid bir-rit tal-Liturgija Lhudija. F' din l-ikla l-udjenza li ser ikollha l-opportunitá li tiehu sehem flimkien ma' l-atturi. Din l-attivitá hija minghajr hlas.





## The History of an Identity

Ben Robertson

The Maltese language has origins starting in the 12th century and is unique for its roots in Arabic, despite using the Latin script. Arabic words were

fused by loan additions from Sicilian, Italian and British vocabularies as various groups came to Malta for work or to rule its strategic position in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea.

Despite pressures from all three **the Maltese language survived throughout foreign rule.** Indeed today the language is still used as the mother tongue of 94 percent of Maltese people. That statistic may sound staggering to a Eurovision Song Contest fan. No Eurovision entry has been in Maltese since 1972, despite 27 attempts in the meantime. More staggering is that **no song written in Maltese has been performed in the Maltese National Final since 1993.** Even then the entries were submitted with an English version to head to the international festival, relegating the native language to second place in the pecking order.

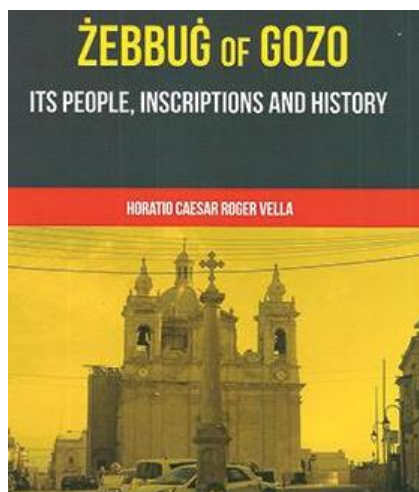
While a handful of songs over time since have been submitted in Maltese, none have made it past the first round. The reputation of the Maltese language in the Song Contest is so low that, according to Maltese broadcaster PBS, a song in Maltese 'hasn't been submitted for years' before 'Kewkba' showed up.

To find out more about why this has happened I spoke to Ray Fabri, the President of the National Council for the Maltese Language. In his role he works to promote the use of Maltese more across the island. Much of the focus is to demonstrate the use of Maltese as a written language by providing signage for hospitals and airports. Maltese's problem is that although it is a spoken language by the vast majority of citizens, almost all would instinctively switch to English for anything written, even to family members. Writing in Maltese is a particular challenge with colloquial speech often dropping in non-native English and Italian-isms as well as the lack of a computerised spell checker to help.

One would expect the growing globalisation and the widespread use of English would be weakening Maltese further. This isn't just pop culture, but also practicality. University exams for example often need to be in English to accommodate many foreign students, and in reality a population of less than 500,000 cannot produce enough material in different topics to match demand.

Fabri though believes his work with the Maltese language is in the midst of a 'mini-revival', and much of this increase is from young people. While most languages are struggling for momentum Maltese is packed with it. 'Language is an important part of our identity' as Ray says, and certainly the Eurovision stage would suggest that their use of English now defines Malta less. Back in the 90s, Malta's most successful period in the Song Contest, Malta was unique for singing in English, as one of three countries with that privilege before the language rule was lifted. **Malta is no longer special for using the**

## ZEBBUG OF GOZO \_ Horatio C.R. Vella



**Jikteb il-Kav. Joe M Attard Victoria Gozo**

Nhar il-Ġimgħa fil-ghaxija, 22 ta' Marzu 2019, Il-Professur u Studjuż Malti I-Kav. Horatio C.R. Vella, residenti fiż-Żebbuġ t'Għawdex ippreżenta lill-istudjużi u lill-pubbliku nġenerali, fil-Ministeru t'Għawdex, ix-xogħol voluminuż tiegħu 'Żebbuġ of Gozo: Its People, Inscriptions and History', xogħol mill-iktar monumentali li jittratta l-istorja ta' dan ir-raħal fuqani sa mill-bidu tal-Pre-istorja tiegħu sal-ġurnata tal-lum. Dan kollu huwa riżultat tal-interess u tal-imħabba li nibbtu f'moħħ l-awtur madwar għaxar snin ilu meta l-kittieb kien iddeċieda li jitlaq minn Malta u jissettja f'daqsejn ta' appartement fi Triq Għajn Mhelhel iż-Żebbuġ fi triqtek lejn ix-Xwejna f'Marsalforn. Din il-pubblikazzjoni tiġbor fiha l-ingredjenti kollha li jistgħu jaħbtu ma' moħħok meta tiġi biex tifli lil dan ir-raħal u fiha nsibu miġbur tagħrif interessanti u dettaljat dwar il-Ġeoloġija, l-Arkeoloġija, il-Ġeografija, il-Lingwistika (b'rabta speċjali

mat-Toponomija) Letteratura, il-Kultura, l-Istorja, il-Loġistika kif ukoll l-istorja Ekklesjastika taż-Żebbuġ. F'kelma waħda nistgħu ngħidu li dan l-iskular għadu kemm tana f'idejna Enċiklopedia sħiħa u dettaljata li ma tħalli xejn barra dwar dan ir-raħal tal-Assunta. Bħala studjuż klassiku Profs Vella huwa f'qagħda mill-aqwa li jagħtina traduzzjoni fidila tal-iskrizzjonijiet kollha f'dan ir-raħal; fil-fatt dan jagħmlu f'wieħed mill-kapitli tal-ktieb tiegħu; skrizzjonijiet li fil-parti l-kbira tagħhom huma miktuba u mnaqqxa bl-ilsien klassiku l-Latin flimkien ma' oħrajn miktuba bl-Isien Malti. Il-ktieb huwa mitbugħ bl-Ingliz u allura l-qarrej b'heffa jista' jaqra dak li nkiteb mijiet ta' snin ilu bla ebda diffikulta.

Il-Ġeneoloġija hija xjenza li illum il-ġurnata ġibdet l-interess u l-attenzjoni b'mod speċjali ta' dawk il-Maltin u l-Għawdxin li issa ġew lura minn pajjiżi mbiegħda fejn għexu għal żmien twil u issa jinsabu lura fostna. Ħafna drabi dawn jirrikorru għand il-Kappillan tar-raħal jitolbu tagħrif dwar il-familjari u l-antenati tagħhom; hawnhekk kif tistgħu timmaġinaw tidhol il-family tree. Profs Vella ħadem fuq mijiet minn dawn il-każi u billi l-istudjuż innifsu huwa mnissel mill-familja 'Manueli', familja b'rabtiet mill-qrib ta' Għawdex u taż-Żebbuġ, allura l-Prof bla dubju ħass ċertu nteress u kurżita' fil-Ġeneoloġija tal-Għawdxin li għexu bejn s-snin 1405 u l-1935. Permezz ta' dawn il-family trees Dr Vella rnexxielu jsib tagħrif siewi dwar saċerdoti miż-Żebbuġ u persuni li jiġu minn xulxin li għexu f'dan ir-raħal. B'dan it-tiftix kollu setgħet tinbena l-istorja taż-Żebbuġ magħmula minn irġiel nisa u tfa' u l-kleru matul dawn is-snin kollha. Dan il-ktieb voluminuż fuq medda ta' 624 paġna mhuwiex xi gwida għall-membri tal-Kleru jew għal nies ta' ċerta klassi fis-soċjeta', imma huwa għal kuntrarju l-istorja sħiħa ta-raħal li jista' u għandu jiehu gost jaqraha kulhadd. Profs Vella f'din il-pubblikazzjoni juża għaqlu kollu u jagħmel ħiltu kollha biex jitfa' dawl u tagħrif dwar il-magħmudija, iż-żwieġ, u d-difna ta' tant Żebbuġin li jissemmew fil-ktieb tiegħu. Profs Vella ħafna jafuh bħala Storiku u Riċerkatur tal-Istorja Ekklesjastika apparti t-tiftix li għamel f'ħafna Arkivji mxerdda mal-Ewropa kollha u dan jixhduh il-ħafna referenzi u endnotes li nsibu mxerdda mal-pubblikazzjoni li għadu kemm tana f'idejna. Ma naqasx li jfli sewwa l-ktieb ta' Monsinjur Andrea Vella Iż-Żebbuġ u l-Ġrajja Tiegħu kif ukoll Iż-Żebbuġ: Ir-Raħal ta' Santa Marija ta' Dun Guzepp Vella.

Horatio C.R. Vella huwa persunaġġ li ż-Żebbuġ kollu għandu għax iħossu kburi bih fi ħdanu għax b'din il-pubblikazzjoni huwa qed kompli jqiegħed fuq il-mappa tagħna lil dan ir-raħal ħelu u arjuż fejn niesna għadek issibha tiġħabat mal-maħluġ (ara poezija ta' Anton Buttigieg) u tbakkar għall-quddies tal-5.15am u fejn ir-raba' għadu jinħadem u ż-żiffa tinħass riefnu u fejn d-dehriet tal-Fanal tal-Ġurdan fuq naħa u dawk tal-Qolla s-Safra fuq l-oħra jsaħħru lil dawk kollha li jħobbu jitpaxxew bil-kampanja Għawdxija.

Kif aċċennajt iktar 'l fuq, din il-preżentazzjoni saret waqt serata ħelwa fis-Sala tal-Wirjiet fi Pjazza San Franġisk Victoria taħt il-Preidenza tal-Ministru għal Għawdex u bis-sehem tal-kor parrokkjali tal-Knisja taż-Żebbuġ 'Santa Marija' taħt it-tmexxija ta' Mrs Maria Cefai u Mro Franco Cefai fuq l-orgni. Tkellem ukoll l-ex Arċipriet taż-Żebbuġ l-Kan Dun Reuben Micallef li matul il-Parrokat tiegħu dan il-Professur tal-Ilsna Klassiċi għamel ir-riċerka fit-tul tiegħu, kif ukoll is-Sur George Frans Vella u s-Sur Karm Serracino, dawn it-tnejn ex studenti ta' Profs Vella. Ma naqsux ukoll diskorsi tal-okkażjoni mis-Sindku tar-raħal u mill-Ministru għal Għawdex.

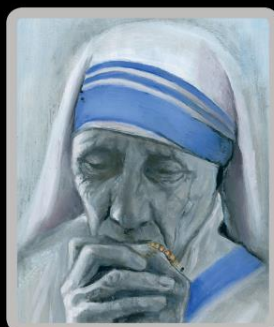




# GENERATIONS

## *Padre e Figlia*

### The Caffarorores



**Art Exhibition**  
29 March - 12 April 2019  
Il-Ħaġar Museum, Victoria, Gozo

[www.heartofgozo.org.mt](http://www.heartofgozo.org.mt)

## Caffaro Rore Exhibition @ Il-Ħaġar

"Generations – *Padre e Figlia*" is an exhibition showing a range of artworks by Mario Caffaro Rore and his daughter Adriana at Il-Ħaġar (in Victoria's Pjazza San Ġorġ). Gozo Minister Dr Justyne Caruana will be officially inaugurating it on Friday 29 March @ 6.45pm.

These exhibits can be viewed till 12 April. Normal opening hours are 9am to 5pm seven days a week. There is no entrance fee.

Il-Ħaġar jospita Wirja ta' Caffaro Rore

"Generations – *Padre e Figlia*" hi wirja ta' xogħolijiet tal-arti ta' Mario Caffaro Rore u bintu Adriana fil-mużew Il-Ħaġar (Pjazza San Ġorġ, Victoria). Il-Ministru Dr Justyne Caruana se tiftaħha formalment nhar il-Ġimgħa 29 ta' Marzu fis-6.45pm.

Dawn l-esibiti tistgħu żżuruhom sat-12 t'April. Il-ħinijiet normali tal-ftuħ huma mid-9am sal-5pm, sebat ijiem fil-ġimgħa. M'hemmx ħlas għad-dħul.



also ordained on March 22, 1969.

**Golden ordination**  
**Thanksgiving Mass** was celebrated at St John's Co-Cathedral, in Valletta, on Sunday 24 March 2019 marking 50 years from the ordination of Archbishop Emeritus Paul Cremona. The concelebration was led by Mgr George Frendo, Archbishop of Tirana, who was



Fuq fomm l-Għawdxin hemm kliem li Malta ma jingħadx bħal *trampi, bankuncċini u oħrajn*. Hemm imbagħad kliem li jingħad fiż-żewġ gzejjer, iżda b'tifsira differenti. Li ġejjin huma *ħames kelmiet li fil-gżira tat-tliet għoljiet għandhom sens ieħor*.

## GEJXA

*MALTA Libsa ħafifa ta' ġewwa li n-nisa jilbsuha meta joqogħdu d-dar jew meta jkunu lebsin pulit u jkunu jridu jnaddfu jew jaħslu xi haġa biex ma jiċċappsux*

*In-nanna tħobb toqgħod bil-gejxa*

*GĦAWDEX Band tax-xagħar li tintlibes biex iżzejjien ix-xagħar jew biex ix-xagħar ma jiġix fuq il-wiċċ Qed jilgħab mat-tifla tal-gejxa roża*

## AŻŻMU

*MALTA Tintuża għall-ħobż bla ħmira, ħobż azzmu, u għal min ikun aħrax, żorr, imqit*

*Dak bniedem azzmu, jimbuttak*

*GĦAWDEX Min ikun xortih tajba, fortunat, l-aktar min jagħmel xi haġa bl-addoċ u jgħibha żewġ Kemm hu azzmu tefgħu ħażin u skorja Hemm anki l-verb, azzma, għal min tiġih tajba minkejja kollox Konna tard u xorta lħaqnieh il-vapur; azzmajnieha llum*

## IFENDI

*MALTA Dan il-verb għandu ħafna tifsiriet. Tlieta mill-aktar komuni: 1. Titkellem, tgħid tiegħek Ilek tpaċpaċ, ħallini nfendi waħda 2. Tkampa waħdek, taħseb għal rasek Irid jitgħallem ifendi għal rasu 3. Tiekol kemm tiflaħ, tiffanga Aqliblu l-ikel u erħilu jfendi*

*GĦAWDEX Żiffa, kurrent ta' arja friska f'kamra jew fi spazju magħluq*

*Iftaħ it-tieqa tal-gallerija ħalli jfendi Xi wħud jgħidu jinvesti f'dan is-sens, riħ jinvesti*

## KUDA

*MALTA Il-mant twil tal-libsa tal-għarusa Iċ-Ċina għamlu libsa tat-tieġ b'kuda twila kwazi tliet mili*

*GĦAWDEX Qagħqa tax-xagħar; meta tiġbru toppu u ddawru qagħqa tond fuq rasek*

*Kif qed insemmu x-xagħar, kont taf li Għawdex flok naqta' xagħri u naħsel xagħri jgħidu naqta' x-xagħar u naħsel ix-xagħar?*

## ĊOMBIN

*MALTA Injama żgħira li magħha tinżamm il-ħjata li biha tinħadem il-bizzilla; maqbad biex tinħadem il-bizzilla li jservi wkoll ta' piż għall-ħjata biex tinżamm stirata*

*Dari ċ-ċombini ġieli kienu jkunu tal-għadam u saħansitra tal-ħgieġ*

*GĦAWDEX Apparti għodda għall-ħjata tal-bizzilla, Għawdex tfisser ukoll labra tal-inxir*

*FI-antik il-labar tal-inxir kienu jkunu qishom ċombini, u f'xi rħula Maltin, bħal Ħal Safi, hekk kienu jsibuhom ukoll*

*Kelma Għawdxija mill-qasam tal-inxir hi perċa, il-ħabel tal-inxir, għax meta tonxor il-ħwejjeg, tperriċhom tkun qiegħed. U s-Siġġiewi, Għawdex ta' MALTA, jonxru fil-manxar jew fil-manxra*



## The Maltese sailors-pirates who saved Garibaldi

Noel Grima

It had long been known that among those who fought along with Giuseppe Garibaldi when the “hero of two worlds” was fighting a liberation battle in Brazil there were two Maltese sailors. But so far, their name was not known. Now, thanks to painstaking research, their names have emerged. They are Louis Galea and Giovanni Battista Caruana.

A book launch was held at the Istituto Italiano di launching Abraham Garibaldi’s Maltese (Midsea Books).

A mature Garibaldi had come to Malta for a tumultuous two days on 23 and 24 March 1864 before going on to London. But many years before that, Garibaldi had gone to Brazil and among his crew he included the two Maltese.

It is uncertain how they found him and got taken on by him.

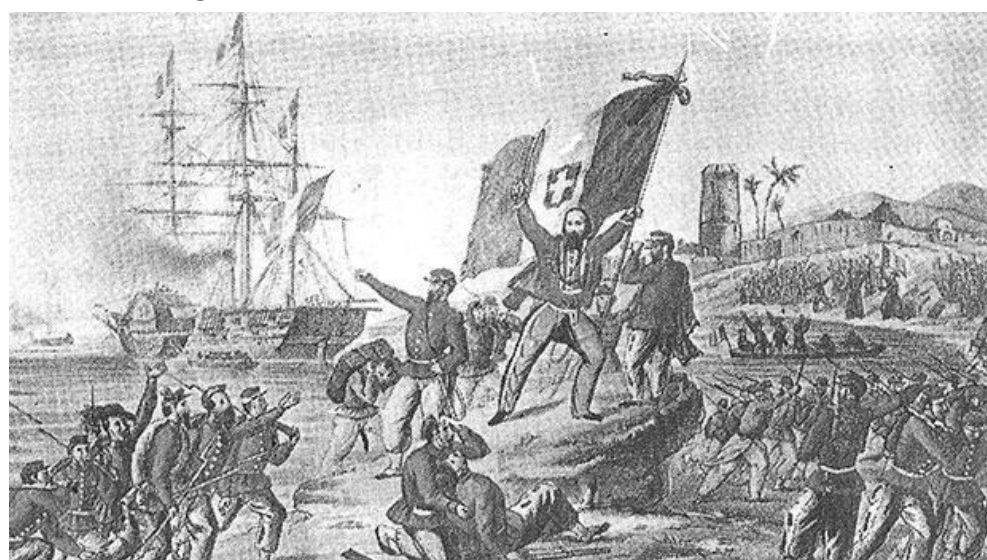
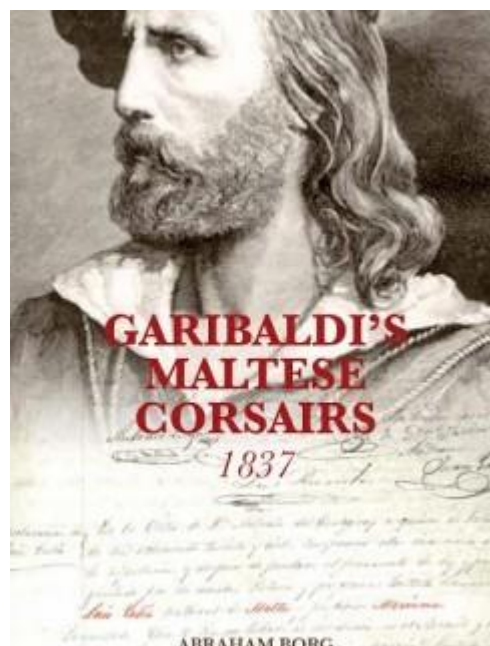
Maybe, former President Ugo Cultura

Borg’s Corsairs Mifsud Bonnici mused, they were among the Maltese sailors who found themselves out of a job when the Order left Malta. Garibaldi, an inveterate activist and revolutionary, turned up in a Brazilian state and began helping that state in its dreams of independence. He took control of a vessel and began attacking Brazilian Navy vessels.

At one point, Garibaldi was surrounded in a melee and wounded. He was saved from dying by some Italians, who he names in his memoirs, and by the two Maltese (who he does not identify) and taken to Montevideo to recuperate.

Also at the book launch was Minister Evarist Bartolo who, speaking as all the speakers at the launch, in Italian, dwelt mainly on the Maltese and Italian relationship especially in the 1930s.

Abraham Borg is a former Maltese ambassador to the Middle East.



A contemporary lithograph showing Garibaldi’s virtually unopposed landing at Marsala, Sicily, in 1860. Garibaldi is here seen bearing the flag of Vittorio Emanuele II – the tricolour red,

white and green of revolutionary Italy, on which is superimposed the white cross of the House of Savoy.



## This historic lighthouse could be your dream accommodation in Malta

*Originally built as the Keepers' House, it has been transformed into a unique place to stay, and is run by Din l-Art Helwa.*

*Written by Jo Caruana*

If you're travelling to Malta but don't fancy staying somewhere run-of-the-mill, you may be enticed by something completely different: a historic lighthouse located along the beautiful Delimara coast. And yes, before you ask, it is an actual lighthouse – the only one anywhere in Malta, in fact. Oh, and the views are spectacular!

"This lighthouse was built during the British period," explains Maria Grazia Cassar from Din l-Art Helwa – the voluntary organisation that guards the property. "The only other lighthouse on the islands is in Gozo – the Ta' Giordan."

Maria Grazia says turning the lighthouse into accommodation was a natural choice for Din l-Art Helwa. "It was originally built as the two inn keepers' homes and, when we took on the restoration, we thought it would be nice to turn it into a place to stay so that people could still enjoy its heritage."

Perfect for friends or families, the lighthouse is composed of two units that can be rented separately or together. Apartment B is larger than Apartment A, with a bigger kitchen and an extra single bedroom with a shower downstairs. Both sleep a maximum of five people, with two in a sofa bed.

"We even kept the original colour scheme," Maria Grazia continues. "It is bright and simple throughout, with plenty of white to echo the period. There is a large, comfortable bed in each unit, as well as a spare toilet. The original stone kitchen has been retained, but modern appliances have been added to make it more comfortable and practical."

Looking back on the history of the lighthouse, Maria Grazia explains that it was commissioned by Governor Richard More O'Ferrall in 1850. He was governor of Malta between 1847 and 1851 and he granted a partly-elected Council of Government in 1849. He encouraged trade and helped the mercantile community to form the Chamber of Commerce.

"It is thought that the name Delimara could be attributed to a corruption of the Arabic term *dejr l-imnara*, meaning the house of the lantern. The lighthouse stands at a height of 24 metres, dominating the cliff over Marsaxlokk Bay, and was an important reference for ships coming from Barbary and Egypt. With the construction of the Suez Canal that stimulated maritime traffic between Asia and Europe, increased numbers of naval vessels had to be guided safely to Valletta's harbours. The signalling system for each lighthouse was designed so each could be recognised by its own individual series of flashes. Those of Delimara were alternate red and white with a radius of visibility that spread out up to 15 miles. Erected for the security of Her Majesty's navy and commercial shipping, both lighthouses – together with other beacons along the coast of the Maltese islands – secured the commercial treaties that Britain had established with France and China in 1860, Belgium in 1862 and Italy in 1863."

Today, the lighthouse may have a slightly less central role in the running of Malta, but it is no less important, and the Din l-Art Helwa team loves the thought of visitors enjoying this slightly alternative place to stay – and its history.

Beyond that, it also gives people the chance to get to know an often-overlooked part of the island. "There's lots to do in the area," Maria Grazia continues. "In winter and spring, the beauty is in its remoteness and the possibility of taking long walks along the open natural areas surrounding the lighthouse. Then, in summer, you can explore the nearby rocky bays and creeks for a swim."

"The characteristic fishing village of Marsaxlokk is also only 10 minutes away by car, and is full of excellent restaurants and eateries. If guests prefer, though, they can always just make the most of the outdoor space outside the lighthouse – for a relaxed evening of talking and drinking wine. The lights from the ships coming in to port are always interesting to watch, too!"

*For more information and for applying for accommodation in Malta, email [info@dinlarthelwa.or](mailto:info@dinlarthelwa.or)*



## Women who shaped Mackay's (Queensland) future

*The achievements of these women have laid the foundations for future generations to prosper in Mackay. These women battled the many challenges of colonial life along with the social and cultural discrimination of that era. Faced with isolation, and for many, leaving the comforts of the homeland, they came to build a life for their families. These are the women that lived through wars and depressions and watched on as a little port town turned in the sugar capital of Australia.*

Here is the story of one of them

### Teresa Mifsud Through Our Eyes, Maryann Lister



Teresa Borg was born in Malta around the turn of the 20th Century. A handsome red headed young man would enter her life through a *Ghannej*, a singer sent by her husband-to-be Carmelo Mifsud to her home to request courtship. Teresa "loved the little Island of Malta with its narrow streets, stone buildings and beautiful churches.

Carmelo and Teresa married in Mosta Church on 15th April 1921. Carmelo was just 22 years old and Teresa was 20.

Carmelo decided to join his brother in a new land of opportunity - Australia - sending for his family later. In 1925 Teresa and their daughter Mary joined Carmelo in Australia.

"As she watched the ship *Oronsay* carry her beautiful brown eyed daughter Teresa and her granddaughter Mary to the far away land, Maria Borg knew in her heart she would never see them again." And she never did.

"Teresa turned and took one last look at her family and her little island Malta as she sailed out of Valetta Harbour to a country unknown."

It was dark when Teresa and Mary eventually joined Carmelo in Mackay. There were no other houses around. "Where are the crying babies?" Teresa asked. "There were no babies they are the noise Koalas make" Carmelo told her, and so began Teresa's life in Australia. This land so far from anywhere, so far from her family, and so different to Malta.

Carmelo and Teresa had bought a cane farm in Habana but times were hard. Teresa took all that she learned in Malta and was well known for making bread and for dressmaking. "She thought of Habana as little Malta. It wasn't so bad. Sunday afternoons were often spent at Eimeo beach with other Maltese families."

Teresa and Carmelo went on to have 11 more children. Teresa was so far away from her mother through the death of two of her children. She was a tiny quiet lady but very well respected in the community.

The couple owned several sugar cane farms in Habana, Homebush and Alligator Creek, until retiring in West Mackay.

Teresa and Carmelo went on to have 38 grandchildren and even to enjoy quite a few great grandchildren before Teresa died in June 1979 and Carmelo passed away 3 months later.

"They have instilled in us a great love of family, religion and Australia and a great pride in our Maltese heritage." *Maryann Lister author of "Through our eyes, The Mifsud Journey."*



## STATUS OF SELECTED BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

Butterflies and moths are collectively referred to as Lepidoptera. Butterflies are often colourful and fly by day, while moths generally are dull in colour and fly by night; amongst other differences.

Various species of Lepidoptera are found across the Maltese Islands, with the number of resident species going into the hundreds. While a number of them are common, others are known to be scarce, or even threatened. A commissioned study assessed 87 species which were considered to be endemic and/or possibly threatened. While 5% of these are extinct, 58% are threatened – with a significant degree of these being

critically endangered.

While some species are naturally rare, others have been directly affected, for instance through collection of caterpillars or adults. Others have been indirectly affected, for instance in view of habitat degradation. Indeed, the extensive changes that have taken place in the countryside, have led to a significant reduction in the habitat and food supply for various Lepidoptera. Migratory species are also affected since some fail to establish themselves permanently. Additionally, some species are probably affected through the impact of biocides directly aimed at specific caterpillars or their food plants. Factors that are not directly anthropogenic in nature, such as drought, also have an affect.

To improve the status of Lepidoptera, a number of species, amongst which all relevant

## MOST PROBABLY THE BEST BREAD IN THE WORLD

by Joseph C. Camilleri



The Maltese market offers a great variety of bread. Some are typically Maltese while others are "imported". The original Maltese bread comes in various forms. There is the flat ring of non-leavened dough called ftira and the qaghqa ta' l-Appostli (a large "Apostles' ring-bread"). But the most popular type of bread is the dark-brown round crusty loaf, known as hobza.

There are several reasons which explain the popularity of the hobza. This loaf is slightly sweet and has a delicious crust. Moreover, it has pure and sustaining qualities. To make it more delicious, some bakers sprinkle the top with sesame seeds.

This loaf is made from locally milled flour. As Maltese agriculture does not produce enough wheat, this important item

has been imported since a very long time. At first it used to be imported from neighbouring Sicily. The Knights of St. John built underground granaries to store this important wheat, some of which are found at Floriana (known as il-Fosos) and others at Valletta adjacent to Fort St. Elmo.

Whenever wheat was scarce on the market, a mixed flour used to be produced known as il-mahlut. This consisted of a mixture of rye and wheat. Another type of hobza is the ftira. it is unleavened bread flat in shape with a crust peculiar taste and moist crumb. Many buy a piece of ftira besides their daily loaf and latecomers find this from of bread has been sold out.

Bread production used to be carried out in every locality. Large urban areas had a bakery or two, sometimes more. Some localities have a street named Bakery Street in memory of a former bakery, such as at Lija and Valletta. The most popular place for bread-making was Qormi. It was referred to as Casal Fornaro (the village of bakers).

It is a documented fact that before the Knights built their bakery at Valletta, their major establishments, such as the auberges, the Grand Master's Palace and hospital, were supplied with bread from Qormi. Some believe that this was due to two major reasons. Qormi was already well known as a breadmaking centre while it was the nearest large locality to Valletta, as Floriana and Marsa were still non-existent.



According to hearsay, Qormi was a place where malaria flourished as it was situated in a low lying position. The health problem was solved by the warm dry air, offered by the ovens. Qormi became one of the most healthy districts in Malta.

The Maltese do not consider a good meal complete without a piece of this crusty bread. They insist on having fresh bread and possibly still warm from the oven. This is why bakers have to start working either late at night or in the early hours of the day, to have a supply of bread ready for an early delivery.

A second bake is made at a later hour. Usually clients come and collect their bread from the bakery themselves. Bakers also prepare a third bake to supply the local market with bread for those who have their main meal late after returning from their place of work.

A word associated with bread is bukkun or kumpanacc. This was used to express the food taken in small proportions with bread. The latter word is a corruption of the Latin word Cumpanatico. The Maltese considered bread as a special grace of God. This concept made bread to be treated in a special manner. When a person had to cut the loaf, he or she would sign it with a cross before using the knife to slice it.

On the other hand if a person finds a piece of bread on the wayside, he would lift it, reverently kissed it and placed it on a wall or ledge so that it would not be trodden under another person's or animal's foot. Why? The Maltese associated bread with the Last Supper, that is when Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist.

While you are in Malta ask for a dark-brown crusty loaf. Cut thick slices. Rub the slices with tomato halves, dab them slightly with oil and vinegar, and sprinkle some salt and freshly milled pepper. Add capers, and mint and you can feast on a delicious Maltese "burger".

## Other foods and expressions

Slices of bread "Kisra ħobż" Thick slices of salted fat ("grass tal-majjal"),  
Crude cheeslets ("ġbejniet"),  
Pieces of melons ("bettieħ"),  
Maltese sausages ("zazzett tal-Malti"),  
Croquettes ("pulpetti") made of corned beef ("bulubif"),  
Tomatoes paste ("kunserva"), oil ("żejt") and broad beans ("ful"),  
Cod with white beans ("bakkaljaw bil-fażola").- Herring ("aringa"),  
Anchovy ("inċova") and sop ("tbellil") in oil.

## RECIPE 1 - Maltese Bread (Hobz Malti)

### Ingredients

23 oz (600g) flour  
10g salt  
½ oz (15g) sugar  
½ oz (15g) margarine  
1 oz (25g) yeast  
345ml luke warm water  
1 tablespoon milk



### Method

- Mix the flour, salt and margarine together
- Add the yeast.
- Make a mixture of the luke warm water, sugar and the milk.
- Add on to the flour and knead the mixture well until the dough is white and soft.
- Place in a bowl, seal with cling film and a wet dishtowel, place in a warm place for about 1 hour.
- Work the dough, cut into small pieces (50g)
- Place on a baking tray, paste with egg, cut with a knife and let the pieces rest for about 15 minutes. [cook in oven 450F gas for 12-15 minute]